

“Treatment and Recovery”

Study Overview

This episode discusses three key peer-reviewed studies on opioid overdose treatment and prevention. Together, these studies underscore the critical importance of early intervention, improved access to naloxone, and comprehensive public health strategies in combating opioid overdoses and saving lives.



- There is a high one-year mortality rate (5.5%) among opioid overdose survivors discharged from Massachusetts emergency departments.
- Over 93,400 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States in 2020, largely driven by opioids and exacerbated by synthetic opioids like fentanyl.
- Naloxone plays a pivotal role in overdose management and should be integrated into comprehensive addiction treatment programs and public health initiatives.

TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ The new devastating impact of synthetic opioids such as fentanyl have contributed to a sharp increase in overdose deaths. The emergence of these potent substances has marked a troubling “third wave” of the opioid epidemic, posing unique challenges to public health efforts.
- ✓ When administered promptly, naloxone saves lives. Medical professionals and community members need widespread distribution and accessibility so they can exploit naloxone’s potential to reduce overdose deaths.