

“Fentanyl Myths”

Episode Overview

This episode talks about the risk of incidental fentanyl exposure. It also talks about common fentanyl myths (particularly among police) and the importance of correcting this misinformation.



- The fentanyl myth was perpetuated by a 2016 advisory from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, which warned that touching or inhaling fentanyl could lead to rapid or severe health effects.
- Both the American College of Medical Toxicology and the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology have released statements clarifying that toxicity from incidental exposure is nearly impossible.

TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Misinformation hinders efforts to address the overdose crisis in these ways:
 - ✓ First responders view overdose incidents as safety risks for their own health, which is inaccurate.
 - ✓ Misinformation perpetuates stigma that people who overdose are “poisonous” and dangerous.
 - ✓ Misinformation causes unnecessary stress among police.
- ✓ Squashing these myths improves outcomes for people who have overdosed and protects officers’ mental health.