

“Substance Use Disorders in Prisons & Jails”

Why this Topic is Important

Substance use and misuse in prisons and jails is an ongoing and challenging problem.

Correctional staff regularly ask for additional training on substance use disorders, particularly K2 and fentanyl.

The science on K2 and fentanyl is in its early stages.

Key Episode Takeaways

- ✓ There are many myths about fentanyl that interfere with correctional staff doing their jobs. More training specifically on fentanyl is needed.
- ✓ While some research on synthetic cannabinoids exists, very little is known about K2 in prisons/jails. More science is needed to help correctional staff (and residents) facing this dangerous substance.

Research Science Cited in This Episode

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- Nguyen, H., Midgette, G., Loughran, T., & Zhang, Y. (2021). Random drug testing in prisons: Does a little testing go a long way?. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 20(2), 329–349.