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First meta-ethnography of methamphetamine relapse and recovery

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Methamphetamine addiction remains a grave and novel public health concern internationally. Methamphetamine-related morbidity and mortality has escalated rapidly in recent years. In the field of healthcare, this has been met with minimal innovation or expansion in methamphetamine-specific treatment services. Relapse rates after inpatient rehabilitation episodes can be as high as 90%. Research regarding methamphetamine addiction therapy is diasporic and fragmentary. There is a critical need, therefore, to summarize and integrate the available evidence, and provide a basis for the direction and prioritization of future research areas, and intervention design. As part of a broader program of original ethnographic research, this systematic literature review will generate a meta-ethnography of qualitative findings focused on the process of recovery and relapse for methamphetamine addiction, drawing together existing ethnographies from the fields of psychology, psychiatry, public health, sociology, anthropology, drug and alcohol medicine and nursing, public policy, policing, and social work. This will provide a comprehensive conceptual framework for the current understanding of methamphetamine addiction, and identify common strengths and pervasive weaknesses within the global approach to this disorder. This meta-ethnography will be the first of its kind for methamphetamine addiction, and will act as a foundation for a more coherent, systematic, and innovative approach to reduce the suffering associated with this drug.

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