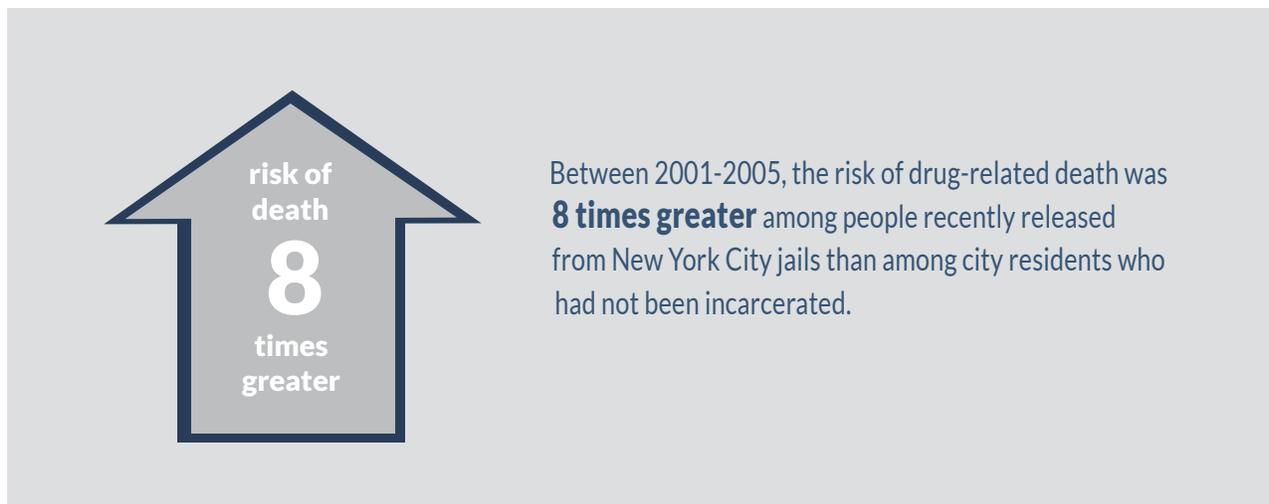




Risk of Drug-related Death Dramatically Elevated Immediately Following Jail Release

The risk of drug-related death is dramatically elevated for individuals recently released from jail,¹ according to study results published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* in 2012. Analyzing mortality rates among people released from New York City jails and city residents who were not incarcerated,² researchers observed that the jail release group's overall likelihood of dying from drug-related causes was 2.2 times greater than that for the general population. During the two-week period immediately following release, this likelihood was exponentially larger – 8.0 times greater for jail releasees than for their peers who had not been incarcerated. The study also found that for those who died from drug-related causes, longer stays in jail were associated with a shorter time between release and death. The authors recommend that substance use treatment begun in jail facilities be continued after release, in partnership with community providers and organizations.



Source:

Lim, S., Seligson, A. L., Parvez, F. M., Luther, C. W., Mavinkurve, M. P., Binswanger, I. A., and Kerker, B. D. (2012). Risks of Drug-Related Death, Suicide, and Homicide During the Immediate Post-Release Period Among People Released from New York City Jails, 2001-2005. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 15;175(6).

Notes:

¹ Previous studies have found a significantly elevated risk of drug-related death among individuals recently released from prison. For example, in Washington State, individuals released from prison were 129 times more likely to die from a drug overdose during the two-week period immediately following release than members of the general population (Binswanger, Stern, Deyo et al., 2007).

² Researchers analyzed data on 155,272 individuals between ages 16 and 89 who had spent at least one night in a New York City Department of Correction jail between January 1, 2001, and December 31, 2005, and were released into the community afterward. Statistical adjustments were made to ensure comparability with regard to background or demographic factors, including age, sex, race, and neighborhood.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at www.centerforhealthandjustice.org.

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