

Case Study

Narratives of Desistance From Crime and Substance Abuse

One of the textbook authors is currently involved in a research project examining the factors related to desistance for a sample of drug-involved offenders (Bachman, Kerrison, O'Connell, & Paternoster, 2013). One phase of the project involved intensive interviews with over 300 individuals originally released from prison in the early 1990s. Interviews lasted between 1.5 and 2 hours and were primarily open-ended and resembled conversations rather than formal questions and answers. The goal of the interviews was to uncover what Agnew (2006) refers to as *storylines* in understanding criminal offending. A storyline is a “temporally limited, interrelated set of events and conditions that increase the likelihood that individuals will engage in crime” (p. 121). As you can imagine, there were many hundreds of pages of transcripts!