



Research In the News

Questions
About
the Article ?

HOW AN FBI AGENT BECAME A HEROIN ADDICT HIMSELF

This story chronicles the evolution of addiction for an FBI agent named Matthew Lowry. Matthew's job as an agent was part of an elite drug task force. When he was prescribed pain medication for chronic pain in his intestines, he became addicted to the opiate-based drugs. When the prescription pills he obtained from his doctor weren't enough, he started stealing heroin confiscated from drug busts at the FBI. He managed to keep working—in fact, performing well on the job for over a year—until his addiction caused him to spiral out of control. One day, he was found incoherent at an empty construction lot.

1. These stories that highlight case studies are similar to qualitative research. However, journalists rarely use appropriate sampling techniques. If you were investigating the heroin addiction from an inductive perspective, how would you obtain your sample?
2. Do you think Matthew Lowry's story is representative of the typical individual addicted to opiate drugs? Is this story representative of law enforcement officers who become addicted to opiates? What about medical professionals?

Source: Hermann, P. (2015, June 28). How an FBI agent who arrested drug addicts became one himself. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved August 24, 2015, from http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/crime/how-an-fbi-agent-who-arrested-drug-addicts-became-one-himself/2015/06/28/4bd15492-1438-11e5-9518-f9e0a8959f32_story.html