

Law enforcement perspectives on homelessness and overdose

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Project overview: The Overdose Response Strategy and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are doing a study about overdose among people experiencing homelessness. The goal of the study is to improve services for people experiencing homelessness who use drugs. We are interested in hearing from law enforcement who work in communities where homelessness is common. We are interested in your opinion. There are no right or wrong answers.

Risks and Discomforts: You will be asked about your experiences and perspectives. There may be some questions you do not want to answer.

Benefits: There is no direct benefit to you for participating in this study. The information you give us will help improve services for people experiencing homelessness who use drugs. This includes helping law enforcement feel more informed and better prepared when serving people experiencing homelessness who use drugs. Findings from this study could lead to fewer overdoses in your community.

Compensation: This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. You will not be compensated for your time.

Confidentiality: Your individual responses will be confidential and anonymous. Your name and agency will never be linked to your responses.

Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal from the Study: Participation is voluntary. You may stop the survey at any time without penalty. You may skip questions that you do not wish to answer.

Contact Information

Contact the project lead at 470-851-6012 if you have any questions about this project or your part in it.

If you agree to participate in the survey, check this box.

* Do you agree to participate in the survey?

I consent to participate in the survey.

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How many years have you been working in law enforcement? (Please only enter number of years).

In what state is your office located?

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In what ZIP code is your office located? (Enter 5-digit ZIP code; for example, 00544 or 94305. You may leave this field blank if you prefer not to answer.)

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In what U.S. region is your office located?

- Northeast (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont)
- Midwest (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin)
- South (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia)
- West (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming)

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What is your role?

- Commissioner
- Police chief
- Sheriff
- Deputy sheriff, patrol officer, or trooper
- Sergeant, lieutenant, or other supervisory role
- Detective or investigator
- Other (please specify)

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Does your department have a policy that guides field encounters with people experiencing homelessness who use drugs?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Explain if unsure

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Does your department have a community outreach or emergency response team to respond to calls for service involving people experiencing homelessness?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Explain if unsure

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Who is on this team? Check all that apply:

- Officers
- Peer navigators
- Social workers
- Clinicians
- Other (please specify)

experiencing homelessness to drug treatment or social services.

I know very little about how to refer someone experiencing homelessness to drug treatment or social services.

I would be able to respond effectively to someone who asks for drug treatment or social services.

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Have you received training in the past two years on how to help people experiencing homelessness reduce overdose risk?

- Yes
 No

Are you interested in receiving future trainings on how to help people experiencing homelessness reduce overdose risk?

- Yes
 No

What barriers would or does your department face in helping reduce overdose among people experiencing homelessness? Check all that apply.

- Lack of funding
- No departmental policy about helping reduce overdose among people experiencing homelessness (e.g., making referrals to drug treatment or case management, naloxone administration or distribution, etc.)
- Lack of access to naloxone to administer or distribute
- Lack of services (e.g., treatment, case management, social services, etc.) in the community to connect people to
- Lack of homeless outreach/response team in our community
- Lack of training in how to help reduce overdose among people experiencing homelessness
- People experiencing homelessness refuse offers to be helped
- Homelessness is not perceived as a priority issue in our community
- Overdose among people experiencing homelessness is not perceived as a priority issue in our community
- Stigma toward people experiencing homelessness who use drugs
- Other (please specify)

What support from public health, policymakers, or other law enforcement agencies would help you address the needs of people experiencing homelessness who use drugs?

Is there anything else you'd like us to know or that you would recommend to help reduce overdose among people experiencing homelessness?

