

Engaging the Right Partners

State- and Community-level Partners to Engage in Opioid Overdose Prevention Efforts

Preventing opioid overdose requires collaboration with a diverse range of partners—some familiar and some new to the prevention field. The chart below is designed to help prevention practitioners identify potential partners within their state and communities, whose involvement is critical to prevention success.

Sector	Potential Partners in the Community	Potential Partners at the State and National Levels
Corrections	Probation and parole officers	State Department of Corrections, national organizations for correctional personnel (e.g., Association of State Correctional Administrators)
Criminal Justice	Drug and mental health courts (also called problem-solving courts), community liaisons and narcotic units at local police/sheriff departments <i>For more examples of potential criminal justice partners, see Law Enforcement</i>	Judges, courts, state public defender agencies or associations, state diversion program leadership
Family Members and Friends of People Who Use Drugs	Local chapters of national support organizations, such as Learn to Cope and Families Anonymous , individuals who organize local events for International Overdose Awareness Day	National support organizations like Learn to Cope , Families Anonymous , Broken No More , Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing (GRASP) , Shatterproof

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Government	Municipal/county health department, county executives or administrators (responsible for the day-to-day administrative operations of the county), local heroin/opioid task forces	Office of the Governor, Department of Children and Families
Harm Reduction	Syringe exchange programs (including unofficial or unfunded initiatives), local recovery community organizations such as the Detroit Recovery Project	State harm reduction coalitions (like the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition), state HIV/AIDS prevention programs and organizations (such as End AIDS Washington), and national harm reduction organizations (such as the North American Syringe Exchange Network or Harm Reduction Coalition)
Healthcare	Local Federally Qualified Health Centers, Health Care for the Homeless projects , medical marijuana providers (may provide access to individuals experiencing pain), local primary care providers who prescribe buprenorphine	Private health care systems (large networks of hospitals and outpatient settings), regional Veterans Health Administration health service networks , employee assistance programs, medical schools, dental schools, state boards of medicine, medical societies and associations, pain management clinic associations
Law Enforcement	Local police departments (particularly those involved with Police-Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative or Law Enforcement-Assisted Diversion)	State police departments, chiefs of police associations, Drug Enforcement Agency (state division), High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (state division)
Medical Examiner	Local medical examiner or coroner	State or county coroner's office, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Mental Health	Local behavioral health providers	Department of Mental Health, Department of Mental Hygiene, Department of Behavioral Health, mental health associations/alliances (such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness); schools of social work

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People Who Use Drugs	Drug user unions, such as local members of the International Network of People Who Use Drugs , local contacts from drug checking services (provide drug screening for people who use drugs to prevent them from ingesting unknown or dangerous substances) like DanceSafe and Erowid , internet forums for people who use drugs like Bluelight	People who use drugs who serve on consumer advisory boards (grant-required advisory groups that represent the population being served)
Pharmacies	Local independent pharmacies	National chains such as CVS or Walgreens, networks of individual pharmacies or pharmacists, Boards of Pharmacy, pharmacy schools
Professional First Responders	Local emergency medical services departments (including smaller departments that may offer only basic life support)	Fire chief associations, Offices of Emergency Medical Services
Public Health	HIV prevention programs, viral hepatitis vaccination initiatives	Departments of Public Health, schools of public health
Recovery	Local advocacy representatives (for example, from Faces and Voices of Recovery and Young People in Recovery , local chapters of National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery)	Recovery support services, often housed within state health departments, state contacts of the SAMHSA's Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS)
Substance Use Disorder Treatment	Local treatment providers, especially those working in detox, methadone, and buprenorphine programs	Associations for addiction treatment providers/professionals, certification boards, medically assisted treatment associations
Universities and Colleges	Local college or university chapters of Students for Sensible Drug Policy , local college or university offices of prevention, alcohol and other drug offices, offices of the dean of students/student affairs	State schools, college consortiums
Youth-serving Agencies	Local services for homeless or runaway youth	YMCAs, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Big Brother/Big Sister, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, 4-H