



**OHIO INJURY PREVENTION
PARTNERSHIP**

Ohio Overdose Prevention Network

First Responder Harm Reduction Voices

Harm reduction aims to reduce health risks associated with drug use. Examples include carrying naloxone (e.g., Narcan) to reverse an overdose, fentanyl test strips, and sterile syringes to prevent the spread of disease.

Ohio's first responders are increasingly using harm reduction methods like reviving people with naloxone, distributing naloxone via quick response teams (QRT) and leave-behind programs, providing fentanyl test strips, and other strategies.

First responders told the Ohio Overdose Prevention Network (Ohio OPN) about their experiences with these approaches. They talked about the challenges and rewards of doing this work. The work can be stressful but giving a second chance at life outweighed everything else.

Visit www.naloxone.ohio.gov to learn more and order naloxone.



"As first responders, our mission is public safety and preserving life. We are in a position to save a life."

Scott Duff: Fairfield-Athens-Pickaway Major Crimes Unit

"If we can assist one person to get [treatment]...it reduces crime and the amount of calls and reports they have to go on. Also, that person is someone's family and many deputies have been personally impacted by someone with addiction."

Jeremy Wilkinson: Guernsey County Sheriff's Office



"The best strategy I have found is to relate harm reduction to everyday life and try to connect on a personal level. Almost everyone knows someone that has been impacted by substance use disorder; whether it is a family member, friend or colleague."

Isaac Toliver: Columbus Division of Fire-RREACT

"I think having more syringe sites and more Narcan available will impact the community... I know that change is happening. I see it every day...the lives I am seeing change every day make it worth it."

Lindsey Ervin: Butler County Quick Response Teams



"Toledo Fire and Rescue has delivered 300 [naloxone] kits and 10% of those have been used prior to our arrival after the next overdose. That is 30+ people that had a positive outcome after an overdose that would not have if they didn't have access to Narcan."

Zakariya Reed: Toledo Fire and Rescue

"We don't get to decide when and why, we are responsible to professional and respectful treatment for those in crisis."

Dan Meloy: Operations 2Save Lives/QRT National; Former Chief of Colerain Township Police



Learn more about
harm reduction strategies to
prevent overdoses at these
resources:

OH Against OD



www.ohagainstod.ohio.gov

NaloxoneOhio



www.naloxone.ohio.gov

National Harm Reduction Coalition



www.harmreduction.org