

Overdose Prevention for Community Supervision Leaders and Administrators

Course Series Overview



This [series of courses](#) provides essential information for community supervision leaders and administrators to successfully implement overdose prevention and response practices. It takes a systems-level view of overdose prevention in community supervision. Each course builds knowledge and skills and provides supplemental resources and tools.

Five interrelated domains influence the effectiveness of overdose prevention and response programs. These domains are summarized in Figure 1. Each is associated with corresponding focus areas, which are elements that administrators and leaders can influence to ensure the success of overdose prevention and response programs. The information covered in these courses will assist your agency in enhancing your work in each of these domains and focus areas.

Figure 1. Domains That Impact Integration of Overdose Prevention and Response



Many individuals under community supervision have a substance use disorder (SUD) or are at elevated risk of overdose. Including recovery-oriented approaches and overdose prevention efforts can make community supervision more successful by offering evidence-based interventions that support recovery. All three courses draw from evidence-based theory and the field work of community supervision agencies.

[Course A, Introduction to Overdose Prevention in Community Supervision](#), introduces the benefits of integrating recovery-oriented and harm reduction principles in community supervision. It outlines the main considerations and challenges in implementing overdose prevention and response programs. Its two lessons provide core components of overdose prevention and response (Lesson 1) and introduce recovery-oriented and harm reduction approaches, with a focus on officers as change agents (Lesson 2).

[Course B, Building Systems for Overdose Prevention in Community Supervision](#), considers how to integrate harm reduction approaches into the practice of community supervision, and the organizational protocols, policies, and processes that support overdose prevention and response. It has two lessons. The first lesson describes a comprehensive framework for integrated overdose prevention and response strategies in community corrections (Figure 2). The second lesson considers how to address administrative concerns and transform community supervision policy and practice to support overdose prevention and response.

Figure 2. Comprehensive Framework for Integrating Overdose Prevention and Response Strategies in Community Corrections

Core Component	Supervision Strategies	Administrative Concerns
Assessing overdose risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do a collaborative risk assessment Engage in change talk (motivational interviewing) Plan to reduce overdose risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate routine overdose risk assessment into intake procedures Train officers in motivational interviewing Build infrastructure for overdose risk reduction within organization
Overdose education and naloxone distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about naloxone Carry naloxone in the field Educate community Provide access to naloxone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce barriers to naloxone access Establish policies for naloxone distribution Train officers to administer and distribute naloxone
Other harm reduction strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide access to other harm reduction methods such as fentanyl test strips and syringe service programs Collaborate with harm reduction services in the community to expand access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for harm reduction approaches within agency and create buy-in Build partnerships with harm reduction organizations to increase access
SUD screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about SUD screening tools Learn about American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) levels of care Ensure appropriate client screening for SUDs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify or develop tools to integrate SUD screening into RNR assessments Train officers on SUD screening and ASAM levels of care
Linkage to SUD treatment and recovery support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and regularly update list of available SUD services Collaborate with SUD treatment staff to ensure appropriate menu of services Support clients' participation in SUD treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize and increase access to evidence-based SUD treatment for clients Build and maintain collaborative relationships with behavioral health providers

Organizational Culture Change	Systems Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting officers in shift toward coaching Revising core policies and procedures Integrating peer support Resolving organizational barriers and challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminating Stigma and bias Improving access and availability of services Addressing social and structural determinants of health

The framework expands on the ways each of the domains in Figure 1 are connected to focus areas: supervision strategies that officers need to incorporate, modes of recovery support to guide the supervision program, core components of a comprehensive program, organizational culture that supports and reinforces recovery, and external systems resources that support and reinforce the program.

Adding peer support can be an important approach to improving the effectiveness of overdose prevention and response, but it may require a change to organizational culture. [Course C, Integrating Peer Recovery Support for Overdose Prevention](#), provides information on the operational benefits of peer recovery support services (PRSS) and describes steps for integrating them within community supervision programs.

This work is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$250,000 with 100% funding by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC/HHS or the U.S. government.