

Opioid Perceptions Survey Overview

This report represents a brief summary of the results of the *Opioid Perceptions Survey: Wave One*, administered Spring 2021, with invitations to participate sent to individuals in Franklin County, Missouri (MO) who work with people (clients/patients) who use opioids in a non-therapeutic way. Twenty-nine (29) surveys were analyzed for this report. Please access the full report of the Opioid Perceptions Survey: Wave One Results for graphs, data, and additional information. **Four waves of the Opioid Perceptions Survey will be conducted over two years to capture perceptions over time.**

These surveys are part of a larger initiative being conducted by the Franklin County RCORP (Rural Communities Opioid Response Program) Consortium as part of a HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) Implementation grant. The grant aims to address the high number of opioid overdose deaths in Franklin County, MO.

Experience and Role in the Community

Majority of respondents (38%) work as service providers (e.g., Children's Division, Community Health Worker, social worker). A few (17%) better identified as working in roles other than the four main roles asked (behavioral health provider, First Responder, medical provider, and service provider). Most respondents (79%) have been working with people who misuse opioids for at least five years.

Strengths and Opportunities

Strengths: Overall, respondents positively perceived working with people who use opioids in a non-therapeutic way, with an average of 2.4 from the 7-point scale.

Most respondents (79%) reported that they have a working knowledge of opioid use and related issues.

All of the behavioral health providers who completed the survey responded that they felt knowledgeable about opioid use issues, risk factors, the physical and psychological effects, and all responded that they feel comfortable counseling and advising clients about their opioid use.

Opportunities for engagement: Increasing awareness of the **cause of opioid use problems**. For example, 40% of medical providers disagreed or responded neutral about knowing the cause of opioid use problems when working with patients.

Increasing awareness of the **risk factors for developing an Opioid Use Disorder** and other substance use issues. For example, 50% of First Responders responded that they disagreed or were neutral about risk factors for developing an Opioid Use Disorder.

Increasing awareness of the **physical and psychological effects** of opioid use.



The survey response indicated a hesitancy from all respondents, regardless of roles, to engage patients/clients in conversations about opioid use. With an increase in training opportunities and presentations, and increasing the awareness of these opioid use issues, we should expect to see an **increase in the comfort level** of treatment providers, First Responders, and service providers so that they may use their roles and their time to have conversations surrounding opioid and other substance use.

When asked about **personal and professional support and clarification on responsibilities**, many respondents indicated that finding such support would be difficult. This is an area of potential growth for the community and the various organizations in Franklin County, MO.

Sharing resources around prevention, treatment, and recovery from opioid use continues to be helpful to people who work with individuals who use opioids in a non-therapeutic way. Continuously promoting access to this knowledge would be helpful to people who have been working in this field for a short time and may not know who they can turn to for advice.

Survey Statement: I feel that there is little I can do to help people who use opioids.

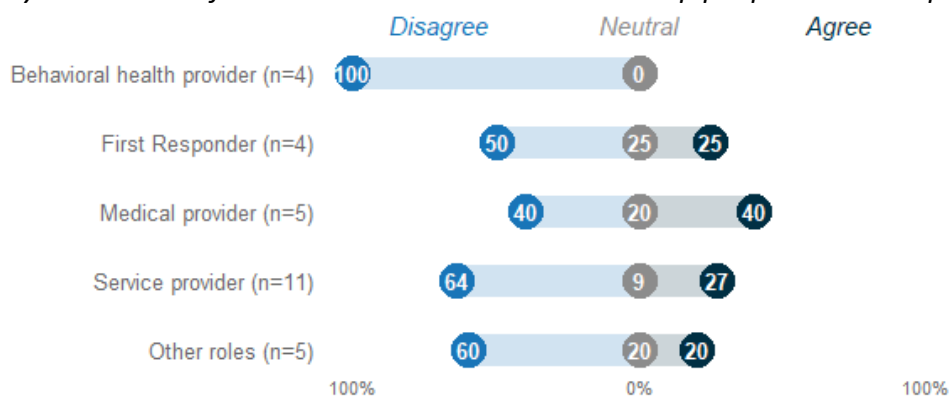


Figure: Percentage agreement with (negatively worded) statement among respondents working in a given role.

Conclusion

As a Consortium with many partners and members in the Franklin County, MO community, there are strengths to be leveraged as well as opportunities for growth and engagement. The Consortium will continue to partner and engage with behavioral health providers, First Responders, medical providers, service providers, the community and others to strengthen treatment, prevention, and recovery services and resources. If you'd like a copy of the full report, for questions or to become more involved, please email Erica Wiley, LCSW at ewiley@prevented.org.

