2017 PERF Opioid Survey Results
Survey Respondents

During the month before our April 2017 meeting, PERF surveyed its membership of law enforcement executives regarding the opioid crisis

- Surveys went to 780 agencies

More than 35% of agencies responded (277 out of 780) from across North America

(Response rates were higher in Northeastern states and lower in Western states, reflecting the relative severity of opioid overdose rates in those regions.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International (Canada)</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2016, compared to 2015, did the total number of fatal opioid overdoses in your jurisdiction increase, decrease, or show no change?

- Increased: 61.1%
- Decreased: 9.3%
- No Change: 22.9%
- Unknown: 6.1%
Did **fatal heroin overdoses** in your jurisdiction increase, decrease, or show no change in 2016 compared to 2015?

- **Increased**: 55.4%
- **Decreased**: 9.3%
- **No Change**: 23.2%
- **Unknown**: 10.0%
Did **fatal prescription opioid overdoses** in your jurisdiction increase, decrease, or show no change in 2016 compared to 2015?

- **Increased**: 22.9%
- **Decreased**: 8.9%
- **No Change**: 36.1%
- **Unknown**: 29.3%
Did fatal fentanyl overdoses in your jurisdiction increase, decrease, or show no change in 2016 compared to 2015?

- Increased: 45.0%
- Decreased: 2.9%
- No Change: 21.8%
- Unknown: 27.1%
Did **non-fatal** opioid overdoses in your jurisdiction increase, decrease, or show no change in 2016 compared to 2015?

- **Increased**: 56.1%
- **Decreased**: 1.8%
- **No Change**: 17.1%
- **Unknown**: 23.2%
Does your agency track non-fatal overdoses?

- Yes: 52.9%
- No: 46.8%
Estimate the ratio of non-fatal overdoses to fatal overdoses in your jurisdiction

The most common response was from 3:1 to 5:1. In other words, non-fatal overdoses were 3 to 5 times more numerous than fatal overdoses.
Does your jurisdiction have a “Good Samaritan” law that provides immunity to those seeking medical assistance for an overdose?

- Yes: 69.3%
- No: 30.7%
Does your agency carry naloxone?

• **2017 PERF Survey:**
  • 62.9% of agencies reported officers carry naloxone

• For comparison, a similar PERF survey conducted in 2014 found that:
  • Only 4% of agencies reported that their officers carried naloxone in 2014.
  • But 31% of agencies said they were considering it at that time.

• Over 1,200 U.S. law enforcement agencies are now equipped with naloxone (Source: North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition)

• The agencies responding to the PERF survey reported a total of **more than 3,500 naloxone reversals in 2016.**
If you equip officers with naloxone, in what year did you begin providing it to them?
10 Actions That Every Police Department Can Take Now

1. **Target opioid enforcement efforts strategically.**
   - For example, give priority to prosecution of dealers who sell to persons near drug treatment facilities.

2. **Equip officers with naloxone.**
   - That single strategy has already saved 3,500 lives in the jurisdictions that responded to PERF’s survey.

3. **Data collection is critical.**
   - Track the who, how, when, and where of every drug overdose.
   - Gather data from EMS and other agencies that respond to overdose scenes, not only police data.
   - Share data with key agencies that can use it.

4. **Use the data to develop an Early Warning System and a Rapid Response protocol.**

5. **Use Compstat principles to address the opioid crisis.**
   - Compstat serves to ensure that strategies are based on accurate, timely information and that responses are well organized.

6. **Use your credibility and trust in the community to take a leadership role in promoting drug treatment across your entire jurisdiction.**

7. **Work with treatment providers, corrections officials, and other partners to offer treatment to addicted persons in many ways, including shortly after an overdose, and work to ensure that treatment options are available.**

8. **Take a leadership role in educating the public about the extreme dangers of opioids.**

9. **Establish strong partnerships with public health agencies, social service providers, and treatment providers.**

10. **Remember to protect your officers’ well-being and safety.**