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CT-ORS: Good Samaritan Law & Other Projects

Bobby Lawlor, Drug Intelligence Officer, New England HIDTA
Anna Gasinski, Public Health Analyst, CDC Foundation



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CT GSL Law Enforcement Refresher

OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY

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CONNECTICUT'S GOOD SAMARTIAN LAW

Refresher Video for Law Enforcement

Connecticut, like the rest of New England, is grappling with an overdose epidemic. Fatal overdoses have taken thousands of lives of Connecticut residents and with the rise of dangerous synthetic substances like fentanyl, an unstable drug supply, and stigma, overdoses will continue. The mission of all of those serving in Connecticut's Law Enforcement and First Responder community is the preservation of life above all else. You, the men and women of Connecticut's first responder community, work valiantly every day to protect the lives of our citizens, including those experiencing an overdose.

In some instances when someone is experiencing an overdose, 9-1-1 is called by other people who are using drugs. When an overdose occurs in these situations, we know those using drugs are hesitant to call 9-1-1 for fear of being arrested. That fear can lead to a delay in getting life-saving medical attention to the person overdosing, resulting in death.

Connecticut's Good Samaritan law encourages everyone to call 9-1-1 for medical assistance when someone is experiencing an overdose. While the possession and use of most drugs are illegal in Connecticut, the paramount objective for all first responders starts with the preservation of life. The Good Samaritan Law achieves this by ensuring that individuals who may be using or in possession of drugs when they call 9-1-1 during an overdose will not be arrested for possession of those drugs.

Connecticut's Overdose Response Strategy Team in partnership with the Chief States Attorney's Office has created a Good Samaritan Law refresher video for Connecticut's Law Enforcement and First Responders, along with a one-page infographic that can be downloaded on to mobile devices or printed and put in their patrol bags.

We ask that all of Connecticut's law enforcement officers review the refresher video and utilize the link to access the GSL one-pager infographic.

The link for the video is below:

[CT Good Samaritan Law Roll Call Refresher](#)

The link for the one-pager is below:

<https://bit.ly/CT-GSL-info>

OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY

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If you have any questions about the law, please contact:

*Lisa D'Angelo, Executive Assistant State's Attorney
Director, Office of Ethics and Professional Standards
Division of Criminal Justice
300 Corporate Place
Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067
P: 860-258-5823 E: lisa.dangelo@ct.gov*

If your department needs training on the following topics such as, addiction, substance use disorders, naloxone, harm reduction, prevention and/or Mental Health First Aid for First Responders, please contact:

Connecticut Overdose Response Strategy Team

Robert Lawlor, Drug Intelligence Officer

P: 203-379-6517 E: rlawlor@nehidta.org

Anna Gasinski, Public Health Analyst

P: 203-623-4716 E: agasinski@nehidta.org



GSL Law Enforcement Refresher

- Project Begin in 2021
- Put on pause when CT Chief State Attorney Colangelo announced retirement
- In late 2022 project resumed with new CSA Griffin, finished in early fall of 2023 and disseminated through the CPCA and CTIC Law Enforcement listserv



GSL Next Phase

- Searching for funding and partners to do comprehensive public facing campaign to get the public and PWUD to call 9-1-1 when an overdose occurs



LE Diversion/Deflection Inventory

- Project began in Spring of 2023, thanks to some pushing from John Hamilton and Maria Coutant – Skinner
- Worked with CDC Health Scientists on survey questions and analysis
- 169 Municipalities
- 92 Municipal police Departments
- Survey sent out early fall
- Survey Sent out to Chiefs via the CT Police Chiefs Association
- Survey closed late fall
- 58 Respondents



LE Diversion/Deflection Highlights

- Diversion/Deflection Programs
 - 17 of the 58 respondents stated they had a DDP
 - Five Distinct Categories
 - Angel/Hope
 - CLEAR
 - Co-Responder/Social Worker
 - LEAD
 - Established Referrals



LE Diversion/Deflection Highlights

Of the 58 respondents:

- 41 – Provided youth drug education
- 40 – Involved with community coalition/prevention council
- 40 – Report on Overdose stats to inform stakeholders
- 51 – Officers carry naloxone
- 50 – Naloxone carry is mandatory
- 45 – Track naloxone administrations



LE Diversion/Deflection Phase II

- Key Informant Interviews of the 17 PD's that had a DDP
- Key Informant Interviews of PDs with no DDP
- Create final report
- Mid-Summer 2024, is our anticipated dissemination of final report



CT-ORS Other Projects

- ‘Silence on the Streets’ Community Screenings
 - DoC Screenings beginning Feb 28th at Robinson CI
 - CT Clearinghouse March 5th
 - Rx Summit – April 2nd , Atlanta, GA
 - Reliance Health & Community Speaks Out April 13th Garde Arts, New London
- CT-ORS Annual Report
- Community Drug Testing
 - Transition Brandeis Sites to NEHIDTA
 - Transition confirmatory testing to CT-DPH Lab
 - Expansion to Torrington/Litchfield
- CT DoC Trainings – Current Drug Trends, Fentanyl Exposure Myths & Facts, Language Matters



Thank you!



Bobby Lawlor

Drug Intelligence Officer
rlawlor@nehidta.org



Anna Gasinski

Public Health Analyst
agasinski@nehidta.org

