





## "Law Enforcement"

## **Episode Overview**

In this episode, I talk about law enforcers' roles, responsibilities, and reactions to overdose. How do police officers perceive their role in overdose situations? Do they see overdose calls as medical emergencies, criminal events, or something in between? I talk about the role of police at overdose calls, how police perceive naloxone, and the impact of overdose training on police officers.



- Roughly 14% of law enforcement agencies in the United States report that their officers carry naloxone.
- The majority of officers view naloxone as an excuse to continue drug use.

## **TAKEAWAYS**

- Law enforcement officers play dual roles at overdose scenes.
- Naloxone is widely viewed as useful, but sparks divided opinions.
- Overdose training increases confidence & support for naloxone use.

## **References & Future Reading**

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Murphy, J., & Russell, B. (2020). Police officers' views of naloxone and drug treatment: Does greater overdose response lead to more negativity? *Journal of Drug Issues*, 50(4), 455–471. https://doi.org/10.1177/0022042620921363 Smiley-McDonald, H. M., Attaway, P. R., Richardson, N. J., Davidson, P. J., & Kral, A. H. (2022). Perspectives from law enforcement officers who respond to overdose calls for service and administer naloxone. *Health & Justice*, 10(1), 1–13. https://doi.org/10.1186/s40352-022-00172-y

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