

## “First Responders”

### Episode Overview

In this episode, I talk about first responders’ roles, responsibilities, and reactions to overdose. First responders include firefighters, emergency medical responders, and police. I talk about first responders’ perceptions of naloxone, their procedures for responding to an overdose call, the emotional toll of responding to overdoses, and the policy issues raised by first responders.



- First responders consistently reported feeling confident in their ability to administer naloxone and assist patients.
- Experience and preparedness played a crucial role in mitigating risks, shaping overdose response as either an unpredictable challenge or a manageable aspect of their work.

### TAKEAWAYS

- Naloxone saves lives, but stigma remains a barrier.
- First responders face emotional and physical risks.
- A gap exists between emergency response and long-term support.

# References & Future Reading

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