

A Review of Public Safety, Public Health, and Harm Reduction Resources on Stimulants: 2021 Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) Cornerstone Report

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Stimulant use, stimulant use disorders, and stimulant-related deaths are on the rise in the United States. From 2012 to 2017, cocaine and stimulant-involved overdose deaths increased annually by nearly 30 percent. Public safety personnel (i.e., police, fire, and EMS), who increasingly interact with people who use stimulants, need access to high-quality resources that describe the effects of stimulant use and how best to respond to individuals having a negative reaction to stimulants, experiencing a stimulant-involved overdose, or in need of services.

To address this need, the 2021 Cornerstone Project collected and reviewed available resources from public safety, public health, and harm reduction agencies that guide interactions with and programming for people who use stimulants. The overall goals of this project are to identify useful resources for wider dissemination, identify priorities for the development of new resources, and ultimately improve public safety and public health's ability to safely and effectively respond to the needs of people who use stimulants.

Resources that reference any type of stimulant drug, stimulant use, responding to people on stimulants or experiencing a stimulant-involved overdose, and/or programs or services for people who use stimulants were collected and catalogued. 376 resources were collected from 169 agencies across 41 states and territories. Preliminary findings reveal that most resources (52%) were from public health agencies; most (45%) were in the form of a handout; most (54%) targeted the general public; and most (62%) focused on what stimulants are, how they are used, or what effects they can have.

In the final report, additional analyses will be conducted to evaluate the utility of the resources and provide recommendations to help guide the development and circulation of high-quality resources.



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