

2025

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# Northwest HIDTA

## Ideas for Cross-Sector Collaboration

This resource is designed to help facilitate collaboration between prevention, treatment, public health, and public safety partners (law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency medical services) to reduce substance use and enhance community safety. It offers a variety of strategies aimed at:

1. Fostering effective partnerships.
2. Sharing important information.
3. Implementing collaborative solutions.

These ideas are tailored to assist public health and safety entities. Many of these strategies can be adapted to serve broader community needs. Not all strategies presented will be the right fit for every community; rather, this tool is intended to be a starting point for a local approach and decision-making. Readers are encouraged to review the ideas and adapt them based on the unique needs and capacity of their communities.

This resource was compiled by [Northwest HIDTA](#) and the Washington [Overdose Response Strategy](#) team. If you have questions, comments, or further ideas, we welcome your input.

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# Developing Relationships



## Conduct Sequential Intercept Modeling

The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) is a tool that helps identify key points where individuals with substance use disorders intersect with the criminal justice system. This enables stakeholders to collaborate on interventions to reduce recidivism and improve access to treatment. [Access more information here.](#)



## Develop a PHAST Team

A Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST) engages multi-sector partners to achieve three primary goals:

1. Shared understanding of the local overdose crisis,
2. Optimized jurisdictional capacity, and,
3. Shared accountability for reducing deaths.

[Access the PHAST toolkit and get started here.](#)



## Establish an MOU

Enhance communication by developing a memorandum of understanding (MOU). MOUs outline clear guidelines for collaboration, roles, and responsibilities. They can be essential in sharing sensitive information crucial to achieving results. [The Public Health and Safety Team Toolkit](#) contains MOU guidance (page 30) and templates (page 88).



## Ask for Input

Asking for input when developing cross-sector relationships fosters trust, enhances collaboration, and lays the groundwork for aligning efforts and priorities to face real-world challenges.



## Recognize Prevention Acts

Public safety partners may be unfamiliar with the various ways their work decreases risk factors or increases protective factors for substance use. For example, officers may act as positive role models or facilitate community engagement. Identify these instances and provide acknowledgement.

# Sharing Information



## Local Drug Trends

Communicate regularly with cross-sector partners to better understand and respond to drug trends in your area. These may include trends in overdose, emerging substances, or drug market changes.



## Overdose Mapping Implementation

The [Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program \(ODMAP\)](#) is a free tool that provides near real-time suspected overdose data across jurisdictions to mobilize immediate spike responses and inform strategic prevention and treatment efforts.



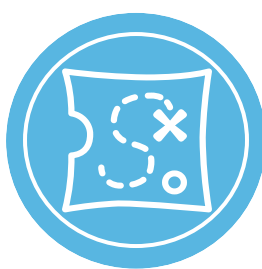
## Handle with Care

Handle with Care is an initiative that supports children who have been exposed to traumatic events by ensuring their schools are notified, so they can receive appropriate care and attention, helping them succeed academically and emotionally. [Learn more here.](#)



## Overdose Fatality Reviews

Overdose fatality reviews (OFRs) bring together professionals from various sectors to analyze individual overdose deaths and identify systemic gaps or risk factors with the goal of recommending actionable strategies to prevent future overdoses. [Access OFR tools and guidance here.](#)



## Local Resource Guide

Create a community-specific resource guide that partners can use to connect people to appropriate services (substance use disorder treatment, mental health services, housing, etc.).



## Joint Education of Legislators

Collaborate to provide accurate and timely substance use information to legislators to drive evidence-based decisions. [Click here to access the NACCHO Advocacy Toolkit](#) (National Association of County & City Health Officials).

# Sharing Information



## Good Samaritan Law Education

Partnering to educate the community regarding Washington's [Good Samaritan law](#) can clarify legal protections and encourage individuals to seek help during drug-related emergencies.



## Trusted Adult Workshops

Where trusted adult workshops are delivered, public safety officers can attend to strengthen their abilities as approachable, supportive figures for youth in the community. Participation can provide valuable perspective and help foster more positive connections between officers and local families. An example of Trusted Adult programs in Washington can be [found here](#).



## Science of Hope

Information on the science of hope can equip cross-sector partners with strategies to foster resilience and optimism within the communities they serve. [Learn more from the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa's Hope Research Center](#).

# Collaborative Solutions

## ODMAP



### Post-Overdose Outreach

Post non-fatal overdose outreach programs engage individuals within the critical 72-hour window of increased receptivity to provide immediate support and resources. Identification of non-fatal overdose instances can be performed using ODMAP and a memorandum of understanding with first responders. [Learn more about ODMAP here.](#)



### Overdose Spike Response

Spikes in overdose can be identified using ODMAP and communicated through prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and other entities to alert communities to, among other things, increased potency in the drug supply and provide harm reduction guidance to reduce risk of overdose. [Learn more about using ODMAP to identify and respond to spikes here.](#)



### Medication Take-Back

Partner to provide safe and convenient ways for individuals to dispose of unused or expired medications, reducing the risk of misuse and environmental contamination. [Learn more about the Drug Enforcement Administration's National Rx Take Back Day here.](#)

## Naloxone



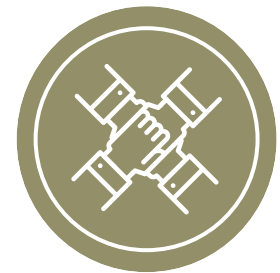
### Naloxone Distribution and Overdose Education

Partner to distribute naloxone and provide overdose response education to community members. [Learn more about overdose and naloxone here.](#)



### Naloxone Leave-Behind

Leave-behind programs allow first responders and others to provide naloxone to individuals and families after an emergency call, empowering them to respond to future overdose. [Learn about an example of naloxone leave-behind in Washington here.](#)



### Support Co-responder Programs

Numerous co-responder programs throughout Washington combine the expertise of first responders and behavioral health professionals. Contact the Washington Co-Responder Outreach Alliance ([CROAWA@gmail.com](mailto:CROAWA@gmail.com)) to find a team near you, or [learn more about the alliance here.](#)

# Collaborative Solutions



## Teen Police Academy

Partner to host a Teen Police Academy event, which can help foster healthy relationships between law enforcement and the community and increase community engagement (a substance use protective factor). [Learn about an example of this strategy in Washington here.](#)



## Mentorship

Engaging public safety and health partners in mentorship programs allows for positive relationships with youth and provide guidance that encourages healthy, substance-free choices. Mentors can support youth in setting goals, overcoming challenges, and building resilience. [Find Washington mentorship programs and strategies here.](#)



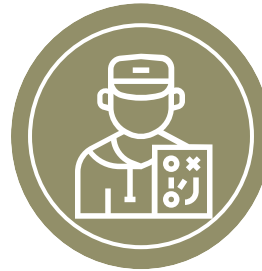
## Police Activities League

Police activities leagues (PALs) can engage officers in serving as coaches, mentors, and role models as well as develop increased community engagement. An example of a [Washington PAL can be found here.](#)



## Resilience Campaigns

Resilience skills are a useful protective factor against substance use. Collaborate to introduce these skills to the community, including to groups at greater risk of substance use. [Access free resilience training, delivered by the National Guard, here.](#)



## Athletic Coach Prevention Campaigns

Partner to engage athletic directors and coaches in prevention. Examples include providing training and strategies to empower coaches to recognize risk factors, reinforce positive behaviors and norms, and serve as trusted role models.



## Compliance Checks

Alcohol compliance checks help ensure that alcohol is sold only to legal age consumers, promoting public safety and reducing underage drinking. These checks also foster responsible business practices, creating a safer environment for the entire community.

# Collaborative Solutions



## **Substance Misuse Prevention Kits**

Partner to disseminate drug prevention kits to community members. These may include components such as medication locking bags, prevention information, links to prevention courses, and information about community prevention events or campaigns.



## **Overdose Response Kits**

Partner to disseminate overdose response kits to people who use drugs and their friends and family members. These may include components such as naloxone, Good Samaritan Law information, face shields for rescue breathing, and information about harm reduction strategies.



## **First Responder Buprenorphine Administration**

When buprenorphine is administered after overdose response, treatment services may be more likely to be accepted. Contact your local fire department and EMS partners to determine whether this strategy has been discussed and if there are ways you can support. [Click here to learn about an example of this strategy in Washington.](#)