



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

Opioid and Stimulant Response Needs Assessment

from the National Sheriffs' Association with the
Opioid Response Network



Context: The following is an analysis of a needs assessment conducted by the NSA in partnership with the Opioid Response Network to understand perceptions of shared public safety and public health concerns and availability and access to resources.

Analysis: After nearly 1 million people have died from opioids in the past decade, in a survey of 400 Sheriffs' Offices, 80% of respondents felt they were not sufficiently resourced to address their challenges. While less than 30% felt they needed more anti opioid related products nearly 75% of survey takers felt that facilities for this purpose were lacking, which is a significant finding after billions of dollars have been spent federally to address this issue. More concerning; of those who answered this question, 45% indicated none were available.

Another area of divergence between need and availability of resources pertained to the issue of anti-stigma training. In the past there have been concerns about how accepted this type of training would be. For agencies that had not had access to this type of training, nearly 80 % expressed willingness to attend. As experts in this field of substance use disorder know, a key factor in helping people to enter recovery is coming into contact with first responders who practice empathy and non-judgmental behaviors.

Reviewing the survey, it was indicated that there is strong intent in receiving subject matter expertise to assist agencies. 75% of respondents signaled their desire for this level of support, giving federal agencies concerned with improving SUD outreach and services a strong boost for continuing their approach.

When asked about programs that were successful in their communities, respondents' answers varied widely. However, many noted their own diversion or deflections as successful indicating those approaches are bearing fruit and gaining recognition for being associated with improvement. Quick Response Teams and Peer Support were also approvingly acknowledged.

Additionally, it should also be noted that enforcement was still seen as also being effective at reducing SUD and the presence of narcotics distribution in their community.

A final measure of public safety/public health collaboration was assessed for effectiveness. Over 70% of respondents said that these partnerships were Somewhat to Very Effective. Nearly 25% felt they were Very or Extremely Effective. Both measures underscore the efficacy of working across professional lines to address this unprecedented epidemic.

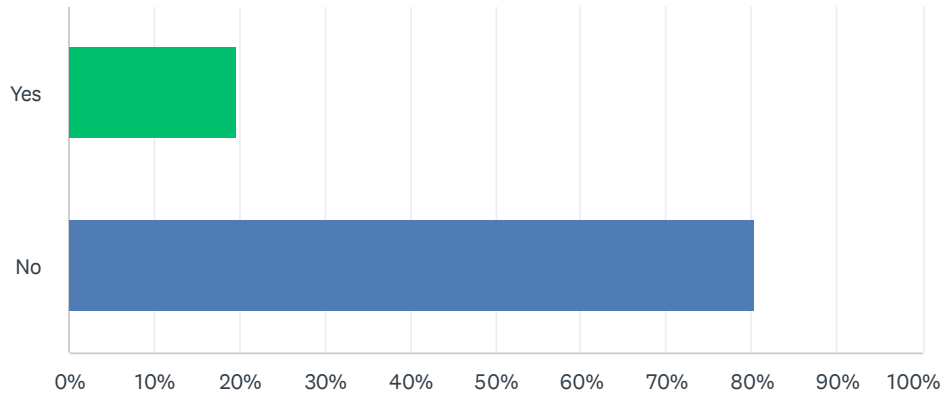
Without over-concluding from this survey, readers will find a lot to be encouraged by, to continue the same approach but knowing that many agencies, while using the tools they are able to find, are still under-resourced particularly when it comes to facilities.

NSA seeks any opportunity to serve our Sheriffs' Offices and their communities as they grapple with a public health menace of unprecedented proportions.

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Q1 Do you have sufficient resources to address opioid and stimulant use disorders in your community?

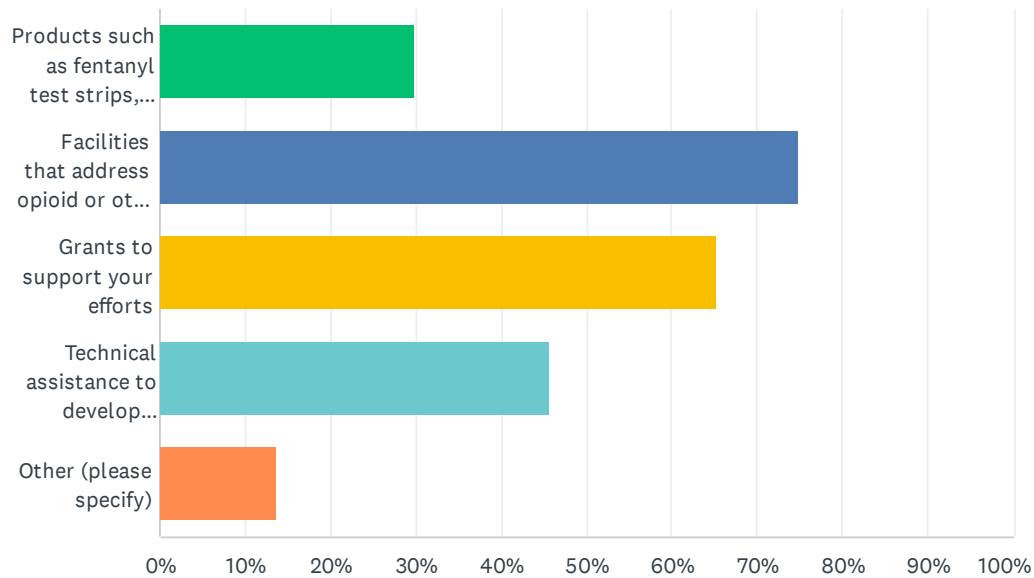
Answered: 427 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	19.67%	84
No	80.33%	343
TOTAL		427

Q2 If no, please choose from the following categories that are insufficient:

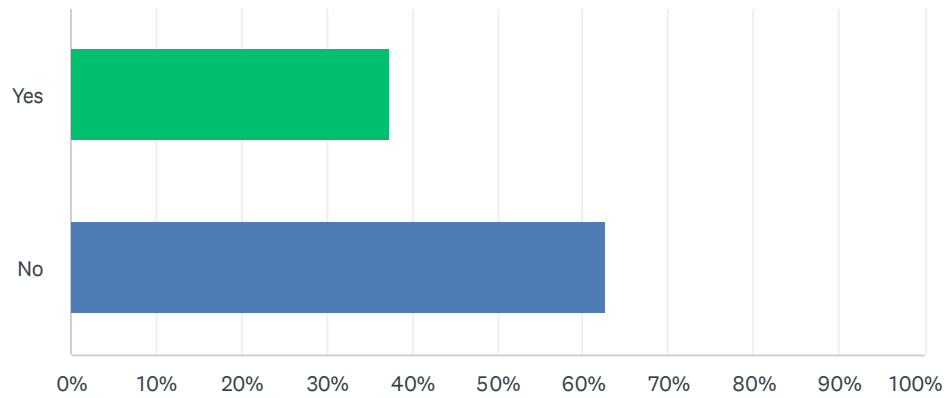
Answered: 331 Skipped: 98



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Products such as fentanyl test strips, naloxone, etc.	29.91%	99
Facilities that address opioid or other substance use disorder	74.92%	248
Grants to support your efforts	65.26%	216
Technical assistance to develop programs such as LEAD, post overdose recovery teams, street outreach teams	45.62%	151
Other (please specify)	13.60%	45
Total Respondents: 331		

Q3 Do you have access to anti-stigma training?

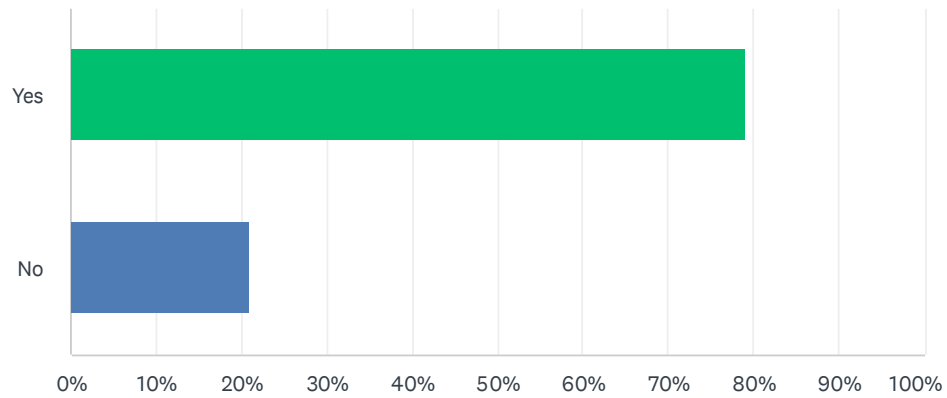
Answered: 401 Skipped: 28



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	37.41%	150
No	62.59%	251
TOTAL		401

Q4 If no, would you attend anti-stigma training if it was available to you?

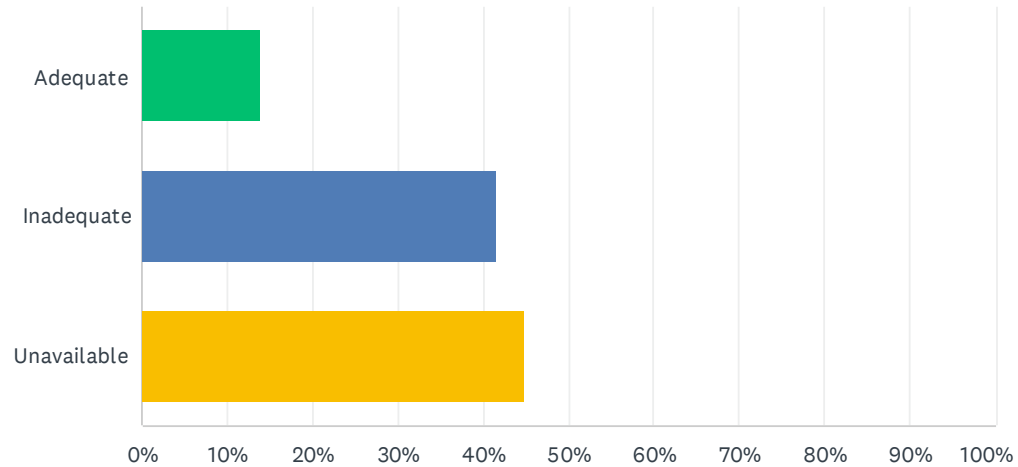
Answered: 244 Skipped: 185



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	79.10%	193
No	20.90%	51
TOTAL		244

Q5 Thinking about the facilities for detox recovery in your community, are they:

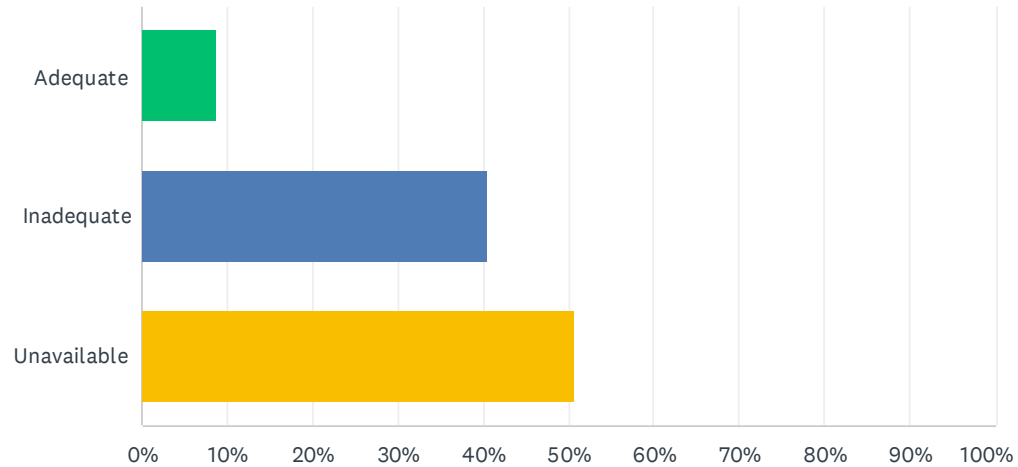
Answered: 311 Skipped: 118



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Adequate		13.83%	43
Inadequate		41.48%	129
Unavailable		44.69%	139
TOTAL			311

Q6 Thinking about the facilities for long-term residential recovery in your community, are they:

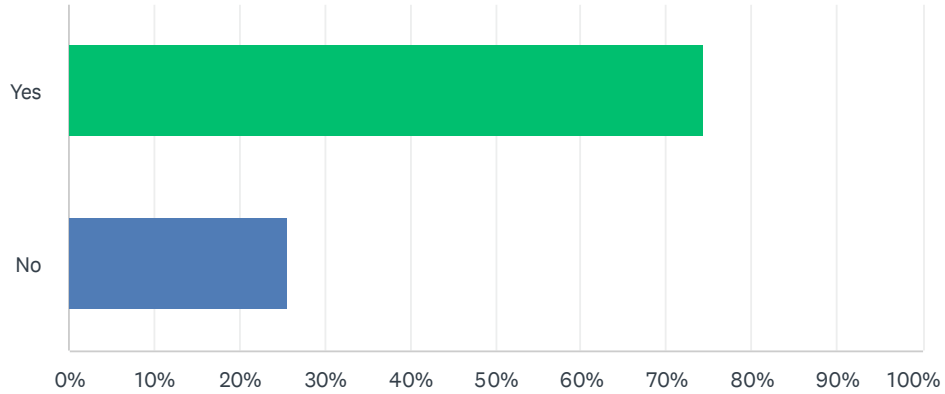
Answered: 309 Skipped: 120



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Adequate		8.74%	27
Inadequate		40.45%	125
Unavailable		50.81%	157
TOTAL			309

Q8 Would assistance from experts be useful to you to address substance use disorder in your community?

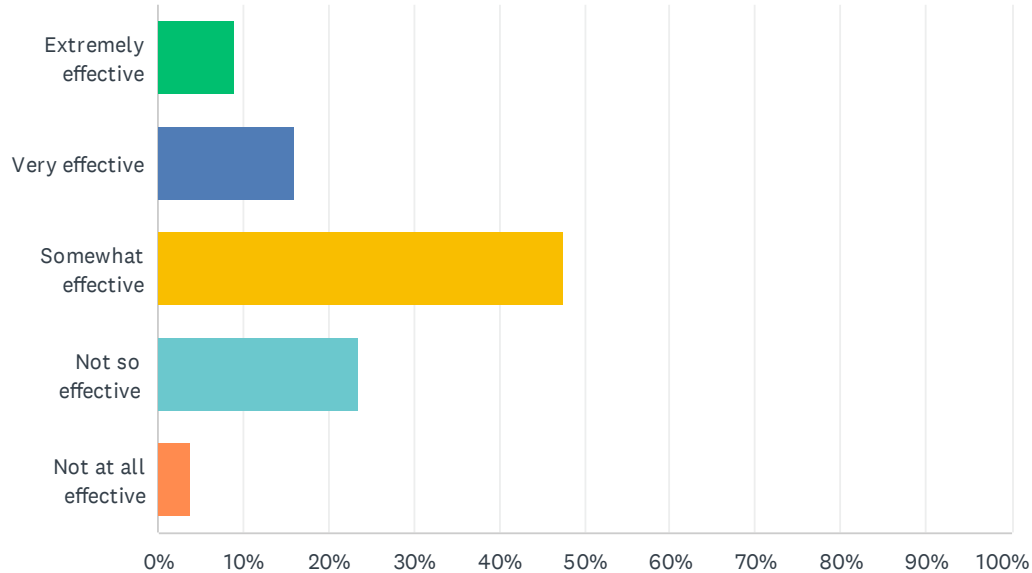
Answered: 306 Skipped: 123



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	74.51%	228
No	25.49%	78
TOTAL		306

Q11 In your opinion, how effective are public safety/public health/non-profit collaborations in reducing substance use disorder?

Answered: 311 Skipped: 118



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely effective	9.00%	28
Very effective	16.08%	50
Somewhat effective	47.59%	148
Not so effective	23.47%	73
Not at all effective	3.86%	12
TOTAL		311