



HOW POST-OVERDOSE RESPONSE TEAMS (PORT) SAVE LIVES

HELPFUL TIPS FROM THE FLETCHER GROUP RCOE

PORT AND YOU

PORT stands for “Post-Overdose Response Team,” a multi-agency program that follows up with people who have recently overdosed. Survivors are given Naloxone kits, information about treatment options and harm reduction resources such as needle exchange locations, and help in accessing safe housing, food, medical assistance, mental health services and transportation.

PORT recognizes that the survivor’s family members may also be experiencing trauma and extends its holistic approach to them by helping spouses and children find therapeutic and education resources.

Communities benefit in many ways, including:

- Greater public safety
- Reductions in harm, overdose and overdose fatalities
- Effective treatment and rehabilitation for those in need
- Support for survivor family members
- Greater community understanding of Substance Use Disorders and the resources available to address them

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PORT

To help save lives
and protect your
community

Who's on the team?

PORT teams can be comprised of First Responders, including law enforcement and fire department personnel, as well as medical providers, emergency medical technicians and behavioral health specialists familiar with substance use treatments and peer support resources. The team may also include people in recovery or faith-based community members familiar with delivering person-centered services and support.

How does it work?

The team follows up with the survivor within 24 to 72 hours after an overdose. If a face-to-face visit is not possible, the survivor may be contacted by phone or text. To gain the survivor's trust, the team takes a no-pressure, non-threatening approach and stresses that they are there only to protect the survivor's safety. In addition to encouraging the survivor to seek help, the team works to ensure a "warm hand-off" to treatment services. The team will also take steps to monitor the survivor's progress.

How to get started

An excellent step-by-step guide to developing your own PORT can be found in the "Post-Overdose Response Team Took Kit" produced by the North Carolina Department of Public Health at <https://files.nc.gov/ncdhhs/Post-Overdose-Response-Toolkit.pdf>



“Post-overdose interventions should be enticing, respectful, collaborative, and work on cementing that connection between people who use drugs and services that can help them survive.”

— Maya Doe-Simkins
Harm Reduction Michigan

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