

## Opioid Perceptions Survey Overview

This report presents a brief summary of results of Waves One, Two, and Three of the *Opioid Perceptions Survey*, with invitations to participate sent to individuals in Franklin County who work with people (clients/patients) who use opioids in a non-therapeutic way. This refers to clients/patients or individuals encountered through professional capacity, and does not include colleagues. Wave One of the survey was administered in Spring 2021 with 29 participants, Wave Two in Fall 2021 with 30 participants, and Wave Three in Fall 2022 with 35 participants. Wave Three respondents differed from those who participated in Waves One and Two as a result of both variation in who chose to participate each year and a change in the Wave Three sampling strategy.

To further understand opioid perceptions in Franklin County, we plan to administer a final wave of the survey before August 2023 to capture perceptions over three years. These surveys are part of a larger initiative being conducted by the Franklin County RCORP (Rural Communities Opioid Response Program) Consortium as part of a HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) Implementation grant received by PreventEd (formerly NCADA) in Franklin County. The grant aims to address the high number of opioid overdose deaths in Franklin County, Missouri.

In addition to gathering more information, the Consortium along with our many partners and members are currently exploring opportunities to leverage the many strengths within Franklin County to act upon the lessons learned from the survey waves, and strengthen treatment, prevention, and recovery services and resources. Ongoing strategies include resource fairs and outreach initiatives. Please access the full reports of the Wave One Results, Wave Two Results, and Wave Three Results for additional graphs, data, and information, and Briefs for highlights. Full and brief reports are available on the [Foundations for Franklin County website](#). You can also email Emily Wilkerson at [ewilkerson@prevented.org](mailto:ewilkerson@prevented.org) for a copy of a report, for questions on accessing services, or to become more involved in the Consortium or its work.

### Role and Experience in the Community

Most respondents in Wave One (38%) and Wave Three (37%) worked as Service Providers and majority in Wave Two (30%) as Behavioral Health Providers. Most Wave One respondents (34%) have worked with people who misuse opioids for five to ten years, most Wave Two respondents (27%) for one to five years, and most Wave Three respondents (29%) for ten to twenty years. In Wave Two, one person (3%) did not disclose their experience. Due to varying numbers of people representing roles or experience, we report the sample size in each figure for consideration and comparison.



## Key Takeaways

Statements in figures are organized by overall percent agreement in Wave Three, with highest agreement (and more positive perceptions) presented first.

### Strengths

**Overall, respondents positively perceived working with people who use opioids in a non-therapeutic way across the three waves.** Wave One respondents scored an average of 2.5, Wave Two, 2.8, and Wave Three, 2.9 on the 7-point scale. Although increases in this measure to quantify stigma, these were not statistically significant changes between waves ( $p>0.05$ ). The findings of these Opioid Perceptions Surveys highlight the importance of this grant and its work to support the needs of those working to help people struggling with an opioid use disorder. There is much work to be continued and we are grateful to the participants of these surveys for their time and their honest responses to guide the work.

**Most respondents reported having a working knowledge of opioid use and related issues (79% in Wave One, 80% in Wave Two, 71% in Wave Three).** This identified a strong foundation among most working in this field.

**Most respondents have equal respect for their clients/patients regardless of opioid use (86% in Wave One, 87% in Wave Two, 80% in Wave Three).** People with opioid use problems are treated the same as their counterparts by those providing them care or other services.

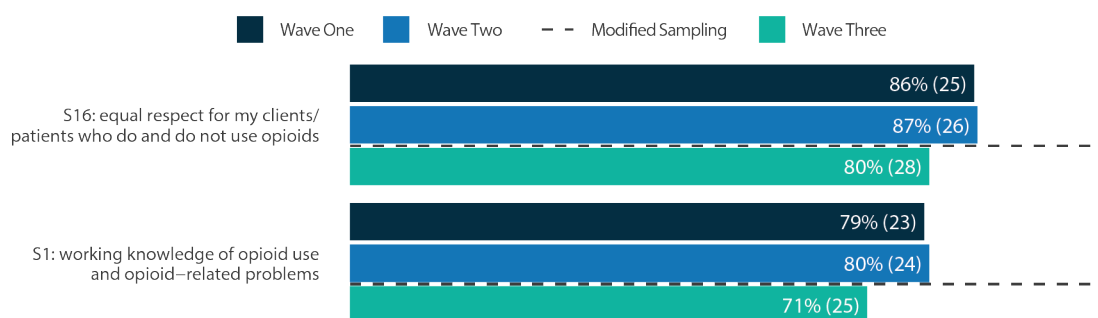


Figure: Overall agreement about respect and working knowledge.

### Opportunities

**First Responders and Medical Providers need support for a better understanding of people who use opioids.** Wave Three First Responders had the lowest agreement with Statement 22, “I can understand people who use opioids.” None of the Wave Three Medical Providers agreed with S22.

**Medical Providers and experienced professionals were likely to agree with desire, success, and satisfaction in working with people with opioid use problems.** S19, S14 and S18 were three additional statements where none of the Wave Three Medical Providers agreed. Wave Three respondents with more than twenty years of experience were also less likely to agree with these statements.

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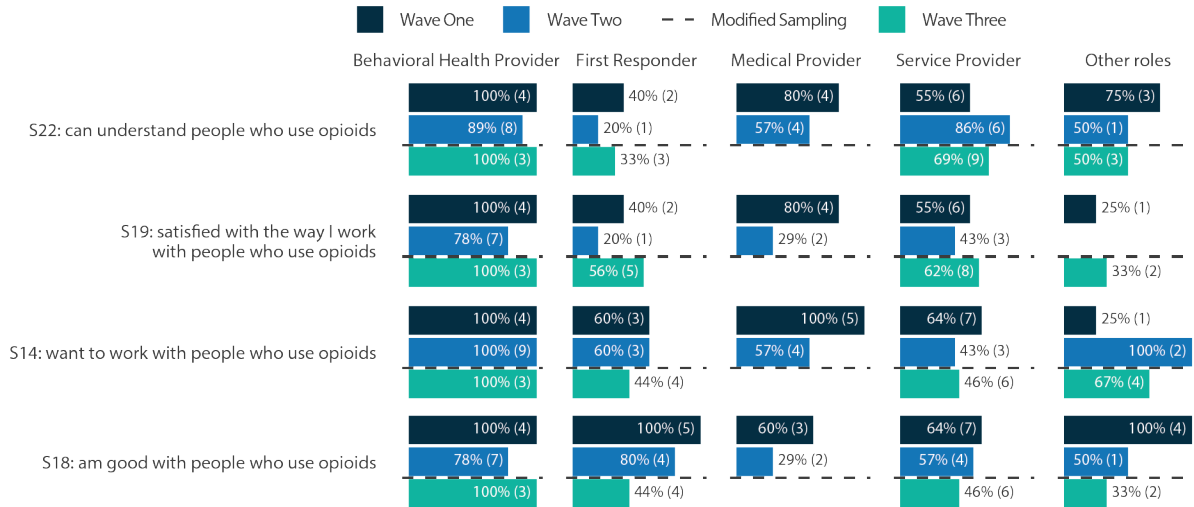


Figure: Agreement on understanding of people who use opioids and desire, success and satisfaction with working with these individuals, by role.

**Less experienced respondents felt least confident about providing advice and asking about opioid use.** Less than half of respondents with less than five years of experience agreed with S7 and S18. Wave Three respondents with less than ten years' experience were least likely to agree with Statement 9.

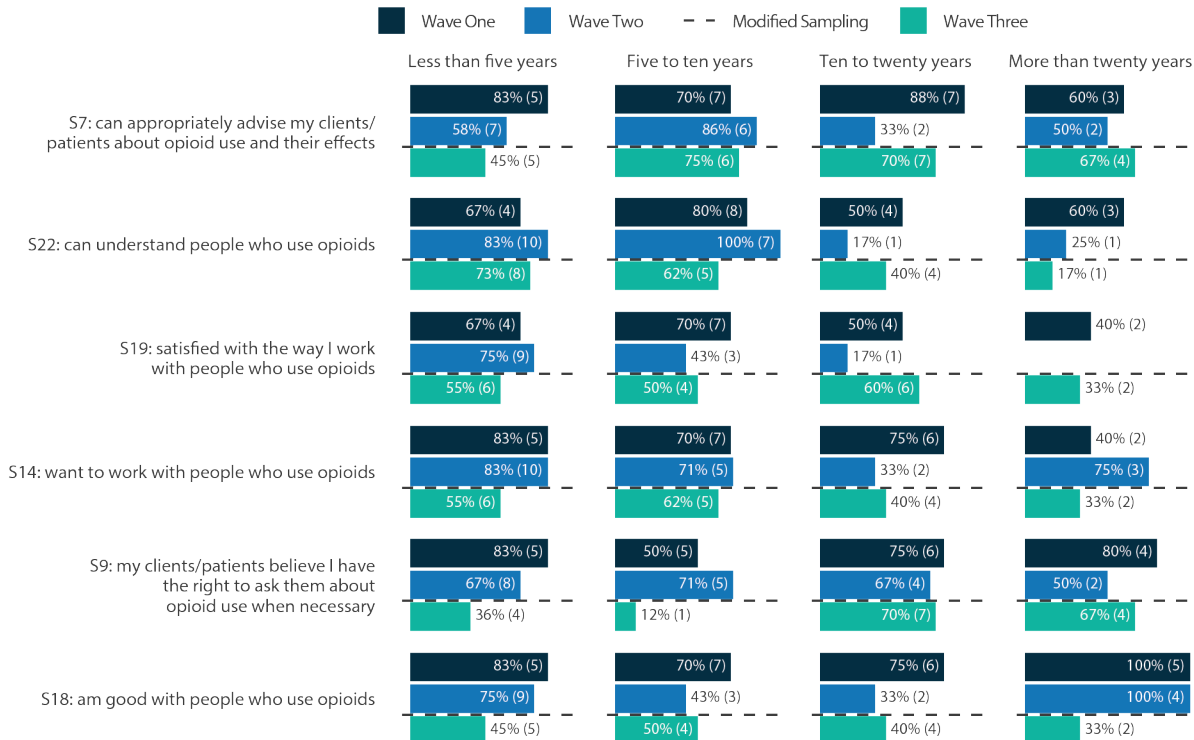


Figure: Agreement on understanding, advising and questioning people who use opioids, and desire, success and satisfaction with working with these individuals, by years of experience.

**Continuously share resources around causes, risk factors, effects, prevention, and treatment of, and recovery from opioid use.** These continue to be helpful to individuals in this field regardless of role or level of experience.