

Public Stigma of Substance Use Assessment Template

[Note: This survey is a template assessment that is designed for online dissemination. It could be adapted into a phone survey or pencil-and-paper survey with some changes. Information in bold is meant to provide guidance to participants. Information provided in italics and brackets is meant to provide further context to the implementor and would not be seen by the participant.]

[The scales used in this template assessment are from the [Public Stigma of Substance Use Measures Toolkit](#), [First Responder Substance Use Stigma Measures Toolkit](#), and the [Healthcare Provider Substance Use Stigma Measures Toolkit](#) which contain additional information for interpretation of assessment results. A [toolkit for data collection and data analysis](#) is also available.

The measures included in this template assessment do not directly match the original measures. Minor edits were made to ensure language was as non-stigmatizing as possible while maintaining the integrity of the question. Response scales are on a 4-point Likert scale that excludes the neutral option to require respondents to form an opinion.

This template assessment should be used to describe the overall degree or magnitude of substance use related stigma among the general public. Unless otherwise noted, participant responses to all questions in each stigma scale should be summed. The sum score can then be used to characterize the level of stigma among the sample of the general public. For example, questions 14-18 are from a scale developed by Stone et al. to assess opioid related attitude and beliefs. The responses to questions 14-18 can be added together to create a summed score. In this case, a higher score would indicate that the responding individual has higher levels of stigmatizing attitudes and beliefs.

Additional notes for analysis, including reverse-coding, are included under questions in italics and square brackets.]

Thank you for your interest in completing this survey to help us better understand what people in your community think about substance use, people who use drugs, and related topics. Follow the instructions below to answer each set of questions. Please remember to answer the questions honestly, and that there is no right or wrong answer. By taking this survey, you agree that the information you provide can be used by [Local Health Department Name]. Your responses will remain anonymous and confidential.

First, we will ask you a few questions about yourself and who you are.

1. What is your gender identity?
 - Female
 - Male
 - Transgender Male
 - Transgender Female
 - Nonbinary/Genderqueer
 - Other (please specify): _____

2. Which of the following age ranges do you fall into?
 - 18-24 years old
 - 25-34 years old
 - 35-44 years old
 - 45-54 years old
 - 55-64 years old
 - 65 or more years old

3. What level of education have you completed?
 - Some high school
 - High school diploma or GED
 - Some college
 - Associate's degree
 - Bachelor's degree
 - Some graduate school
 - Master's degree or higher
 - Other (specify): _____

4. In your life, have you had friends or family members whose substance use has negatively impacted their lives?
- Yes
- No

Now we will ask you some questions about what you know about overdose and overdose reponse.

5. Please indicate if you think the following symptoms are indicators of an overdose. Select each correct answer.

	True	False	I Don't Know
Having blood-shot eyes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> [*]	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slow or shallow breathing	<input type="checkbox"/> [*]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lips, hands, or feet turning blue	<input type="checkbox"/> [*]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loss of consciousness	<input type="checkbox"/> [*]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unresponsive	<input type="checkbox"/> [*]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fitting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> [*]	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deep snoring	<input type="checkbox"/> [*]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Very small pupils	<input type="checkbox"/> [*]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agitated behavior	<input type="checkbox"/> [*]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rapid heartbeat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> [*]	<input type="checkbox"/>

*[*correct response]*

6. Most opioid overdose deaths occur very quickly (within 1 hour).

Not True at All
 Somewhat Untrue
 Somewhat True
 Very True

7. Most opioid overdoses occur when individuals are using alone.

Not True at All
 Somewhat Untrue
 Somewhat True
 Very True

8. In order to safely administer naloxone, one needs to have advanced medical training.

Not True at All Somewhat Untrue Somewhat True Very True

9. Naloxone works by blocking opioids in the brain for 24 hours.

Not True at All Somewhat Untrue Somewhat True Very True

10. The 911 Good Samaritan Law provides significant legal protection against criminal charges and prosecution for possession of controlled substances in overdose prevention situations.

Not True at All Somewhat Untrue Somewhat True Very True

The next questions are about your confidence in your ability to respond to an overdose.

11. I am able to administer naloxone into someone who has overdosed.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

12. I would be able to check that someone who has overdosed was breathing properly.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

13. I am going to need more training before I would feel confident to help someone who has overdosed.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

These questions are about what you think about people with substance use disorder.

14. Individuals with substance use disorder only have themselves to blame for their problem.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

15. People with substance use disorder have poor moral character.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

16. How willing would you be to have a person with substance use disorder marry into your family?

Strongly Willing Somewhat Willing Somewhat Unwilling Strongly Unwilling

17. How willing would you be to have a person taking medication treatment for substance use disorder marry into your family?

Strongly Willing Somewhat Willing Somewhat Unwilling Strongly Unwilling

18. People who need medication treatment to stop using substances lack willpower.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

There are a variety of programs that can help reduce overdose in communities. Please read the descriptions of these various programs below and indicate how much you oppose or support each type of program.

19. Harm reduction strategies are public health programs that reduce the harms related to drug use. Supporters generally think these programs can significantly reduce death and the transmission of disease among people who use drugs, and that these programs can bring them into contact with public health or other services to act as a ‘bridge to recovery.’ Opponents argue that harm reduction programs encourage drug use and should not be used. Do you support or oppose harm reduction strategies for people who use drugs?

Strongly Oppose Oppose Support Strongly Support

20. Syringe service programs provide clean needles to people who use drugs and encourage safe disposal of used needles in order to prevent needle sharing, which can spread infectious diseases. Do you support or oppose syringe service programs?

Strongly Oppose Oppose Support Strongly Support

21. Do you support or oppose the idea that there should be syringe service programs in your community to help people who use drugs?

Strongly Oppose Oppose Support Strongly Support

22. Recently there has been a change in drug use practices. An increasing number of people are smoking or inhaling drugs and fewer may be injecting. While inhaling drugs include carries health risks, it does not entail the same risk of blood-borne infections or skin and soft tissue infections compared to injection. Some communities provide small glass pipes and plastic tubing for mouthpieces to reduce the harms related to drug inhalation. Do you support or oppose the distribution of safer inhalation supplies such as glass pipes and plastic tubing?

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Support Strongly Support

Next are some more specific questions about your thoughts on harm reduction techniques.

23. People who use drugs who want to reduce, but not eliminate their alcohol or drug use are in denial.

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

24. People who use drugs should be given accurate information about how to use drugs more safely (for example, how to avoid overdose or related health hazards).

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

25. Measures designed to reduce the harm associated with drug use are acceptable only if they eventually lead to abstinence.

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

26. Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) such as methadone should only be prescribed for a limited period of time.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

27. Abstinence should be the only acceptable goal for people who use drugs.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

The next questions about how you believe most people feel about people who use drugs.

28. Most people believe that a person who uses drugs cannot be trusted.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

29. Most people believe that a person who uses drugs is dangerous.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

30. Most people believe that a person who uses drugs is to blame for their own problems.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

The next questions are about what you believe most people think about people who have been treated for substance use.

31. Most people would willingly accept someone who has been treated for substance use disorder as a close friend.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

32. Most people believe that someone who has been treated for substance use disorder is just as trustworthy as the average citizen.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

33. Most employers will hire someone who has been treated for substance use disorder if they are qualified for the job.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

34. Most people would be willing to date someone who has been treated for substance use disorder.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

Thank you for participating in the survey. Your responses will help your community improve its provision of overdose prevention and response services. If you have any questions about the survey, please reach out to _____.