

Presentation title:

Expanding local rural drug intelligence capacity through a network format

Speaker: Glenn Sterner (The Pennsylvania State University, USA)

Co-authors: Andy Hochstetler (Iowa State University, USA), David Peters (Iowa State University, USA), Shannon Monnat (Syracuse University, USA), Kyle Burgason (Iowa State University, USA), Jeff Bouffard (Iowa State University, USA)

Drug overdose deaths continue to spike in the United States, with poly- and synthetic substance implications in mortality toxicology indicating the changing nature of drug use patterns and markets. Understanding and disrupting drug market activity in rural locations in the United States can be difficult due to under resourcing, lack of capacity, and geographic limitations. To address these issues, this presentation will discuss a multi-state, multi-institutional intervention to develop networks among law enforcement agencies in the United States to increase and enhance local rural law enforcement drug intelligence capacity. This study, funded by the United States National Institute of Justice, examined the partnering of a mentor agency, with demonstrated intelligence capacity, and two mentee agencies, self-identifying as needing assistance with their drug intelligence capacities. Implementation of the intervention occurred across three geographically dispersed states in isolation (the individual networks were not connected across states) to examine implementation successes and pitfalls. This presentation will share the evaluation results of the implementation and outcomes of each state, describing key findings across locations that will need to be considered for replication into the future.