

Presentation Title	Place in Schedule
Southeastern State Research Collaboration to Assess First Responder Exposures during Opioid Overdose Emergency Responses	Concurrent Session 2.6 <i>Day 2 – Wednesday</i> <i>May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018</i> <i>2:30 – 3:45pm</i>
Description of Presentation	Presenter Name(s) And Credentials
<p>Statement of the Problem: Kentucky had the third highest drug overdose fatality rate in the nation in year 2015. Anecdotal evidence suggests that exposure to opioids (including fentanyl and its analogs) by first responders (emergency medical services, volunteer and career firefighting, rescue, and law enforcement) may be occurring during drug overdose responses. Methods: A multistate, multiple agency and organizational partnership was formed among SouthON, Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC) (a Total Worker Health Affiliate), the Central Appalachian Regional Education and Research Center (CARERC), Kentucky Department for Public Health, and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, to 1) assess the extent of opioid exposures by first responders during drug overdose emergency responses; 2) assess existing standard operating procedures (including the use of personal protection such as gloves and respirators) to reduce opioid exposures by first responders during drug overdose emergency responses; and 3) identify potential knowledge and practice gaps in current standard operating procedures during drug overdose emergency responses.</p> <p>Intervention: In collaboration with NIOSH, first responder groups, and state partners, a survey of first responders was developed during the summer of 2017 and administered in the fall of 2017. A request for pilot projects on the use of the developed survey in SouthON member states, universities, and organizations was released by the CARERC. Four southeastern regional state health departments were funded to customize and administer the developed survey to their respective states.</p> <p>Participants: The survey is being sent to approximately 13,500 first responders in Kentucky (approximately 4,700 EMS technicians and paramedics, 3,600 firefighters, and 5,200 police and sheriff's</p>	Terry L. Bunn, PhD <i>University of Kentucky</i>
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patrol officers), and to first responders in Virginia, Louisiana, Georgia, and Mississippi.

Results: State survey results for all five southeastern states are being collected by the individual states, and CARERC and KIPRC, and will be analyzed at the state and southeastern region aggregate levels.

Implications and Conclusions: SouthON presentations and breakout sessions spurred a multidisciplinary university and state health department research collaboration whose results will provide critical information on current health and safety protections of first responders during the course of opioid overdose emergency responses. Survey results will inform improved NIOSH standardized guidance on the use of appropriate personal protection of emergency responder, public safety, and public health personnel during drug overdose emergency responses.