



## Addressing the Opioid Crisis with Mobile Response in Southern Indiana: How Data Can Further the Impact

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The Choices Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a group of specialists who are available twenty-four hours, seven days a week to respond to individuals and families experiencing challenges with opioid overdoses and substance use crises in Southeastern Indiana. CERT includes emergency response clinicians, recovery support specialists, a registered nurse, and a clinical director who are all specifically trained to support individuals and families experiencing substance use. The staff respond during a time of crisis to stabilize the situation and connect consumers with long-term recovery services to achieve success. The goal of CERT is to support consumers and their families to build a network of supports and connections in their homes and communities.

### Consumers Served in the Region

There were 308 consumers completing the CERT program during the evaluation period. Consumers served were on average 34 years old, ranging 12 to 74 years old. CERT referrals were most frequently self-referrals.

### Serving Consumers

Based on the reasons that responders recorded for the emergency response, almost all calls were related to substance use (98%). Heroin was noted in nearly half of the responses that involved reversal. Responders recorded that Naloxone was offered and accepted for 36% of responders. Consumers most frequently reported a lifetime history of using tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana. In the last three months, amphetamines and opioids were reported more frequently in several counties.

### Referrals to Services

After the initial response, CERT members worked with consumers for up to 60 days to assist with creating a plan of care for accessing needed services. CERT responders referred consumers to services and resources throughout their enrollment, including resources for substance use like inpatient treatment, support groups or meetings, and Narcan. The team also referred consumers to resources to support essential social determinants of health like employment, housing, and transportation.

### Results at Closure

At the point of discharge, 52% of clients were connected to a formal service and 27% were connected to an informal service or community support. Additionally, 20% went to an inpatient treatment center.

### Want to know more?

To access our full paper, scan the QR code or go to:

<https://www.choicesccs.org/uploads/articles/Addressing-the-Opioid-Crisis.pdf>

