



GET TO KNOW THE EXPLORING COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE STUDY- ONGOING (ECKS-O)



ECKS-O is the evolution of the Rapid Assessment of Consumer Knowledge (RACK) study, a brief, mixed methods approach to gain insight into local challenges and responses to the opioid crisis as shared by people who use drugs in Massachusetts communities.

History

- RACK started in 2016 with the MA Department of Public Health
- There have been 18 RACKs, focused on different local communities and special topics of concern like xylazine
- Past RACKs have generated insights that have informed policy and services, measured local and state harm reduction needs and identified areas of inequity
- As a community engaged research project, RACK is a key tool to lift up identified community needs and people who use drugs (PWUD).

Focus

ECKS-O Centers Community

With foundational elements of RACK, the ECKS-O model is an annual, state-representative survey of PWUD. The ECKS-O survey and subsequent participant interviews focus on:

- Substance use and route of administration, including preferences and changes to the ways people are using drugs
- Experiences with overdose response, including alternative forms of naloxone
- Attitudes towards medication for opioid use disorder and other forms of treatment
- Knowledge of the drug supply and drug related harms

ECKS-O Components

- **Surveys** to gather state-wide and regional information on focus topics
- **Interviews** to allow for richer understanding of lived experiences and deeper exploration of survey topics
- **Key Informant Interviews** with community partners about their experiences and insights
- Partnering with **Community Scholars** to build regional research capacity with trusted harm reduction-focused individuals

Researchers conducted the following across five MA regions:

- 256 surveys
- 26 participant interviews
- 24 key informant interviews

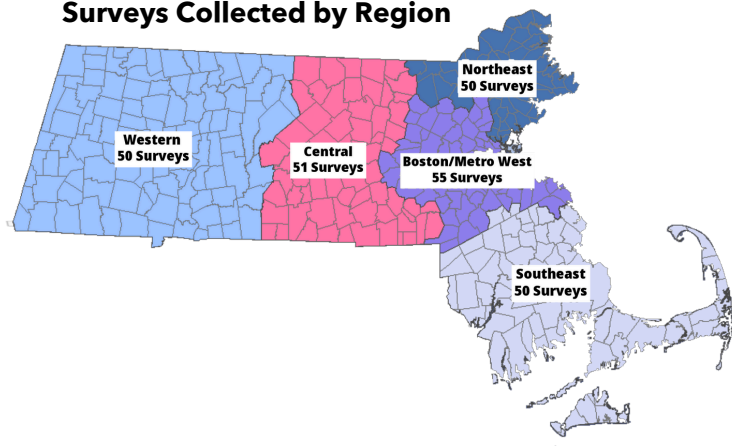
Participants could complete the survey:

- remotely or in-person
- by themselves or with researcher support

Pilot Year



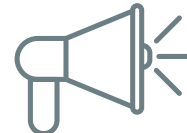
Surveys Collected by Region



Feedback from our Participants:

WE NEED PEOPLE PAYING ATTENTION

"I LIKE THAT [ECKS-O] IS USING INFO TO HELP PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS"



"THIS [SURVEY] IS VERY INFORMATIVE"

THANK YOU FOR THIS SURVEY: TO HELP OUR COMMUNITIES HEAL FROM SUD (SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER)