Who is the Law Enforcement Sector?

The Law Enforcement Sector includes police officers, sheriffs, corrections staff, dispatchers, and special units. They help keep the community safe and respond to emergencies.

They are often the first people to respond when someone is in crisis, including mental health or substance use situations. Because of this, they can help notice problems early and guide people to the right support. ROSCs can work with law enforcement to reduce stigma, connect people to treatment, and support long-term recovery.

How can the Law Enforcement Sector support recovery?

Law enforcement can support recovery by working with others and focusing on helping people, not just enforcing laws. As 24/7 responders, they can connect people in crisis to care and support.

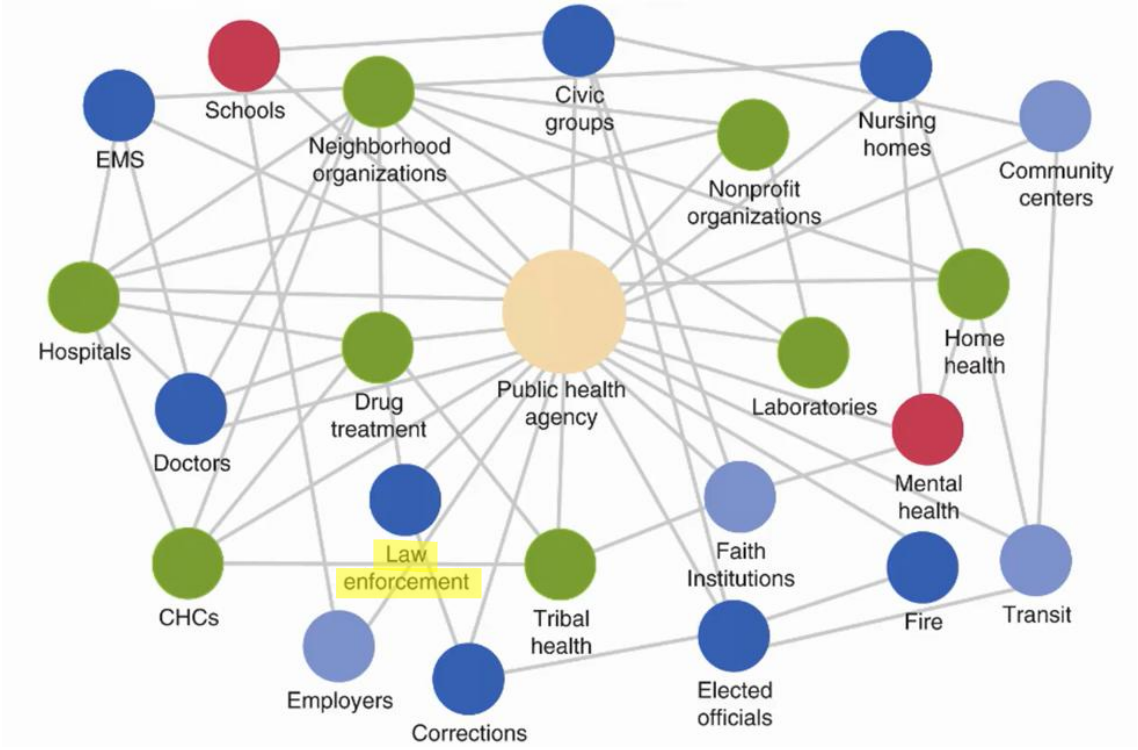
To make the biggest impact, law enforcement and ROSCs can:

- **Be a bridge to care:** Help people get treatment and support instead of always making an arrest.
- **Use diversion programs:** Work with partners to guide people to help early and prevent bigger problems.
- **Use respectful and informed approaches:** Understand mental health and substance use and respond with care.
- **Work with other groups:** Partner with healthcare, peer support, housing, and social services.
- **Reduce stigma:** Show that recovery is possible and encourage people to seek help.
- **Build trust and safety:** Respond in ways that reduce repeat crises and help families and communities.
- **Support strong communities:** Focus on long-term health and safety for everyone.

How can ROSCs work with the Law Enforcement Sector?

- Create strong partnerships and clear plans for diversion instead of arrest.
- Include law enforcement in planning and decision-making.
- Use team responses that include officers, health workers, and peer support.
- Build simple ways to connect people to services right away.
- Provide training on trauma-informed care and reducing stigma.
- Share data and ideas to improve services and fill gaps.
- Build trust and clear roles between all partners.

Prevention Web



Law Enforcement & Your Community

Reflect: When you think of law enforcement in your community what vision comes to mind?

Expanding the Vision of Partnership Possibilities	
Police Officer/Patrol Officer	Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE)
Community Resource Officer	Police Chief
School Resource Officer (SRO)	Detective
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)	Sheriff's Office

Finding Common Ground: Questions to Consider

- How do your efforts align?
- Address the "What's in it for me?"
- How would working together further both organizations' missions?
- How would joining efforts strengthen local protections or change local conditions?

Law Enforcement & Prevention Alignment



Finding Common Ground: Examples in Action

- Local ordinance changes
- Attending or hosting trainings (e.g., community health fairs)
- Supporting organizational community events
- Sharing information (e.g., lobby education boards)
- Youth projects