OVERDOSE FACTS & FIGURES


In 2017, overdoses involving opioids killed an estimated 47,600 people in the United States.¹

People who have had a nonfatal overdose are at heightened risk of fatal overdose.

Naloxone is a medication that can reverse opioid overdoses and should be used as soon as possible during a suspected opioid overdose.

Naloxone is easy to use. You do not need to be a medical professional to save a life.

Naloxone is only effective to reverse opioid overdoses, but is so safe that it will not cause harm or exacerbate other medical conditions.

Naloxone is not addictive and cannot make a person high.

Access to naloxone does not lead to increased drug use.²

Opioid overdose death is 40 times more likely within two weeks after incarceration.³

Without saving a life today, there’s no hope of recovery tomorrow.


For information, resources, and support call 1-833-301-HELP (4357) www.addictionresourcetcenter.org
Naloxone is an antidote for opioids, which can include:

- Heroin
- Codeine
- Demerol
- Hydromorphone
- Oxycodone
- Fentanyl
- Dilaudid
- Morphine
- Buprenorphine
- Methadone

1. **Signs of an Overdose**
   - Limp body
   - Doesn’t respond to shouting
   - Soft/no breath or snoring
   - Blue lips, nails, or skin
   - Cold, clammy skin
   - Pinpoint pupils

2. **Call 911**

3. **Give Naloxone**
   - Pull into needle very slowly
   - Inject into large muscle
   - Place your thumb on the plunger
   - Press plunger firmly into nostril

4. **Check the Person’s Breathing**
   - Breathing
     - Hand supports head
     - Knee stops body from rolling onto stomach
   - Not Breathing
     - Tilt head back, pinch nostrils closed, give 1 breath every 5 sec
     - Give rescue breathing until help arrives

5. **Stay Calm**
   - Don’t put them in a bathtub/shower
   - Don’t stand them up
   - Don’t inject stimulants (ie. meth)
   - Wait for help to arrive
   - If they aren’t breathing after 2-3 min, give another dose

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**ADDICTION POLICY FORUM**
www.addictionpolicy.org

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FACULTY OF SCIENCE
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SAFE

SAFETY FIRST

Very safe

Easy to administer

Not addictive

Wears off in about an hour

Only reverses overdoses caused by opioids

Naloxone is bystander-administered. It is so safe, that even if you’re not sure whether the medical emergency was caused by opioids, some other drug, or another medical condition, administering naloxone will not cause harm.

3 FDA-approved forms:
• Narcan® nasal spray
• Evzio® auto-injector
• Injectable naloxone

To find naloxone near you call 833-301-HELP


CARING FOR SOMEONE AFTER AN OVERDOSE

1. Naloxone is a temporary antidote to opioid overdose. People who have had a nonfatal overdose are at heightened risk of fatal overdose.

2. It’s important to get emergency medical care, or they could go back into an overdose. With the necessary support, a nonfatal overdose can become an opportunity for intervention.

3. Someone who has been revived with naloxone may feel scared, confused, and agitated. Comprehensive treatment is essential to treating addiction.

4. They may be experiencing symptoms of opioid withdrawal, such as headache and vomiting. Recovery is possible. There are 23 million Americans in recovery from substance use disorders.

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HOW NALOXONE WORKS

Naloxone works by binding to the same brain receptors that opioids do and pushing out the opioids that are causing the overdose.

Opioid Receptor

- Opioid
- Naloxone


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PREVENTING AN OVERDOSE

Anybody taking an opioid – prescribed or illicit – can experience an opioid overdose. These steps can help people stay safer:

Caution
Don’t mix opioids with other substances, such as benzodiazepines (e.g. Xanax®), alcohol, or cocaine. Go slow, especially if taking the substance in a different way, if it came from an unfamiliar source, or after a period of abstinence.

Awareness
Illicit drugs, such as cocaine, K2, and counterfeit pills, can be laced with strong opioids like fentanyl, putting someone who might not know that they are using an opioid at risk of opioid overdose.

Reversal
Don’t use alone. Get naloxone and speak to loved ones about where it’s kept and how to use it.

Empower
Medication assisted treatment relieves cravings and decreases overdose deaths. Recovery from the disease of addiction is possible.
WHAT ARE OPIOIDS?

Opioids can be prescribed pain relievers or illicit drugs:

- Heroin
- Fentanyl (e.g. Duragesic®)
- Hydrocodone (e.g. Vicodin®)
- Hydromorphone (e.g. Dilaudid®)
- Oxycodone (e.g. OxyContin®, Percocet®)
- Oxymorphone (e.g. Opana®)
- Codeine (e.g. Tylenol® #3 and #4)
- Morphine (e.g. MS Contin®)
- Meperidine (e.g. Demerol®)
- Buprenorphine (e.g. Suboxone®)
- Methadone (e.g. Dolophine®)

Opioid use can lead to dependence and addiction.

Opioids act on parts of the brain that control pain. They also affect the areas of the brain that control breathing. During an opioid overdose breathing can slow or stop, which can cause loss of consciousness, coma, or death.¹

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OVERDOSE VIDEOS

**Naloxone Facts**
Naloxone is now available in many places without a prescription. Naloxone is a temporary antidote for overdoses from opioid drugs.
WATCH: Click here to learn the 5 things everyone should know about Naloxone here. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgiODjaARP4)

**Naloxone Administration**
Naloxone is a temporary antidote for opioid drugs.
WATCH: Learn how to administer it here. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJmCfseNtsU)

**Addiction & the Brain for Kids**
This kid-friendly video explains how repeated substance use can hijack brain function.
WATCH: Learn the importance of delaying use until the brain has fully developed. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0bqT_hxMwl)