
Overdose deaths are on the rise. Naloxone is a necessary lifeline.

What is Naloxone?

- Naloxone is a lifesaving medication that reverses opioid overdoses. It blocks the effects of an overdose and rapidly restores normal breathing.
- Naloxone is safe and does not have harmful effects; if opioids are not present in a person's system, it has no effect.
- There are currently two delivery methods for naloxone — injection and nasal spray.

Naloxone is effective in preventing overdose deaths.

- Naloxone successfully reverses 75-100% of overdoses.
- It is estimated that 47% of overdose deaths have a bystander present — a key opportunity to prevent a death by providing naloxone.
- Expanding naloxone by 30% could have saved approximately 27,000 lives in 2021.

Recent laws make naloxone more accessible, but *distribution* issues persist.

- Naloxone access laws vary by state.
- All fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico allow an individual to obtain naloxone without a prescription in some capacity.
- Thirty-three states have a statewide standing order for naloxone. In some states, naloxone is available in pharmacies with or without a personal prescription; in others, naloxone can be provided through community-based distribution programs or local health departments.
- In states that adopt a naloxone access law, there is a 14% decrease in the number of opioid-related deaths.
- Rural counties are three times more likely to be a low-dispensing county compared to a metropolitan county.

Sources: CDC, NIH, LAPP

Contact Us

Libby Jones
Program Director
Overdose Prevention Initiative
ljones@advocacyincubator.org
(703) 678-8864

Ryan Greenstein
Associate Director, Advocacy
Overdose Prevention Initiative
rgreenstein@advocacyincubator.org
(202) 481-9716

Congress can champion naloxone to prevent overdose deaths and save lives.