

The Value of Carrying Naloxone

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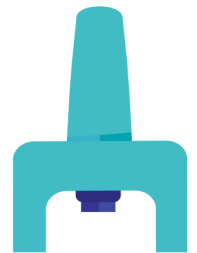
Background: The Opioid Epidemic

In the last 15 years, over 360,000 people have died in the United States from overdoses related to opioids, and the problem is only getting worse. The United States lost over 75,000 people to opioid overdose in the 12-month period ending in April 2021. This is equivalent to 205 deaths per day. The national epidemic is affecting Indiana as well. In the 12-month period ending in March 2021, more than 2,000 Hoosiers died due to drug overdoses, with the majority of those deaths being caused by opioids. These staggering numbers continue to be on the rise.

Whether you are a healthcare provider, first responder, public health official or community member, the opioid epidemic is likely affecting you and your community. **No matter who you are, you can take action to end the opioid overdose epidemic.** One way to do so is to be prepared in the case that someone overdoses on opioids. The most effective way to reverse an overdose is by administering the opioid-reversal medication naloxone.

What is naloxone?

Naloxone, also known by the brand name Narcan, is a drug that reverses the effects of opioids. Naloxone can be given to anyone with symptoms of an opioid overdose.



Does naloxone only work for opioid-related overdoses?

Yes. Naloxone only reverses the effects of opioids such as heroin, methadone, morphine, opium, codeine or hydrocodone. However, many people who overdose have taken multiple drugs, including opioid pain relievers. Even if you are unsure of what drugs the person has taken, you can safely administer naloxone. If the person has not used any opioids, naloxone will not work and will not cause any additional harm.

How can I get naloxone?

You can find a location that dispenses naloxone (such as a pharmacy or your local health department) by searching on [OptIN.in.gov](https://optin.in.gov). **No prescription is needed.**

Takeaway: Encouraging first responders and individuals likely to witness an overdose to carry naloxone is an essential action to reverse the opioid epidemic.

For additional information on naloxone, contact
OptIN@isdh.in.gov

