

OPIOID CRISIS IN NATIVE AMERICA FACT SHEET SERIES

#3 | *Overdose-Reversing Drugs*

An Overview

Approximately 130 people die every day due to an opioid overdose. Naloxone, (sometimes known as Narcan©) is the only drug currently available to reverse an opioid overdose. Naloxone reverses the effects of opioids like heroin, morphine, codeine, and opium. Within 3-5 minutes of administering Naloxone, it blocks the consumed opioids from their receptors in the brain for up to 90 minutes, reversing the slow or stopped breathing that leads to overdose fatalities. Research shows that when naloxone and overdose education are available to community members, overdose deaths decrease.

Administering Naloxone

Naloxone can be administered by medical professionals, paraprofessionals, first responders and lay people that have received the proper training. Naloxone is not dangerous to most individuals and has no effect when opioids are not present. However, naloxone can trigger withdrawal symptoms and individuals should be Observed for at least two hours after having Naloxone administered. Naloxone can be administered in the following ways:

- Injection (by a trained medical professional)
- Auto-injectable (i.e. EVZIO)
- Nasal Spray
- Through an IV (by a trained medical professional)

Due to the rising opioid epidemic, there are free and low-cost trainings available for individuals and Wellness Court teams that wish to learn how to safely administer naloxone. Some local pharmacists also provide free training to those purchasing naloxone.

Naloxone and the Law

40 states have enacted some form of a Good Samaritan or 911 drug immunity law. These laws are designed to encourage people to visit a hospital or clinic for an overdose or for follow-up care after naloxone has been administered. The laws vary across jurisdictions but generally include the following protections: immunity from arrest, charge or prosecution for possession or paraphernalia offenses. The laws apply to a person who is either experiencing an opiate-related overdose or observing one calls 911 for assistance or seeks medical attention. These laws are designed to protect controlled substance users that may otherwise risk arrest when calling 911 on behalf of another person they are using with, and for people who have received naloxone to stop a potential overdose and need more medical care. Many states also have “Good Samaritan Laws” that protect a bystander from legal liability that may arise from administering naloxone. **When researching the purchase of naloxone for use by your wellness court team or tribal community, be sure to research relevant tribal and state laws that may impact people administering naloxone.**

Access

Currently, people can get Naloxone without a prescription in: Ohio, Arkansas, California, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, and Wisconsin.



The Tribal Law and Policy Institute provides free training and technical assistance to planning and operational tribal adult, DUI/DWI, juvenile, and family Healing to Wellness Courts (drug courts).

We seek to assist Wellness Courts in the development, implementation, and sustainability of program practices for increased program effectiveness, and for the long-term success of their participants.

We provide free onsite and offsite training and technical assistance.

Contact: wellness@tlpi.org
or (323) 650-5467





Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts Opioid Webpage

The Tribal Law and Policy Institute manages a comprehensive website for Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts. The website contains an opioid page with the latest research and resources relevant to tribal communities and Wellness Courts. The page contains links to resources, webinar recordings, publication downloads, and information on upcoming trainings.

Link: www.WellnessCourts.org/Opioid_cfm



Drug Overdose Immunity and Good Samaritan Laws

Web-based resource from the National Conference of State Legislatures. This resource provides information on state “Good Samaritan Immunity” laws for people administering naloxone during an overdose. This page contains information on civil and criminal laws related to naloxone and its administration.

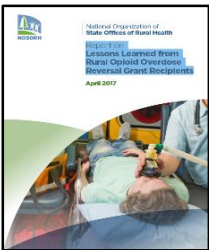
Link: www.ncsl.org/research/civil-and-criminal-justice/drug-overdose-immunity-good-samaritan-laws.aspx



HHS Webpage on Overdose-Reversing Drugs

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has a webpage dedicated to the availability of overdose-reversing drugs. This page contains information and links to federal information, grants, resources, and access to naloxone.

Link: www.hhs.gov/opioids/about-the-epidemic/hhs-response/better-overdose-response/index.html



Lessons Learned from Rural Opioid Overdose Revers

The report provides a summary of lessons learned from ROOR grant recipients on how to engage, educate and connect stakeholders to available resources to help combat the opioid overdose epidemic. Also included in the report are links to resources related to training, data, marketing, outreach and grant recipient background. (Aug. 2016).

Link: <https://nosorh.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ROOR-Report-1.pdf>



Naloxone: Overview and Considerations for Drug Court Programs

Approximately one in five people who use heroin will have an overdose each year, and one in one hundred will die from an overdose. With brief training, people can effectively recognize and respond to an opioid overdose and successfully administer naloxone, the opioid overdose antidote. Distributing naloxone to laypersons has resulted in thousands of overdose reversals and has saved many lives. *National Drug Court Institute (Dec. 2016).*

Link: www.ndci.org/resources/naloxone-overview-and-considerations/



Surgeon General’s Advisory on Naloxone and Opioid Overdose

Short advisory statement from the U.S. Surgeon General on naloxone including links and references for the public and medical providers.

Link: <https://www.surgeongeneral.gov/priorities/opioid-overdose-prevention/naloxone-advisory.html>



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