

Saving Lives Erie County



What is Naloxone?

Naloxone (also known as Narcan) is a medication that can reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug. When this medication is administered during an overdose, Naloxone blocks the effects of the opioid on the brain and restores breathing within 2 to 8 minutes.

It has been safely used by emergency medical professionals for more than 40 years and has only one function: to reverse the effects of opioid on the brain and respiratory system in order to prevent death. Naloxone has no potential for abuse.

What are opioids and overdose?

Opioids are medications that are used to treat pain. Opioids repress the urge to breathe. An opioid overdose can cause serious, life-altering consequences, even death.

Opioids include both heroin and prescription pain medications. Medications that fall within this class include but are not limited to: hydrocodone (Vicodin), oxycodone (OxyContin, Percocet), morphine (Kadian, Avinza), codeine, methadone, fentanyl and related drugs.

How do you know if someone is overdosing?

A person experiencing an overdose may have the following symptoms:

- *Breathing is slow and shallow and less than 10 breaths per minute or has stopped. They are making a deep snoring or gurgling (death rattle);*
- *Vomiting;*
- *Face is pale and/or clammy;*
- *Blue or grayish lips and fingernails;*
- *Slow, erratic, or no pulse;*
- *Choking or loud snoring noises;*
- *Will not respond to shaking or sternal rub*
- *Skin may turn gray, blue, or ashen.*

**An overdose is a medical emergency!
Call 9-1-1 immediately
and begin first aid.**

What are the risk factors for an opioid overdose?

Lowered Tolerance— Tolerance is your body's ability to process a drug. Tolerance changes over time so that you may need more of a drug to feel its effects. However, tolerance can decrease rapidly when someone has taken a break from using a substance whether intentionally (in treatment) or unintentionally (in jail or the hospital). Taking opioids after a period of not using can increase the risk of fatal overdose.

Mixing Drugs— Many overdoses occur when people mix opioids with other drugs such as alcohol, benzodiazepines or antidepressants.

Physical Health Problems— A person's physical health impacts your body's ability to manage opioids. Since Opioids can impair your ability to breathe, a person with asthma or other breathing problems are at high risk of overdose.

Previous overdose— A person who has experienced a nonfatal overdose in the past, has an increased risk of fatal overdose in the future.

Saving Lives Erie County

Saving Lives Erie County is a community based drug overdose education and Naloxone (Narcan) distribution program whose goal is to reverse opioid drug effects that might otherwise be fatal. The training is offered to first responders in our community. First responders includes law enforcement as well as family members and loved ones of those at risk of opioid overdose.

Participants will receive training on the following:

- *Recognizing the signs and symptoms of opioid overdose*
- *Performing rescue breathing*
- *Calling **9-1-1** or emergency medical services*
- *Administering intranasal Naloxone*
- *Monitoring the victim's response until emergency services arrive*

Those participating in the training are then offered a Naloxone (Narcan) kit to keep with them to use in the event of witnessing an opioid drug overdose.

If you have a loved one who is at risk of opioid overdose and would like to participate in this training, please call the Erie County Health Department at:

419-626-5623
ext. 174

For more information regarding overdose education and prevention using Naloxone, please call the Erie County Health Department 419-626-5623 extension 174



**Erie County Health
Department
420 Superior Street
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
www.eriecohealthohio.org**



**Erie County
Health Department**

**Erie County
Community Health Center**

***Saving Lives
Erie County***



**A community-based
drug overdose education
and naloxone distribution
program.**



***Saving Lives
Erie County***



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For information on how to obtain NARCAN

420 Superior Street, Sandusky, OH 44870 • www.eriecohealthohio.org