

Naloxone is a life-saving intervention that reverses opioid overdose. Peer distribution programs provide naloxone to people who are likely to witness an overdose, such as friends and family of people who use opioids, alongside training on how to administer the medication.

- One study from the United States [found naloxone peer distribution to be highly cost-effective in preventing overdose-related deaths. \(Coffin, PO. and Sullivan, SD. \(2013\) Cost-effectiveness of distributing naloxone to heroin users for lay overdose reversal, Annals of Internal Medicine, 158, p.1–9\)](#)
- Evidence-Based Strategies for Preventing Opioid Overdose: What’s Working in the United States (CDC) states that targeted naloxone distribution programs work best when:
  - Naloxone is provided to people at high risk of experiencing or witnessing overdose.
  - Outreach workers, harm reduction staff, and trusted clinicians are properly educated and comfortable distributing naloxone to those using illicit opioids or receiving a high-risk opioid prescription.
  - People who use drugs and first responders are well informed as to the potential effects and actions of naloxone. Comfort with carrying and administering naloxone is crucial.
- [The Effect of Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution: An Umbrella Review of Systematic Reviews](#) (August 31, 2021)
  - Main Results: Six systematic reviews containing 87 unique studies were included. We found that Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) programs produce long-term knowledge improvement regarding opioid overdose, improve participants’ attitudes toward naloxone, provide sufficient training for participants to safely and effectively manage overdoses, and effectively reduce opioid-related mortality.
- [Impact of a community-based naloxone distribution program on opioid overdose death rates](#)
  - Naloxone kit distribution is associated with lower opioid overdose death rates.
  - On average, for every dollar spent on the naloxone program, \$2742 was saved by deaths avoided.
  - Lends support to growing evidence base on benefits of naloxone programs.

Results: “The rate of OOD in counties with 1–100 cumulative naloxone kits distributed per 100,000 population was 0.90 times (95% CI: 0.78, 1.04) that of counties that had not received kits. In counties that received >100 cumulative kits per 100,000 population, the OOD rate was 0.88 times (95% CI: 0.76, 1.02) that of counties that had not received kits. By December 2016, an estimated 352 NC deaths were avoided by naloxone distribution (95% CI: 189, 580). On average, for every dollar spent on the program, there was \$2742 of benefit due to OODs avoided (95% CI: \$1,237, \$4882).”

