



Kent City Health Department

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FACT SHEET

AUGUST 2019

www.kentpublichealth.org

BY THE NUMBERS

Naloxone for Treating Opioid Overdoses

■ In 2015, 10% of Portage County adults had misused medication to feel good or get high. Source: [Portage County Community Health Assessment](#)

Actions continue to be needed for access locally

About 48,000 US drug overdose deaths involved **opioids*** in 2017. The prescription (Rx) drug Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Pharmacists and healthcare providers play a critical role in ensuring patients receive naloxone. Many states [including Ohio](#) have laws that allow pharmacists to dispense naloxone without a prescription (Rx), which have contributed to lowering deaths. Coordinated action between hospitals, health departments, mental health and treatment providers, community-based organizations, and law enforcement may prevent opioid overdose and death. **Opioids include prescription pain medications, heroin, and illicit fentanyl.*

Want to learn more? Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/>



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion



9 Million
Nearly 9 million Rx for naloxone could have been dispensed in 2018.

1 in 70
Only 1 naloxone Rx is dispensed for every 70 high-dose opioid Rx.

2X
The number of Rx for naloxone doubled from 2017-2018 as overdoses rise.

PROBLEM

Patients who need Naloxone are not getting it:

- Emergency Room visits for opioid overdoses overall increased patient out-of-pocket expenses.
- Primary care providers only prescribed about 2 naloxone prescriptions for every 100 high-dose opioid prescriptions.
- Opioid overdoses increased steadily with less dispensing of needed naloxone in rural areas.

HEROIN

- Heroin is an opioid drug that is synthesized from morphine extracted from the seed pod of the opium poppy plant.
- About 23% of individuals who use heroin become dependent on it.
- Heroin overdoses frequently involve a suppression of breathing. This can affect the amount of oxygen that reaches the brain, a condition called hypoxia.
- Heroin abuse is associated with a number of serious health conditions; including fatal overdose, spontaneous abortion, liver or kidney disease, and infectious diseases like hepatitis and HIV.

(Source: National Institute of Drug Abuse
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/heroin>)

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Everyone Can:

- Learn about the risks of opioids and addiction: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids> or <https://www.samhsa.gov/treatment/naloxone>
- Take all medicines as prescribed and store them in a secure place, out of reach of others (including children, family, friends and visitors).
- Contact the National Hotline: **1-800-662-HELP** for anyone who has trouble with opioid use.



Resource:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1-800-CDC-INFO(232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232- 6348
www.cdc.gov