

Naloxone Distribution Project

January 2020

Reducing opioid overdose deaths across California by providing free naloxone

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP) was created to combat opioid overdose-related deaths throughout California. The NDP aims to reduce opioid overdose-related deaths through the provision of naloxone. The NDP allows qualified organizations and entities to request free naloxone from DHCS.



WHAT IS NALOXONE?

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that works to reverse an opioid overdose while having little to no effects on an individual if opioids are not present in their system. Naloxone blocks opioid receptor sites, reversing the toxic effects of opioid overdose.

There are different ways to administer naloxone to an individual who is experiencing an opioid overdose. DHCS is making the nasal spray version available to qualified organizations and entities for free.

HOW TO REQUEST NALOXONE:

The application is on the DHCS website: bit.ly/2K1L2Yh. Submit the application online or by mail for a minimum of 12 units of naloxone. For more information, email Naloxone@dhcs.ca.gov.

ELIGIBILITY

DHCS will provide FREE naloxone to organizations and entities eligible to administer or distribute naloxone through a California Public Health standing order, and to individuals with a valid prescription. Examples include:

SINCE OCTOBER 2018, THE NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION PROJECT HAS DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN:

250,000

units of Naloxone to more than

800 organizations in

55 of **58** counties, resulting in

more than **8,000** overdose reversals



- First Responders
- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire Departments
- Law Enforcement, Courts, and Criminal Justice Partners
- Veteran Organizations
- Homeless Programs
- Schools and Universities
- Religious Entities
- Other

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NALOXONE SAVES LIVES

In January 2019, a mass overdose incident occurred in Chico, CA, in which a group of individuals overdosed on heroin laced with fentanyl, an opioid 50 to 100 times stronger than heroin. Chico police and fire authorities responded to the scene, and were able to save 12 of the 13 individuals using naloxone acquired through the program. This is one of several instances in which first responders saved lives using free naloxone from the NDP.

“Most of the substances we test are positive for fentanyl, so **it is more important than ever to have naloxone widely available.**”

— **THE SOLACE FOUNDATION OF ORANGE COUNTY**

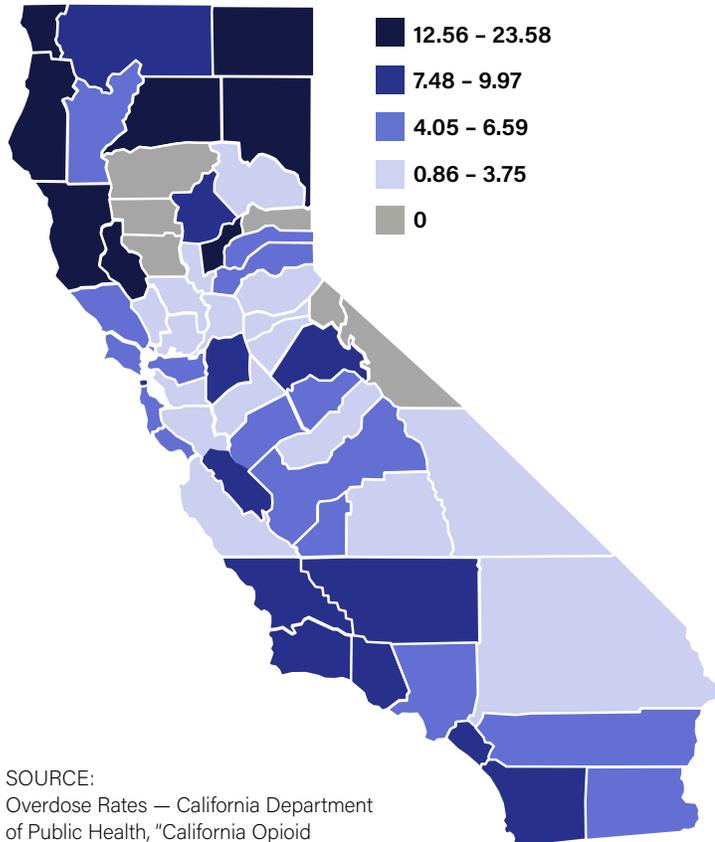
A nonprofit that provides community members with overdose training and naloxone

“People are grateful, for the lifesaving medication and for being seen as **worth saving.**”

— **BROKEN NO MORE**

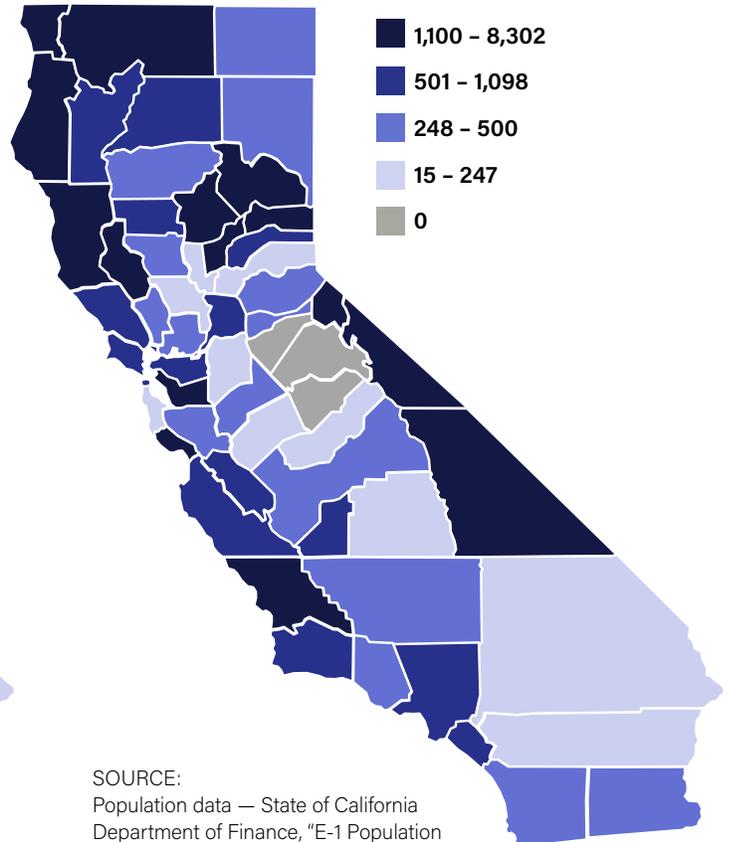
Supports family and friends of those suffering from addiction

OPIOID OVERDOSES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS, 2017



SOURCE:
Overdose Rates — California Department of Public Health, “California Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard, 2017”

APPROVED NALOXONE UNITS PER 100,000 RESIDENTS, 2018-2019



SOURCE:
Population data — State of California Department of Finance, “E-1 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State — January 1, 2017 and 2018”; Naloxone units as of December 2019.