

Overview of Opioid Overdoses in Vermont

Preliminary data indicates there were 236 accidental or undetermined opioid-related fatalities among Vermont residents in 2023, a decrease from 244 the previous year¹. Fentanyl is involved in 95% of these fatalities, cocaine is involved in 60%, and xylazine in 32%. As more adulterants are present in the drug supply and involved in overdose fatalities, access to naloxone is critical. Naloxone, an opioid antidote medication, is often known by the common brand name Narcan®.

Community Naloxone Distribution

The Health Department's Opioid Overdose Prevention and Reversal Program (OOPRP) collaborates with community-based organizations and first responders to distribute naloxone and other harm reduction supplies to community members. The goal of the OOPRP is to distribute naloxone overdose rescue kits to anyone who may be able to help in the event of an overdose. As fentanyl is being found in many illicit substances, it is important for anyone using any substance, not purchased at a pharmacy, to have naloxone on hand and teach loved ones where it is kept and how to use it in case of an opioid overdose. Fentanyl and xylazine test strips are also available to test substances prior to use.

- Learn more about [overdose prevention and naloxone distribution](#).
- Learn where to access naloxone at [VTHelpLink.org](#).

The OOPRP supports naloxone distribution to the community through three pathways:

- **Narcan® Kit** Program
 - Makes naloxone available to community through partner organizations.
- **Harm Reduction Pack** (HRP) Program
 - Has supplies including naloxone, fentanyl test strips, and recovery resources.
- **Leave Behind Kit** (LBK) program with distribution by first responders.
 - Given out to people on site during a response where appropriate.

KEY POINTS

In 2024:

- **At least 70,111 doses of naloxone were distributed by the Health Department to community partners.**
Of those, 50,520 doses were confirmed to be distributed by community partners.
- **911 was called for nearly half of reported overdoses (47%).**
- **9 of every 10 reported overdoses were successfully reversed after naloxone administration (90%).**

¹ [Vermont Department of Health – Monthly Opioid Morbidity and Mortality Report](#)

Community Naloxone Distribution and Administration

This data brief focuses on the community-based distribution of naloxone. [Quarterly EMS naloxone distribution and administration are presented in a separate data brief.](#)

Naloxone Distribution by the Vermont Department of Health

The following table contains data on naloxone-related kits and materials distributed to community partners by the Health Department. This includes **Narcan® kits** provided to the OOPRP community naloxone distribution sites, **harm reduction packs** (HRP) given to distribution sites and **leave behind kits** given to first-responder agencies.

The Health Department distributed 70,111 doses of naloxone to community partners in 2024

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Narcan® kit program: Number of doses distributed to community sites (2 doses/kit)	7,420	11,277	12,582	11,152	42,431
Harm reduction packs: Number of doses distributed to HRP sites (2 doses/kit)	5,740	6,362	7,364	5,450	24,916
Leave behind kits: Number of doses provided to first responder agencies (2 doses/kit)	984	644	600	536	2,764
Total doses of naloxone distributed by the Vermont Department of Health	14,144	18,283	20,546	17,138	70,111

Naloxone Distribution by Community Sites

The following table contains data collected by the OOPRP community naloxone distribution sites, harm reduction pack distribution sites, and first responder agencies distributing LBKs. These data are updated on a quarterly basis.

Community partners distributed 50,520 doses of naloxone to the community in 2024

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Narcan® kit program: Number of doses distributed by community sites (2 doses/kit)	5,370	6,056	7,048	5,360	23,834
Harm reduction packs: Number doses distributed by HRP sites (2 doses/pack)	8,294	6,440	5,646	5,602	25,982
Leave behind kits: Number of doses distributed by first responder agencies (2 doses/kit)	168	212	212	112	704
Doses of naloxone distributed to community	13,832	12,708	12,906	11,074	50,520

Of the overdoses reported by clients receiving naloxone in 2024:



911 was called for **47%** of the reported overdoses.



90% reported overdose reversal after naloxone administration.

Information Reported by Naloxone Recipients at Community Sites

In 2024, naloxone was given out at community sites during 2,512 client interactions². Clients were asked to answer a few questions to help OOPRP improve naloxone distribution. To minimize naloxone access barriers, answering these questions is optional. For every 10 client interactions, there was approximately one response to the distribution questionnaire for a total of 243 responses, see these responses below. Of clients who reported demographic information, 91% identified their race as white alone and 100% identified their ethnicity as non-Hispanic. Naloxone recipient ages range from 15 to 76 years old, with the median age of 38.

- The most common reason clients reported for picking up naloxone was to **replace some they previously had**. Clients also reported getting naloxone to have some on hand.
- Among clients who responded to the questionnaire, about four of every five clients reported they **had previously received naloxone**. Most people who had done so were getting more because they had **used the naloxone they had before**.
- Nearly all clients who had previously received naloxone had done so through a **community organization**. Clients also reported receiving naloxone from friends and medical providers.

Clients got naloxone for different reasons *(and could choose multiple reasons)*

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Overall
To replace naloxone they used to have	28%	75%	58%	71%	54%
To have some on hand	30%	28%	35%	21%	29%
To pick up naloxone for another person	2%	5%	8%	7%	4%
Some other reason	45%	0%	0%	0%	17%

Many clients had received naloxone before while some had not

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Overall
First time receiving naloxone	36%	16%	12%	7%	19%
Had previously received naloxone	64%	84%	88%	93%	81%

Among clients who had previously received naloxone, the naloxone they had before was used, given away, or expired. *(The client could choose multiple reasons)*

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Overall
It was used	68%	90%	74%	58%	78%
It was given away	14%	6%	9%	8%	8%
It expired	18%	4%	13%	25%	11%

² Identifying client information is not collected. These interactions are likely a mix of first-time and return visits.

Community Naloxone Distribution and Administration

Clients who had previously received naloxone got it from a variety of locations (*and could choose multiple*)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Overall
Community organization or clinic like this one	86%	96%	91%	100%	94%
Friend	9%	0%	4%	0%	3%
Medical Provider	5%	2%	4%	0%	3%

Clients had different levels of interest in treatment (and were only asked by organizations that provide referrals to Substance Use Disorder treatment)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Overall
Currently in treatment	12%	32%	74%	70%	34%
Interested in treatment	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Not interested in treatment	24%	54%	11%	30%	30%
Question was not discussed	6%	11%	16%	0%	8%
Refused/Don't Know	56%	4%	0%	0%	27%

Overdose Information Reported by Clients

People receiving naloxone were asked if they wanted to share information about an overdose they witnessed. The following data highlights information about the 74 overdoses reported to community distribution sites by clients during 2024. Historic data may change due to reporting delays.

Clients had the option to report information on overdoses they witnessed or experienced

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Number of overdoses reported by naloxone kit recipients	21	39	5	9	74
Number of times 911 was called for a perceived overdose	11	19	3	2	35
Number of people receiving naloxone in response to a perceived overdose	18	37	5	8	68
Average number of doses used per perceived overdose	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.1	2.7
Successful overdose reversals reported	16	34	3	8	61

Note: These data are not deduplicated by unique overdose (i.e. it may be possible multiple people report on the same overdose).

Community Naloxone Distribution and Administration

Key Takeaways:

During 2024, 70,111 doses of naloxone left the Health Department doors for distribution and use in community.

Overdoses reported to distribution sites provide valuable information on circumstances around overdose response in the community.

- In 2024, 911 was called for nearly half of the reported overdoses, an increase from the 2023 rate of one third.
- The reversal rate of 90% among reported overdoses after naloxone administration demonstrates that Vermonters receiving naloxone are effectively trained in how to use it and know the steps to take when responding to an overdose.

If you suspect an overdose, call 911 even if naloxone is administered.

For more information on the OOPRP: www.HealthVermont.gov/naloxone

For more information on SIREN: www.HealthVermont.gov/siren

For more information on overdose prevention strategies: www.KnowODVT.com

For more information on harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services: www.VTHelpLink.org

For questions about this data brief: naloxone@vermont.gov