



Narcan Introduction by

*Julie Bunch, RN, BSN
PHN 2 – Kenai Public Health*

<https://youtu.be/iJgPmrLjkuo>

A Surge in Overdose and Death



68%
INCREASE

- Sharp surges in drug overdose deaths are reported nationwide
- Alaska has experienced a 68% increase in the number of drug overdose deaths between 2020 and 2021 – from 146 drug overdose deaths in 2020 to 245 in 2021, and a 92% increase in OPIOID Overdoses, according to preliminary mortality data from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS).

Grant

- In October 2016, DHSS was awarded a 5-year, \$4 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to educate, train, and equip first responders and the general public on the prevention of opioid overdose-related deaths, including Narcan
- Goal: Dispense up to 5,000 Project HOPE Narcan kits in 2017
- In 2021 – over 21,000 Narcan kits were distributed in Alaska

Preventing Fatal Overdoses

- Potentially fatal opioid overdose can be treated by administering Narcan (naloxone), a medication that reverses the respiratory depressing effects of opioids.
- However, access to Narcan (naloxone) has historically been limited by laws that make access to the drug difficult

What is Narcan (naloxone)?

- Opioid antagonist
- Can reverse opioid overdose
- Counteracts life-threatening depression of the central nervous system and respiratory system, allowing an overdose victim to breathe normally
- FDA approved, non-schedule, prescription medication
- Only works if opioids are present in system

PROJECT



Harm Reduction Tools (Individual Level)



- **Project HOPE Overdose Rescue Kit**
 - 2 naloxone doses
 - Educational/Instructional pamphlets
 - Fentanyl test strips
 - CPR face shields
 - Gloves
 - Resources



PROJECT GABE

*"Providing opioid misuse awareness, education, and recovery tools to create a healthy and equitable workplace for Alaska industrial workers in a manner that is **accessible, easy to understand, and easy to implement.**"*

Harm Reduction Tools, Systems



- **Mountable Opioid Emergency Box**
 - Mounting instructions
 - Sharps containers
 - Medication date log for refills
 - Naloxone and fentanyl testing strips (provided by project HOPE)
 - CPR face shields
 - Gloves
 - Resources
 - Education pamphlets
 - Drug deactivation system kit

Providing Community Education

- Opioid misuse and overdose awareness
- Erasing stigma
- Signs and symptoms of an overdose
- Opioid 5-step Response
- Use of fentanyl testing strips and naloxone
- Location and accessibility of kits

“IT TAKES A LITTLE TO LOSE A LOT”



Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to **50 times stronger than heroin** and **100 times stronger than morphine**. It is a major contributor to fatal and nonfatal overdoses in the U.S.

- Tiny amounts of fentanyl can kill
- Fentanyl is currently involved in 75% of opioid overdose
- Fentanyl fatalities has increased 140% in 2020-2021.

In 2022, the DEA seized more than 58.3 million Fentanyl-laced fake pills; 2023 to date over 40 million + seized.



Found a syringe on the Kenai?

The Kenai Peninsula has limited options for found-needle disposal.

Please consider getting a medical sharps container to have on hand in case you come across a used needle. Soldotna and Seward hospitals can provide sharps containers, or you can buy one for a few dollars at some pharmacy or general stores. Call ahead to check.

Needles in non-medical containers (sturdy, lidded plastic bottles) are only accepted at the Soldotna hospital, at Homer's hospital once a month or, if necessary, the Nikiski fire stations.

Do not dispose of used needles at the Central Peninsula Landfill or any trash transfer site.



1) If you find a used needle:
Pick it up carefully. Wear gloves. Some people like to use pliers or tongs, but use them only if you can get a reliable grip. You don't want the needle to flip out of your tool's grasp.

Never break the needle off or try to recap it. This may cause injury or spread disease or germs. **If you are stuck with a needle** clean the site with soap and water or an antiseptic such as rubbing alcohol, and call your doctor or a hospital.

2) Put the needle in a medical sharps container. If a needle is in a high-traffic area and there is a risk of injury to people or pets, the next best option is a puncture-proof, lidded plastic bottle (a thick one, like a jug for detergent or kitty litter).

3) Take the container to an approved drop-off site. Here are some drop-off sites and their policies:



Soldotna/Kenai

Central Peninsula Hospital, 240 Hospital Place, will take needles in a sturdy plastic container, but they much prefer medical sharps containers; they will give you a free one. If you can, get one before doing roadside clean-up. If you do bring in a non-medical container, please mark it "Sharps" and duct-tape the lid shut. 714-4404; open 24/7.

Nikiski

The fire stations at 44800 Kenai Spur Hwy. (776-6401) and 51770 Kenai Spur Hwy. (776-6402) can take sharps in a pinch, but they're not set up for regular drop offs. Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri.

Homer

South Peninsula Hospital, 4300 Bartlett St., 235-8101, accepts used needles 1-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the loading dock area, in sharps containers or sturdy lidded non-medical containers. Please write "SHARPS/Do Not Recycle" on non-medical containers with a marker, and duct-tape the lids shut.

Seward

Providence Seward Medical Center, 417 First Ave., 224-5206, will only accept sharps in a medical container. They will give you a free one. Open 24/7.



Sharps Container



Public Health (NY) Vending machine

