



**Statewide Overdose Prevention Workgroup
Overdose Prevention Fact Sheet 2014**

- **In Connecticut one person dies every day**, on average, from a drug related overdose. (CDC 2010: 372 drug-induced deaths, does not include alcohol-induced deaths). There were 2,231 opioid-involved deaths from 1997 to 2007. Nationwide, 18- to 24-year-olds are more likely to die from drug overdoses, primarily from prescription pain relievers, than from motor vehicle accidents.
- **Narcan™ (generic name Naloxone) is an opiate antidote.** Opiates include heroin as well as prescription opiates like morphine, codeine, Oxycontin, Fentanyl, and Vicodin. Narcan is a prescription medicine, administered intermuscularly or by nasal spray, that blocks the effects of opiates. It cannot be abused or used to get high. If given to a person who has not taken opiates it will not have any effect on them.
- According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, **four out of five heroin users start** by developing an addiction to prescription opioid painkillers.
- **Heroin isn't the only cause for opioid overdose.** People with chronic pain with legitimate prescriptions may turn to heroin as a cheaper, more accessible option. Children may accidentally ingest prescription medications. Young people going to parties and experimenting may ingest unknown substances. **Opioid overdose occurs across all age, gender, ethnic, and geographic strata, and in those using it medically and non-medically** (Journal of the American Medical Association Nov 14, 2012: 308(18): 1863-4.)
- In **October 2012, CT law (PA 12-159) allowed prescribers** (physicians, surgeons, PAs, APRNs, dentists and podiatrists) to prescribe, dispense or administer Naloxone to treat or prevent an opioid overdose. This is important because people who are overdosing cannot administer Naloxone to themselves. This provides parents, family members, friends and others peace of mind if someone they care about overdoses.
- The National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the US Conference of Mayors, the AMA, WHO, ASAM, CDC, and the American Public Health Association are **urging wider access to Naloxone.**
- **Naloxone** administration programs in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont equip and train First Responders, such as police and firefighters, to respond to an overdose. Rhode Island has a program allowing people to obtain Naloxone from their local Walgreens pharmacy through a collaborative practice agreement, and in Massachusetts, a standing order allows people to obtain Naloxone directly through trained workers as part of a public health project.
- Connecticut's Walgreens' 20 Centers of Excellence have Naloxone in stock. Click on this link, and click on Walgreens' Centers of Excellence for a location near you. <http://www.aids-ct.org/npep.html>

For more information, contact:
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Overdose Prevention Resources

<http://prescribetoprevent.org/>

<http://www.samhsa.gov/prevention/sbirt/>

<http://www.ct.gov/dmhas/cwp/view.asp?q=509650>

<http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=4601&q=541328&dphNavPage=|>

<http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Opioid-Overdose-Prevention-Toolkit/SMA13-4742>