

# Opiate Overdose Outreach Pilot Program

## Legislative Report September 1, 2019

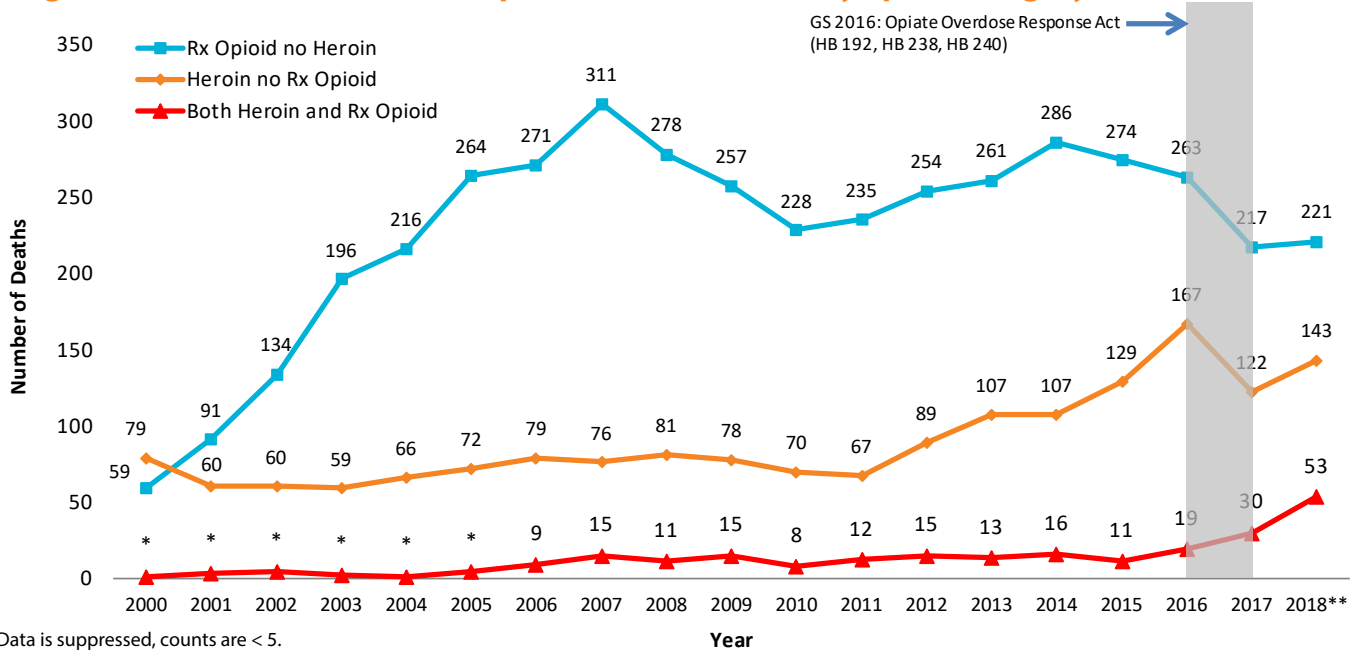
From 2017 to 2018, there was an observed increase in the number of opioid-related deaths in Utah. The number of prescription opioid overdose deaths excluding heroin increased by 1.8%. The number of heroin overdose deaths excluding prescription opioids increased by 17.2%. The number of deaths involving both prescription opioids and heroin increased by 76.7% (**Figure 1**).

During the 2016 General Session, the Utah State Legislature passed the Opiate Overdose Response Act which included the following House Bills (HB):

- **HB 192: Opiate Overdose Outreach Pilot Program** (Sponsored by Representative McKell) created the Opiate Overdose Outreach Pilot Program which authorized the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) to provide funding to outreach providers for the purchase and distribution of naloxone and training to individuals at risk of experiencing an opiate-overdose.
- **HB 238: Overdose Outreach Providers** (Sponsored by Representative Spackman Moss) authorized an overdose outreach provider to furnish an opiate antagonist without civil liability and required an overdose outreach provider to furnish instruction on how to recognize and respond appropriately to an opiate-related drug overdose event.
- **HB 240: Standing Orders** (Sponsored by Representative Eliason) authorized the use of a standing prescription drug order issued by a physician to dispense an opioid antagonist.

The Opiate Overdose Outreach Pilot Program was implemented from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 with one-time funding of \$250,000. The expected outcome of the program was to reduce opioid overdose deaths; prescription opioid overdose deaths excluding heroin decreased 17.5% and heroin overdose deaths excluding prescription opioids decreased 27.0%. However, deaths involving both prescription opioids and heroin increased 57.9% (**Figure 1**). Additional outcomes from this one-time pilot program can be found on page four of this report.

**Figure 1: Number of occurrent\*\*\* opioid overdose deaths by opioid category, Utah, 2000-2018**



\*Data is suppressed, counts are < 5.

\*\*Counts from 2018 are preliminary and subject to change as additional toxicology results become available.

\*\*\*Resident or non-resident deaths that occur in Utah.

Data Source: Utah Office of Medical Examiner

After the pilot program ended in June 2017, the UDOH has had limited funding to meet the demand for naloxone around the state. Currently, the UDOH can only purchase 504 naloxone kits per quarter - or 168 kits per month - far below the number of naloxone requests UDOH staff receive for targeted naloxone distribution. Targeted naloxone distribution is an evidence-based strategy recognized by the CDC with various approaches to distributing naloxone including; community distribution programs through overdose outreach providers, co-prescription of naloxone, equipping first responders with naloxone, and Utah standing orders for naloxone.<sup>i</sup>

### Targeted Naloxone Distribution Efforts

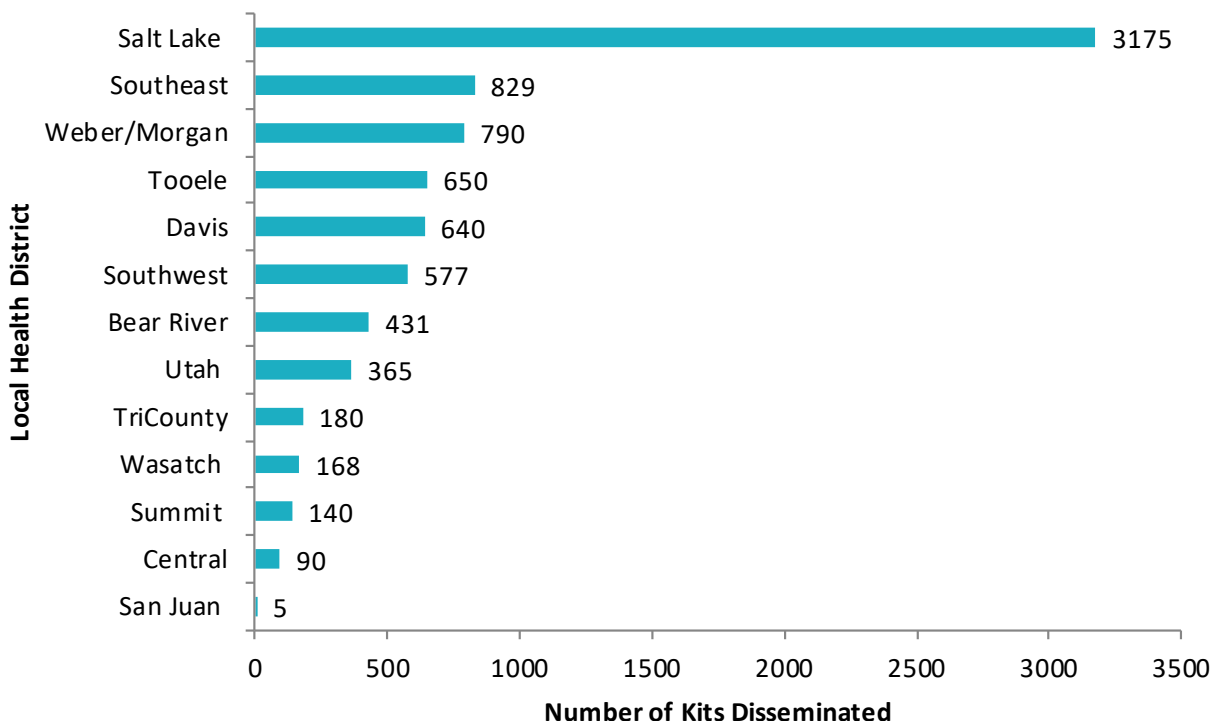
With limited funding, staff at the UDOH purchase and disseminate naloxone kits across the state. These efforts are making a difference and saving lives Results of these efforts include:



### Overdose Outreach Providers (Data from May 1, 2018 – May 24, 2019)

Through an open application for individuals and organizations interested in receiving naloxone nasal spray, 8,040 naloxone kits (16,080 doses) have been purchased and disseminated across Utah (Figure 2).<sup>ii</sup>

**Figure 2: Number of naloxone kits disseminated by local health district, Utah, 2018**



<sup>i</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Evidence-Based Strategies for Preventing Opioid Overdose: What's Working in the United States. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2018. Accessed August 26, 2019 from <http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/pubs/2018-evidence-based-strategies.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> Funds are from State of Utah General Funds allocated to the Utah Department of Health Violence and Injury Prevention Program for opioid overdose prevention efforts and federal funds from the Utah of Substance Abuse and Mental Health.

Data Source: Utah Department of Health Violence and Injury Prevention Program Naloxone Tracking System

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## Standing Order (Data from January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018)

- 177 pharmacies enrolled
- 2,741 naloxone doses dispensed (**Table 1**)

**Table 1: Number of naloxone doses disseminated through the Utah Standing Order for Naloxone by geographic location and type of naloxone, Utah, 2018**

Naloxone Type	Urban	Rural	Frontier	Total
Nasal Spray	1,638	490	28	2,156
Pre-filled Luer-lock Syringe	415	29	31	475
Auto-injector	12	7	0	19
Vial	78	13	0	91
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,143</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>2,741</b>

## Opioid Overdose Emergency Response Plans in Schools (2018-2019 school year)

- 25 school districts (of 38 that reported) had a naloxone policy in place
- 31 school districts (of 38 that reported) had naloxone available
- 1 school district administered naloxone

## Naloxone Training and Educational Resources

The following naloxone materials were viewed, downloaded, or distributed as part of the Stop the Opioid media campaign ([www.opidemic.org](http://www.opidemic.org)):

- Overdose PSA ([youtu.be/MNODSb9y4n4](https://youtu.be/MNODSb9y4n4))
  - 797,881 views
- Naloxone PSA ([youtu.be/AcFnsLLpodk](https://youtu.be/AcFnsLLpodk))
  - 268,143 views

The following number of opioid educational resources were disseminated in 2018 with the exception of the opioid overdose prevention pamphlet which was disseminated in 2019 (**Table 2**).

**Table 2: Number of opioid related materials disseminated, Utah, 2018**

Material	Number Disseminated
Pill Bottle Sticker	180,200
Opioid Overdose Prevention Pamphlet	50,295
Overdose Prevention Pocketcards (English and Spanish)	12,325
Stop the Opioid Brochure	6,101
Naloxone Brochure	4,820
Use Only As Directed Brochure	3,501
Posters	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>257,350</b>

In partnership with the University of Utah Poison Control Center, a “Naloxone for Opioid Overdose 101” training was developed for the public, first responders, and public safety officers. Participants receive a certificate of completion at the end of the training. The training can be accessed at [naloxone.utah.gov/n-training](http://naloxone.utah.gov/n-training).

## **FY17 Opiate Overdose Outreach Pilot Program Report**

The Opiate Overdose Outreach Pilot Program was implemented by the UDOH from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 with one-time funding of \$250,000.

### **Outcomes** (January 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017)

- \$236,037 awarded to 17 law enforcement agencies, five local health departments, and nine direct service agencies
- 3,821 naloxone kits purchased
- 2,671 naloxone kits disseminated
- 1,971 individuals received naloxone kits
- 54 lives known to be saved

### **Grants**

The UDOH released two Requests for Proposals (RFP) to contract with qualified opiate overdose outreach providers for the Opiate Overdose Outreach Pilot Project. Funds were provided to purchase naloxone and provide training on the proper administration of naloxone for individuals who are at risk for an opiate-related drug overdose event, as well as their family or friends.

### **Opiate Overdose Outreach Providers**

Eligible grantees for the pilot program included organizations in a position to assist an individual at increased risk of experiencing an opiate-related drug overdose event and included the following:

- Law enforcement agencies
- Local health departments
- Local substance abuse or mental health authorities
- Substance abuse treatment, recovery, or support services
- Homeless services
- Naloxone training services
- Schools
- Harm reduction services

### **Reporting Requirements**

Contracts with each of the pilot program grantees were processed with the following reporting requirements. Each grantee was required to submit the following to the UDOH:

- The amount of opiate antagonist purchased and dispensed by the grantee during the reporting period.
- The number of individuals who received naloxone from the grantee.
- The number of lives known to have been saved during the reporting period as a result of the opiate antagonist dispensed by the grantee.

### **Rulemaking**

The UDOH Violence and Injury Prevention Program filed an emergency rule with the Utah Department of Administrative Services to establish procedures and application processes pursuant to Title 26, Chapter 55 for the UDOH by July 1, 2016 to provide funds to pay for the purchase of naloxone or to pay for the cost of providing training on the proper administration of an opiate antagonist in response to an opiate-related drug overdose event. The emergency rule was published in the July 15, 2016 issue (Vol. 2016, No. 14) of the Utah State Bulletin.

A permanent rule was filed with the Utah Department of Administrative Services to replace the 120-day emergency rule and was published in the September 15, 2016 issue (Vol. 2016, No. 18) of the Utah State Bulletin.