

Increasing Access to Naloxone and Overdose Prevention Education for Young People

Drug overdose is the third leading cause of death among children and adolescents in the United States.¹ Fentanyl-related overdose deaths among young people have surged, yet fewer than 15 percent of college students know how to administer naloxone. Overdose deaths are preventable when young people can access naloxone and youth-focused overdose prevention education.

| Overdose Prevention Education | Access to Naloxone in Schools | Access to Naloxone in Colleges |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Overdose education and naloxone access are evidence-based strategies that reduce the risk of overdose --While there are many school-based substance use prevention curricula, existing programs do not usually incorporate overdose prevention education and naloxone awareness --Curricula should be evidence based and share information about opioids (synthetic and prescription, overdose risk, and appropriate response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Making naloxone available in case of an emergency is an important piece of universal youth education and prevention --Rhode Island and Illinois require all private and public schools (kindergarten to 12th grade) to stock naloxone --Arkansas, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Oregon require all public high schools to stock naloxone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Given that two thirds of adults with opioid use disorder report first opioid use before age 25, college campuses represent a critical environment for deploying overdose education and naloxone distribution interventions --Collegiate recovery programs can play a significant role in these efforts through peer-led overdose prevention outreach and providing connection and collaboration to other campus resources |

| Legislation expanding access to naloxone and overdose prevention education in schools and colleges | | | | |
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| Bill # | Title | Sponsor | Topic | Committee |
| H530, S382 | An Act requiring opioid use disorder education | Rep. Ciccolo, Sen. Keenan | Requires opioid use disorder education in schools, including information about naloxone | Education |
| S1422 | An Act relative to Narcan availability in schools | Sen. Velis | Requires naloxone be available to students in schools | Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery |
| H1462, S951 | An Act to support college students in recovery | Rep. Tarsky, Sen. Rausch | Requires overdose education and naloxone be available to students at public higher education institutions | Higher Education |

¹ Jessica B. Calihan, Brittany L. Carney, Deb M. Schmill, and Sarah M. Bagley: **The Call for a School-Based Approach to Opioid Overdose Prevention**, American Journal of Public Health **114**, 1305_1308, <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2024.307849>