

Opioid Overdose in Utah



Department of Health
& Human Services

Opioids are a type of drug used to reduce pain. People can die from an overdose by using illegal opioids or by misusing prescription opioid medications. To help reduce fatal overdoses from opioids, legislation has made naloxone more accessible through pharmacy standing orders and laws to allow people to use naloxone up to 2 years past the expiration date. Community-based organizations can also distribute them at low cost or free of charge.

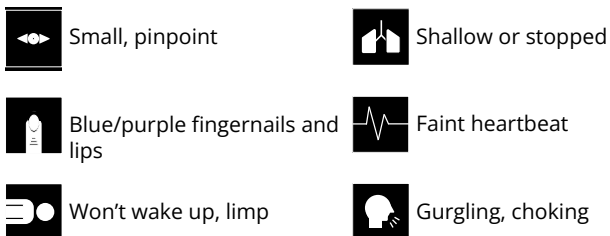
A snapshot of opioid overdose in Utah using 2024 SUDORS data¹

- **416** deaths due to any opioid.¹
- **163** deaths due to prescription opioids.¹
- The rate of **fatal overdoses** remained mostly unchanged between 2020 to 2024.

* Data is obtained from SUDORS (State Unintentional Death Overdose Reporting System)

The percentage of opioid related overdose deaths from smoking increased the most from 2020–2024. Expanding services to address overdose risk from smoking and other non-injectable routes might help save lives.²

Overdose signs and symptoms



What is naloxone? ²

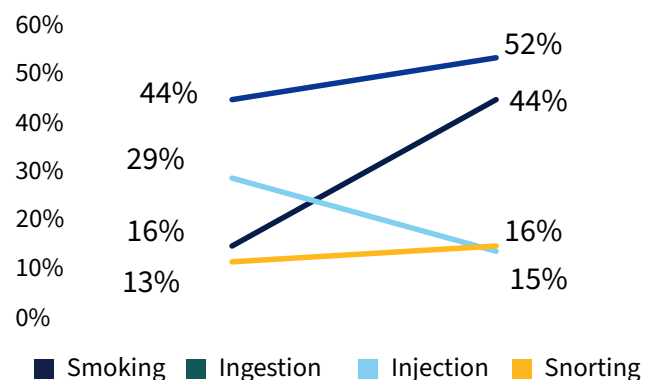
Naloxone can reverse an overdose involving an opioid, such as heroin, oxycodone, fentanyl, and prescription opioids, when given in time. It has no abuse risk and few side effects, though it can cause sudden withdrawal. It typically works within 5 minutes, may require multiple doses spaced 2–5 minutes apart, and lasts 30–90 minutes. It only works on opioids.

Where can I find free naloxone?



Once you scan the QR code, you can input your address in the map of Utah to find the closest organization where you could get naloxone.

Routes of drug use among those who died from an opioid overdose from 2020–2024



Overdose response and prevention

34% of deaths had evidence of being administered naloxone.³

83% of deaths had no pulse at first responder arrival.³

72% of deaths occurred in a house or apartment setting.³

What should I do after someone has taken naloxone?²

Naloxone lasts only 30–90 minutes, so call 911 before giving it. The Good Samaritan Law is designed to protect individuals from liability when providing care in an emergency.

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, October 24). SUDORS dashboard: Fatal overdose data <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/sudors-dashboard-fatal-overdose-data.html>
2. Utah Department of Health and Human Services. (n.d.). Naloxone. Opidemic. <https://opidemic.utah.gov/nalox-one/>