

THE WEST VIRGINIA OFFICE OF
DRUG CONTROL POLICY
REPORT OF PRESCRIPTIONS AND
DISTRIBUTION OF OPIOID
ANTAGONISTS
2024



**WEST VIRGINIA OFFICE OF
DRUG CONTROL POLICY**
West Virginia Department of Human Services

Office of Drug Control Policy
Dr. Stephen Loyd, Director
February 1, 2025

Executive Summary

The West Virginia Department of Human Services' (DoHS) Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) compiles and reports data on the distribution and dispensing of opioid antagonists, as required by W. Va. Code §16-46-6(a)(3). This report provides an overview of naloxone distribution and dispensation in 2024. While reading this report please keep in mind community distribution provides naloxone in two-dose kits, while pharmacies dispense as single doses.

In 2024, naloxone dispensation in West Virginia totaled 18,320 doses, reflecting an 8.5% decrease from the 20,020 doses dispensed in 2023. The highest dispensation occurred in August, with 1,900 doses, while December saw the lowest number at 1,202 doses. DoHS's Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH) , in collaboration with the University of Charleston, distributed 98,628 naloxone kits across the state. A significant portion of this total, 14,628 kits, was distributed during West Virginia's Save-a-Life Day events in September as part of a larger multi-state initiative. This initiative, distinct from the state's own distribution efforts, spanned 35 states and saw over 41,000 naloxone kits disseminated at 650 events.

In addition to pharmacy dispensation, 25,831 naloxone kits were reported distributed by third parties, including 35 kits used in targeted EMS "leave-behind" programs at overdose scenes. The Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program continues to track naloxone distribution in 14 jurisdictions, including West Virginia. New developments, such as the addition of an Over-the-Counter Layer, which allows for tracking of over-the-counter naloxone sales, further strengthening response strategies for targeted deployment.

Distribution of Opioid Antagonists

University of Charleston Naloxone Data

The BBH partners with the University of Charleston (UC) to provide funding to purchase naloxone. The funding comes from a variety of BBH sources including the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services block grant (SUPTR), and other Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded discretionary grants such as the First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act Grants (FR-CARA). Naloxone is provided free of charge to a variety of stakeholders such as medical professionals, treatment and recovery service providers, and community organizations. Each of these organizations must register with the UC to receive naloxone and must also be trained in the administration of naloxone prior to receiving kits. The number below represents the naloxone amounts distributed from UC: **98,628 naloxone kits were shipped for distribution in 2024.**

These kits were distributed to the following third parties:

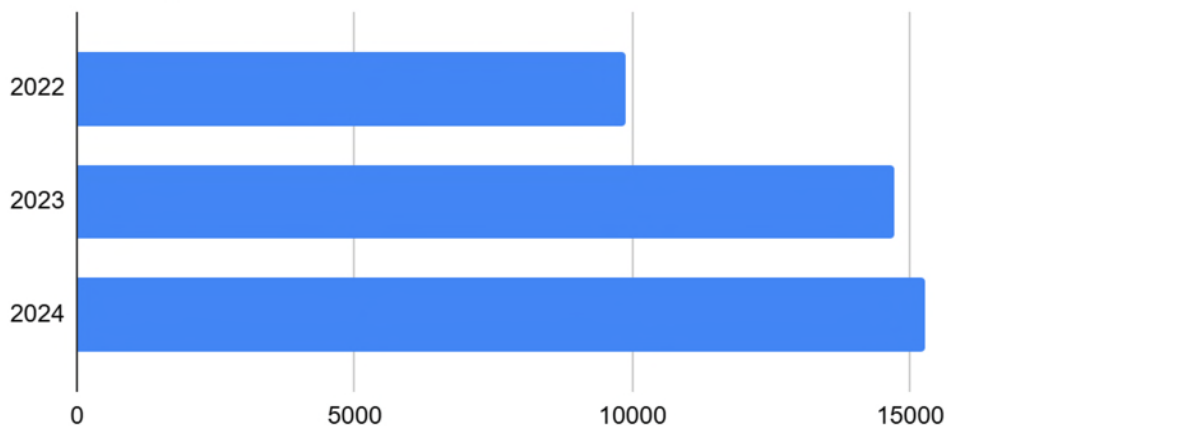
- Harm Reduction Programs
- Health Departments
- Correctional Facilities
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Programs
- Crisis Stabilization Units
- Emergency Departments
- Quick Response Teams
- Prevention Coalitions
- Comprehensive Behavioral Health Care Centers

- First Responders including - Police, EMS, and Fire
- Treatment and Recovery Programs
- Community Members through Save-a-Life Day

Save-a-Life Day

Save-a-Life Day (SAL) events and national participation grow every year. There were 15,270 kits of BBH purchased naloxone sent to community organizations and individuals across the state to distribute on SAL on or about September 26, 2024. These kits are reflected below in the total number of distributions for 2024.

West Virginia SAL Naloxone Kits Distributed by Year



SAL days have been held in every county in West Virginia over the past three years. On September 26th, 2024, all states east of the Mississippi River independently obtained resources and personnel to fund their individual participation in the largest day of naloxone distribution to date. Over 650 events from 35 states took part, distributing over 82,000 naloxone doses.

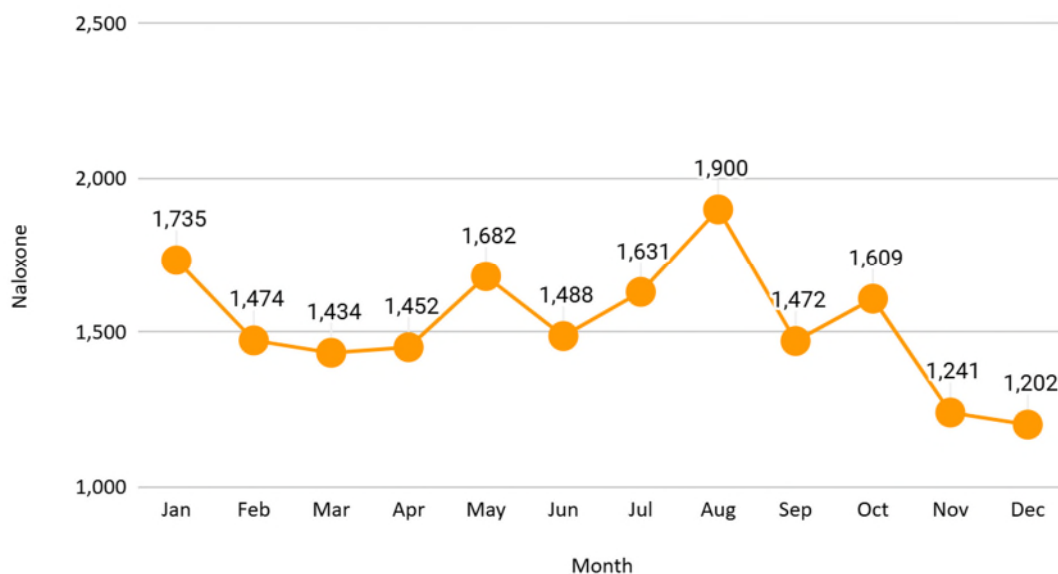
Dispensing of Naloxone

West Virginia Board of Pharmacy Naloxone Data

Pharmacies and agencies use the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) to report dispensations of naloxone. The West Virginia Board of Pharmacy (BOP) then queries and compiles the data and makes monthly reports to the ODCP. The resulting count represents the total number of naloxone doses dispensed throughout the year.

December saw the lowest number of naloxone dispensations of 2024 with 1,202 doses. August had the largest dispensation number of 1,900 doses. According to BOP data, a total of 18,320 doses were dispensed in 2024. An 8.5% decrease from the 20,020 naloxone doses dispensed during the 2023 calendar year.

Naloxone Dispensation 2024 PDMP



ODCP Naloxone Data

Naloxone dispensed by pharmacies directly to individuals is tracked by the PDMP and reported to the ODCP monthly. UC and others distribute naloxone to third parties that are expected to further distribute kits to residents in their respective communities. In addition to the reports from the BOP and UC and pursuant to W. Va. Code §16-46-6(a)(2), ODCP receives data on the number of these kits distributed from third parties by self-report. There have been 25,831 naloxone kits reportedly distributed into communities throughout West Virginia in 2024. Including 35 kits reported by EMS as highly targeted naloxone leave behind distributions at the scene of a suspected overdose.

Improving Naloxone Distribution

Naloxone saturation refers to the widespread availability and distribution of naloxone, ensuring it is easily accessible to those who may encounter opioid overdoses. The Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) Naloxone Saturation Layer allows participating agencies to access near real-time naloxone information within their communities. This tool enables them to track and compare naloxone distribution with suspected drug overdose events and spikes, allowing for targeted naloxone distribution to high-risk areas and populations. With plans for national expansion in 2025, the goal of naloxone saturation in a community is to increase the chances of timely intervention, enabling individuals to quickly administer naloxone and reverse the life-threatening effects of opioid overdoses, ultimately saving lives and reducing fatalities.

The naloxone saturation status is based on the most recent data submitted to ODMAP. Based on the initial regression model conducted in February 2024, naloxone saturation is indicated when there are 73.4 naloxone kits distributed per 100,000 population per month. This outcome will be updated as additional agencies are onboarded and more data is integrated into the model.

To date, the Naloxone Saturation Layer has been implemented in 14 jurisdictions:

- Brown County, Wisconsin
- City of Chicago
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- Skagit County, Washington
- South Dakota
- West Virginia

In West Virginia, naloxone distribution reporting is combined with naloxone dispensation data to populate the monthly Naloxone Saturation Layer visible to law enforcement, other participating first responders, and public health officials.

The Over-the-Counter (OTC) Layer will provide ODMAP users with OTC sales data including a range of the most recent number of units sold monthly and average cost per unit. Using this layer in conjunction with the Naloxone Saturation Layer and suspected overdose events will further support agencies in developing comprehensive prevention and response strategies such as targeted naloxone distribution to high-risk areas and individuals. This information also helps to fill the gap in naloxone community saturation data as a result of OTC naloxone availability.

Conclusion

The ODCP, in partnership with multiple entities throughout the state, continues to strive for a robust data set to drive decision making and rapid deployment of life-saving opioid antagonists in areas of immediate need and to all West Virginians.

The naloxone distribution and dispensing efforts in West Virginia during 2024 demonstrate a continued commitment to addressing the opioid crisis, with notable achievements such as the distribution of over 98,000 naloxone kits by the UC and significant community engagement through SAL. Despite a slight decrease in the total number of naloxone doses dispensed compared to 2023, the integration of tools like ODMAP's Naloxone Saturation Layer and the addition of OTC sales tracking highlights a proactive approach to optimizing resource allocation and targeting high-risk areas.

With the help of our federal, state, and community partners, efforts will continue to focus on further expanding naloxone accessibility, refining distribution strategies, and enhancing data integration to support an even more responsive and effective public health strategy.