



Brandeis Opioid Resource Connector

communities informing communities

New Content Alert: Innovative Approaches to Increase Naloxone Availability

The latest data from the CDC show that the United States has [eclipsed 100,000 overdose deaths](#) in a 12-month period ending in April 2021. Expanding the availability of naloxone in communities is [one](#) of the [most impactful](#) interventions in decreasing opioid-related mortality. Naloxone is typically made available through [three main mechanisms](#): dispensing from a pharmacy, distribution by community-based organizations, and administration by uniformed first responders to an overdose. Communities are developing innovative approaches to increase access to naloxone for vulnerable populations and in settings with high rates of opioid overdoses. **These approaches can be replicated in your community to address the opioid crisis** and are highlighted on the [Brandeis Opioid Resource Connector](#).



[San Francisco County Jail Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution \(OEND\) Program](#)

– individuals slated for release from jail attend an informational session on overdose prevention, including naloxone administration, and are offered to take a naloxone kit upon release. Located in San Francisco and replicated in New York State, this program targets a population that is at high risk for opioid overdose.



[Howard County Naloxone Leave Behind Program](#)

- an EMS-based program in Maryland gives naloxone to individuals who have experienced a nonfatal opioid overdose but decline to go to the hospital. Peer recovery support specialists are notified after a kit is distributed, with instructions to reach out to the individuals within 24 to 48 hours to offer connections to treatment and recovery services.



[Opioid Overdose Prevention in Bars and Nightclubs](#)

-provides naloxone training for nightclub workers to make it available in non-traditional settings. This New York program, expanded after a successful pilot, recognizes that people who use cocaine may be at risk for opioid overdose due to contamination of the drug with fentanyl.

Here are additional naloxone-related resources for you to explore:

[Expanded Access to Naloxone Can Curb Opioid Overdose Deaths](#) - a report from the Pew Charitable Trusts that examines approaches state policymakers can take to make naloxone widely available to people at risk of experiencing or witnessing an overdose.

[Harm Reduction for Business Bathrooms](#) – this program trains service workers to respond to suspected opioid overdoses in public restrooms of business establishments, including administration of naloxone.

[Balancing Need and Risk, Supply and Demand: Developing a Tool to Prioritize Naloxone Distribution](#) - an academic paper that discusses the creation of an innovative tool for the statewide distribution of naloxone to areas that have been most impacted and populations that are high risk.

[Layperson Reversal of Opioid Overdose Supported by Smartphone Alert](#) - an academic paper that discusses the feasibility of using a smartphone app to increase the response to opioid overdoses. Volunteers can signal an apparent overdose to other volunteers using the app to expand access and availability to naloxone.

We continue to add material on interventions to address the opioid crisis across the continuum of care - prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery –and we now provide over 180 program models and 800 additional resources, including more than 100 related to naloxone, along with tools to inform a comprehensive and effective community response.

[The Brandeis Opioid Resource Connector Team](#)

*The Opioid Policy Research Collaborative is part of the **Opioid Policy Research Collaborative** at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management **Institute for Behavioral Health**. Support for this website was provided by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.*

For more information, please contact:

Cindy Parks Thomas PA, PhD cthomas@brandeis.edu
Robert Bohler MPH bohler@brandeis.edu
