



Communities That HEAL Intervention Increases Naloxone Availability

The Problem ▶

Naloxone, the medication that can reverse an opioid-related overdose as it is happening, is often not available to people who need it. Supplying community members with naloxone will reduce opioid overdose deaths.

The Goal ▶

Increase the availability of overdose education and naloxone in communities with the highest rates of overdose deaths by reaching people at risk of an overdose.

WHERE TO REACH PEOPLE AT RISK OF AN OVERDOSE

- Jails and prison facilities
- Health care facilities
- Behavioral health clinics
- Places providing services for people who use drugs

What We Did ▶

67

communities tested an intervention to increase naloxone distribution.

The **Communities That HEAL** included community-based approaches to increasing naloxone availability in communities, such as distributing naloxone at community events and installing naloxone cabinets in places in the community where overdoses happen.

What We Learned ▶

79%

more units of naloxone were distributed in communities that received the intervention.

Why It Matters ▶

Broad availability of naloxone is urgently needed in communities with high rates of opioid overdose deaths.

Next Steps ▶

The Communities that HEAL intervention empowers community members to address the opioid overdose crisis by selecting strategies appropriately matched to their needs. This study shows that local governments and public health officials must consider a variety of community-based strategies to increase naloxone availability in their communities.

It is important for other local governments and public health leaders to consider, select, and use a variety of strategies to reach people at risk of an overdose with naloxone and overdose education.

This is a summary of scientific research published by Freeman et al. (2024) in the *American Journal of Public Health*: <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2024.307845>. To find out more how you can bring the CTH program to your community, visit the HEALING Communities Study website: hcs.rti.org.

NIH
HEAL
INITIATIVE

HEALing
Communities
Study

#healtogether