



FUNDING FOR NARCAN AND SUPPORT FOR HARM REDUCTION


El Paso Harm Reduction Alliance

www.hra2020.org

How the Epidemic of Drug Overdose Deaths Ripples Across America

By ISACHAUN PARK and MATTHEW BLOCH JAN. 18, 2018

Overdose deaths per 100,000



A horizontal color scale bar ranging from light blue to dark red. The scale is marked with the numbers 4, 8, 12, 16, and 20. The colors transition from light blue at 4, through yellow and orange, to dark red at 20.



Loss of Life from Overdose = Plane Crash Every 4 Days



Opioids:

The Startling Statistics:

- Every **19 minutes** someone dies from the misuse of prescription drugs
- Every year more people die from **prescription drug overdose** than in car accidents



Half of all Americans are on prescription drugs; of these **the average is 5 different prescriptions per person.**



FACT!

30%

PATIENTS RECEIVE AN AVERAGE OF 30% PAIN RELIEF FROM OPIOIDS

The Epidemic of Our Generation



- OVERDOSES HAVE BECOME THE LEADING CAUSE OF UNINTENTIONAL DEATHS IN THE UNITED STATES.
- SAMHSA, CDC, NIDA, AMA, ONDCP, HHS, DEA, AND MANY OTHERS HAVE CALLED THIS THE EPIDEMIC OF OUR GENERATION

TOP 10 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH FOR PEOPLE AGES 18 TO 45 IN THE U.S.

2021 Rank*	Cause Category	2021 Deaths*	2020 Deaths (provisional)	2019 Deaths	2020 Rank (provisional)	2019 rank
1	Fentanyl Poisoning	40,010	37,087	23,556	1	1
2	Motor Vehicle Accidents	22,442	20,642	17,325	3	3
3	Suicide	21,678	21,441	21,195	2	2
4	Coronavirus (Covid-19)	21,335	9,861	0	8	—
5	Heart Disease	19,465	18,911	16,435	4	5
6	Homicide	18,422	17,348	13,084	5	7
7	Malignant Cancer	17,114	17,170	17,143	6	4
8	Other Drug Overdose	15,669	16,064	15,584	7	6
9	Liver Disease	8,124	7,224	5,050	9	8
10	Diabetes	4,925	4,786	3,714	10	9

*2021 fatality data is provisional CDC data for the year ending in May 2021 (latest available for all cause categories) except for COVID-19 deaths, which are 2021 "year-to-date " deaths through November 20, 2021 as reported by 12/5/21. "Year-to-date" was used for COVID-19, because data for COVID-19 is much more up to date through November 2021, and provides a closer approximation of final 2021 deaths than using the "year-end" May 2021 deaths, which are significantly lower than year-to-date deaths. By year end 2021, COVID-19 deaths may outnumber suicide or motor vehicle deaths, however they are not on track to approach fentanyl deaths.

Fentanyl Deaths denotes drug overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids excluding methadone, found using ICD-10 Code T40.4.

Some deaths involving synthetic opioids excluding methadone may be counted in multiple categories, including fewer than 300 suicides per year and fewer than 70 homicides per year.

Overdose Statistics

The advocacy group Families Against Fentanyl examined CDC data and determined fentanyl has become the leading cause of death for people ages 18 to 45 in 2019 and 2020.

2021 MULTIPLE DRUG-RELATED DEATHS (92) –Most Frequently Involved Drugs

Fentanyl	60
Cocaine	32
Methamphetamine	43
Alprazolam	18
Amphetamine	12
Ethanol	10
Heroin	9
Morphine	8
Methadone	8
Hydroxyzine	6
Benzodiazepines, NOS	6
Quetiapine	5

Overdose deaths in El Paso County, Texas, 2021. (Medical Examiner's Office)

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The Crisis in El Paso

Ninety-seven people died by opioid overdose in El Paso County in 2021

What is Narcan?



- Opioid antagonist which reverses opioid overdose: injectable or intranasal
- Pushes most other opioids off the receptors, then sits on the receptor preventing it from being activated for 30-90 minutes
- Analogy- getting the wrong key stuck in a lock

TEXAS-SB 1462 and FDA Approval of OTC Narcan



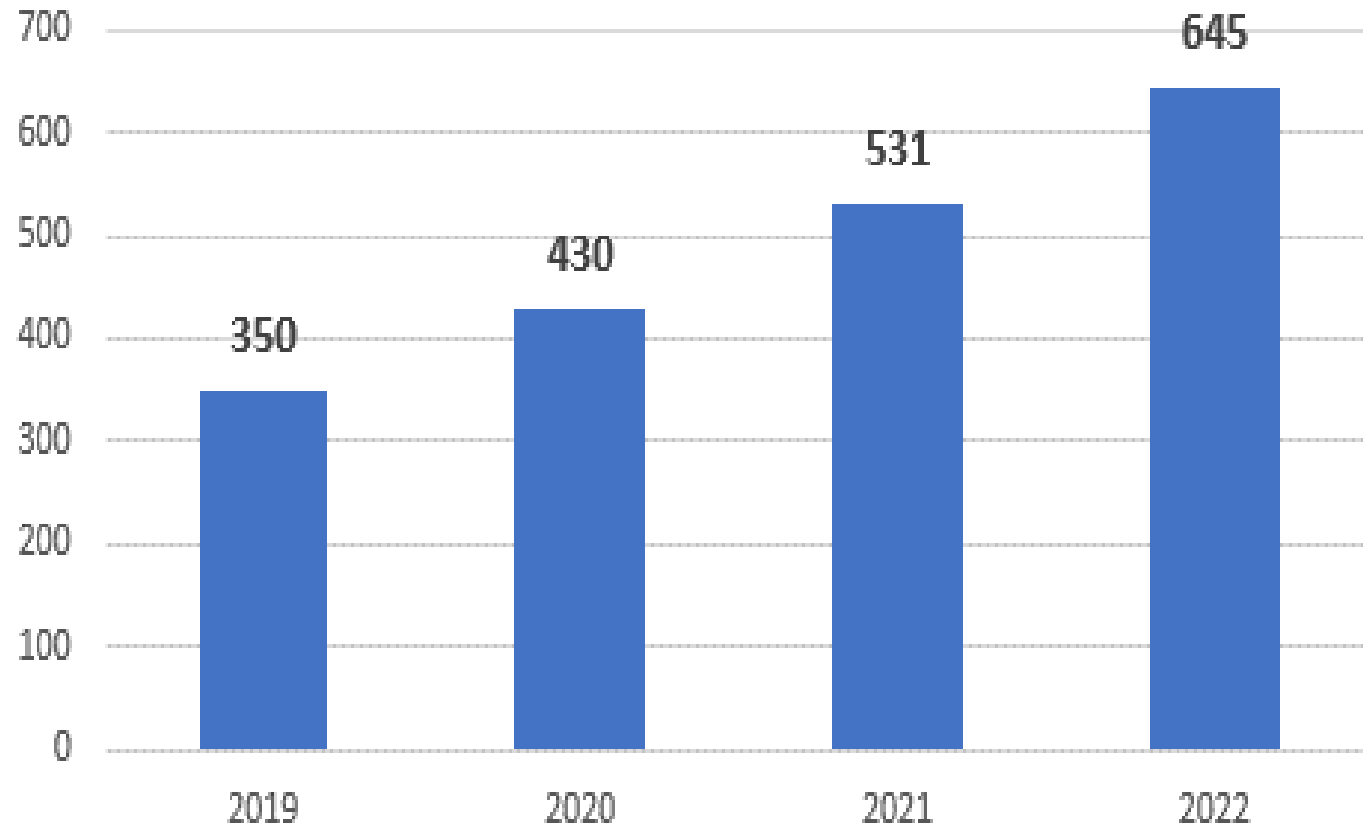
- Third party prescription
- Standing orders and individual prescriptions
- Prescriptions written for medical purposes
- Protection from criminal and civil liability as well as professional disciplinary action, so long as they act in good faith
- Food and Drug Administration approved Narcan nasal spray for over-the-counter (OTC), nonprescription, use – the first naloxone product approved for use without a prescription.

Texas Policy and Legislation

Texas Health and Safety Code

Subchapter E of Chapter 483, Texas Health and Safety Code, permits any person or organization acting under a standing order issued by a prescriber authorized by law to prescribe an opioid antagonist to store and distribute naloxone to a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose or to a family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose, as long as the person or organization acting under a standing order does not seek or receive compensation for those actions. This provision acts to permit groups such as nonprofits, drug treatment centers, and other organizations to distribute naloxone to those who might be able to use it to save lives. The law also permits any person to possess naloxone, even if the person does not have a prescription for it. Finally, the law permits any person who acts in good faith and with reasonable care to administer naloxone to another person who the person believes is suffering an opioid-related overdose. Anyone who does so is immune from criminal prosecution, civil liability, and sanction under professional licensing statutes.

The use of Naloxone (Narcan) is increasing every year.



Narcan Dispensed

This information came via an open records request from the El Paso Fire Department.

What we want: We want the city of El Paso to provide funding for the lifesaving medication Narcan

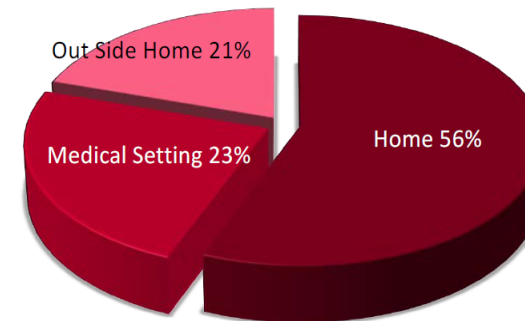


- Distributed to first responders, various shelters, outreach organizations, resource centers, and local government agencies, that can therefore be given to those in need throughout our community.
- Narcan retails at around \$141. Since March of 2022, the nonprofit opioid crisis center Punto de Partida has given out at least 240 doses with a retail cost \$16,920 of Narcan to El Paso police officers who have sought the lifesaving medicine, due to lack of resources.

Why we need community distribution

Venue of Opioid-Related Overdose Events

- Over 250,000 people have experienced an opioid-induced overdose fatality (1999-2017)¹
- 77% of Opioid Overdose Deaths Occur outside of a Medical Setting²



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Response time matters



Opioid-Induced Respiratory Depression (OIRD): An opioid-induced overdose event characterized by hypoxic injury or death.¹



EVERY SECOND COUNTS: Permanent brain damage begins after only 4 minutes without oxygen, and death can occur as soon as 4 to 6 minutes later.²

7

minutes

U.S. National Average EMS Response Time (911 call to EMS arrival)³

14

minutes

Response time increases to more than 14 minutes in rural settings³

Non-traditional first responders need Narcan



- 80 % of all overdose rescues are done by peers or family members
- 1/2 to 2/3 of people who use heroin experience at least one nonfatal overdose (once you have overdosed more susceptible to another)
- 80% of people who use drugs have observed an overdose

Solutions



- Decrease the number of opioids prescribed
- Properly dispose of those not used
- Access to evidence—based treatment
- Avoid discontinued prescribing without access to treatment services
- Co-prescribing of the life saving medication, naloxone/Narcan, with all prescription opioids
- Community-wide access to Narcan and education about safer drug use
- Fentanyl testing strips

Decriminalizing Fentanyl Testing Strips



- Fentanyl test strips (FTS) are a form of inexpensive drug testing technology which have been shown to be effective at detecting the presence of fentanyl and fentanyl-analogs in drug samples.
- In Texas, almost 1,700 fentanyl-related deaths were reported in 2021 alone.
- Non-fatal overdose care in ERs and ICUs cost Texas \$20 billion annually.
- FTS promote increased fentanyl awareness and lead people to take safety precautions to prevent overdose if fentanyl is detected.
- A study found that 81% of those with access to FTS routinely tested their drugs before use. Those with a positive test result were five times more likely to change their drug use behavior to reduce the risk of overdose.

Support Safe Syringe Programs



- SSPs are evidence-based, cost-effective and have demonstrated great success in both disease and overdose prevention, and are proven effective in getting people with substance use disorders into care and treatment—all without increasing crime and illicit drug use in jurisdictions where they operate.
- SSPs are associated with a 58% reduction in the incidence of HIV infection among people who inject drugs.

Support Safe Syringe Programs



- Other cities in Texas, like San Antonio, have successfully implemented such programs using federal funding.
- SSPs are intended to prevent the costly downstream results of drug use: HIV, HCV, abscesses and other illnesses.
- Every dollar invested in SSPs has a return of \$7 in HIV and HCV treatment

Contact Information



Jamie Bailey, MS, LCDC, RSPS, PSS

j.saccone@pvida.net (915) 234-9442

Christopher Bailey, MS, RSPS, PSS

ct.bailey@pvida.net

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