



Media Release

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Naloxone Saves Lives

Yakima, WA- Today, the Yakima Health District is launching its second phase of its “Opioid Overdose Prevention Campaign.” The first phase of the campaign’s goal was to spread awareness about [opioid overdose in Yakima County](#) and its impact locally. Yakima County saw an increase in drug overdose deaths in 2021, with a total of 98 residents who died of a drug overdose that year. Of the overdose deaths that occurred between 2020 and 2021, more than 60% involved opioids, with fentanyl being the most common opioid involved in those cases.

During this second phase, the Yakima Health District (YHD) aims to educate community members about naloxone and where to obtain it. Increasing naloxone use in the community is one measure to prevent overdose-related deaths. Naloxone is safe and easy to use. If individuals are at increased risk for an opioid overdose or know someone who is, they should consider carrying naloxone.

The Yakima Health District encourages community members who use social media to follow the Yakima Health District to stay up to date on the data, videos and messaging posted related to this campaign ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#)). Community members can also visit YHD’s website at www.YakimaHealthDistrict.org/Overdose to receive information on the signs of an overdose, what naloxone is, and where to get naloxone.

Naloxone

[Naloxone](#) is a life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids, including heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid medications. It is available with a prescription from a doctor or under the [Statewide Standing Order](#), which allows anyone to obtain naloxone at a pharmacy without a prescription. Medicaid and most health insurances cover the cost of naloxone. Additionally, in Washington State, individuals can order [free naloxone online](#) and have it delivered

directly to their home.

Quotes

“If you are at increased risk for opioid overdose or know someone who may be, consider carrying naloxone. By carrying naloxone, you will be able to have an added layer of protection if you or someone you know experiences an overdose and can potentially save a life.” -Melissa Sixberry, Director of Disease Control, Yakima Health District

“The Yakima Police Department recognizes the danger opioids present to its employees and the community, therefore we have supplied our officers with NARCAN in case emergencies arise which require its administration to save lives.” - Lieutenant Chad Stephens, Yakima Police Department

Additional Information

[Yakima Health District: Overdose Prevention](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Lifesaving Naloxone](#)

[Washington State Department of Health: Statewide Standing Order to Dispense Naloxone](#)

[Washington State Department of Health: Opioid Overdose Prevention](#)

[Order Free Naloxone Online in Washington State](#)

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