

REVIVE!

OPIOID OVERDOSE AND NALOXONE EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Naloxone Fact Sheet

Naloxone is...

...a life-saving prescription medication that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose; it has been used by emergency medical professionals for decades and has been credited with saving the lives of more than 26,000 people nationwide since 1990

...recommended for use by many associations, including American Association of Poison Control Centers, the American Medical Association, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United States Attorney General, and the World Health Organization

...impossible to abuse, requires the same dose for an adult or child, has very few side effects, and will cause no harm in case of accidental administration or ingestion

...able to be administered by laypersons who have participated in a short training on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose emergency

...for all opioid overdoses, whether they are the result of heroin or prescription opioids such as Demerol, Lortab, OxyContin, or Percocet

Naloxone is **NOT**...

...a safety net that allows individuals with opioid use disorder to continue or increase their drug use; naloxone induces withdrawal, which is extremely unpleasant

...a barrier to treatment; in fact, studies suggest that individuals who survive an opioid overdose emergency are *more likely* to engage in treatment for their opioid use disorder

...producing large numbers of acute withdrawal situations; available evidence suggests that the incidence of acute withdrawal that includes aggressive or combative behavior as a result of intranasal naloxone administration is very rare

What are the facts?

Opioid overdose emergencies have reached epidemic proportions in the United States (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

Opioid overdose emergencies kill more Virginians than motor vehicle crashes (Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner).

Prescription opioids are often a gateway to heroin use, which is associated with the potential for riskier behavior and comorbid health conditions such as Hepatitis C and HIV (University of Buffalo).

Opioid overdoses do not discriminate, impacting Virginians from all walks of life. For instance, since 1999 the percentage increase for prescription opioid overdose deaths is greater for women than men, and among women was highest for those aged 45 - 54 years (CDC Vital Signs, 2013).

REVIVE! Saving lives, saving futures!