

Fatal Overdose Prevention for Social Service Providers

Fatal overdose is a public health crisis in the United States, with record numbers of people dying each year. Social service providers are increasingly equipping staff to recognize and reverse opioid overdose as part of their programs' fundamental safety protocols.

Below you will find resources aimed at training California's frontline social service workers, and the people they serve, to reverse opioid overdoses and save lives.

STEP 1

Apply for a Naloxone Standing Order

Naloxone Hydrochloride (naloxone) is a prescription medication that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose. California law allows laypeople to dispense naloxone in accordance with a standing order backed by a physician. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued a **statewide standing order** to make it simple for community-based organizations to provide naloxone to their clients and teach them how to use it in their communities.

The CDPH standing order application is automated and should take you no more than 5 minutes. Be prepared to enter basic information about your organization. To **apply for a standing order**, scan the QR-code.



STEP 2

Get Naloxone

The California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) created the **Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP)** to address the opioid crisis through the provision of free naloxone. Scan the QR-code to **access the application form**. Read the **Frequently Asked Questions** (PDF) before applying, and note that programs are encouraged to order enough to also distribute to participants/ clients, both during outreach shifts and at fixed-site locations. Naloxone comes in nasal spray ("IN") and injectable ("IM") formats; both are easy to use and work quickly to reverse an opioid overdose.



STEP 3

Train Staff on Overdose Recognition & Reversal

Before distributing naloxone, all staff and/ or clients who may need to use it must be trained about what it is, how it works, and how and when to administer it correctly. Proper training includes instruction on clearing the airway and administering rescue breathing, a vital component of successful overdose reversal. CDPH recommends that all frontline staff renew overdose reversal training annually, just as with other mandatory emergency response training. The following are useful training tools:

- **CDPH overdose reversal explainer video- nasal naloxone focus** (11 min)
- **Preventing Empty Spaces: injectable naloxone focus** (9 min)
- **National Harm Reduction Coalition's three-part series** (aimed at programs that plan to distribute naloxone to clients/ participants)

Finally, experts recommend providing naloxone and a face shield for rescue breathing in a location that is clearly labeled and readily available to staff and clients.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **Never Use Alone** Hotline: 1.800.484.3731
- **Brave App** (fatal overdose prevention support): <https://brave.coop>

Your staff are encouraged to provide overdose reversal training and naloxone to anyone likely to witness or experience an overdose. Additional resources for clients to obtain free naloxone and other harm reduction supplies include your **local health department, local harm reduction programs**, or **NEXT Distro** for those who do not live near a harm reduction program. (**Note:** These additional resources are for program participants and clients only. Agencies should apply via the DHCS program mentioned above.)