

# NaloxBox: Exploring Free, Publicly Available, Lifesaving Naloxone

Catching Up With COSSAP, February 2022

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States has continued to experience a rise in overdose-related deaths. In November 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a statement estimating that over 100,000 people died due to a drug overdose from April 2020 to April 2021, an increase of 28 percent from the 78,000 overdose deaths in the prior 12 months.

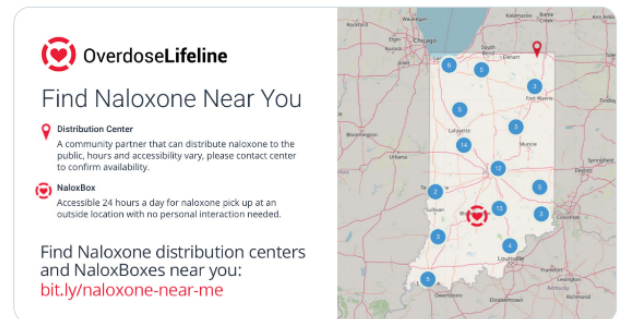
In an effort to combat opioid overdose, the state of Rhode Island used grant money from the Rhode Island Department of Health to install 62 NaloxBox units throughout the state. NaloxBox is exactly what it sounds like: a box that is mounted on a wall, much like a defibrillator or fire extinguisher, that contains naloxone, the medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose. Each unit contains between two and eight doses of naloxone, instructions for use, and treatment referral cards. Historically, naloxone has not been publicly available and could only be obtained with a prescription at a pharmacy. Two years after Rhode Island's implementation of NaloxBoxes, over 500 NaloxBox units have been installed nationwide. Now, NaloxBoxes can be found in various places within a given community, such as libraries, city and state government offices, universities, public housing authorities, recovery centers, and community centers.

Some of the Bureau of Justice Assistance's COSSAP grantee sites have also implemented NaloxBoxes within their communities, and their trained peer specialists have been training others in the use of naloxone. Recently, the state of Indiana partnered with Overdose Lifeline, a statewide nonprofit organization working to reduce the stigma of addiction and provide access to treatment for at-risk populations, to expand access to naloxone across the state by purchasing and installing 215 NaloxBox units, at least one for every county.

In another example, the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Board (ADAMH) in Fairfield County, Ohio, began installing NaloxBoxes over the past year as a harm



Do you need a [#NaloxBox](#) in your county? Our goal is to place at least TWO NaloxBoxes in every Indiana county. To learn where a NaloxBox is located near you, or if your county is in need of one, refer to our NaloxBox map: [bit.ly/naloxone-near-...](https://bit.ly/naloxone-near-...) [#HarmReduction @INDrugCzar](#)



reduction effort. ADAMH has secured 10 to date and is looking to install 50 more in various locations, including libraries, court houses, community centers, food pantries, sober living communities, homeless shelters, schools, and the Fairfield County Job and Family Services agency. The Director of the Fairfield County Overdose Response Team (Project FORT) explains that the goal behind installing NaloxBoxes is to "continue expanding our effort to make naloxone accessible to the public." Project FORT has a full-time peer support specialist who believes that NaloxBoxes are extremely helpful to individuals in the community who are struggling with active addiction or are newly in recovery. Publicly available naloxone can mean the difference between life and death for a person in an emergency and only takes two to three minutes to begin reversing the effects of an opioid-related overdose. Project FORT's peer specialist explained that he provides information about how to use NaloxBoxes and where to find them to individuals he works with in the community, as well as staff members in the facilities where the NaloxBoxes are housed.

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As efforts progress in the United States to combat the opioid epidemic, peers will continue to play a significant role in expanding access to life-saving naloxone. As Project FORT's director noted, "the peer role in this regard will continue to evolve, as this is new territory for us."

For more information regarding where to find the nearest NaloxBox or how to have NaloxBoxes installed in your community, please visit:

<https://naloxbox.org/pages/find-a-naloxbox>.

<https://naloxbox.org/collections/all?page=1>.

## References:

Capraro, Geoffrey and Claudia, Rebola. December 2018. "The NaloxBox Program in Rhode Island: A Model for Community-Access Naloxone." *American Journal of Public Health*. 108(12): 1649–1651. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2018.304735 (S. Duff and S. Grossarth, personal communication, January 19, 2022).

## NaloxBox website:

<https://NaloxBox.org/>

## Recent news coverage/announcements:

Drug Overdose Deaths in the U.S. Top 100,000 Annually (CDC press release, November 17, 2021) [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs\\_press\\_releases/2021/20211117.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2021/20211117.htm)

NaloxBoxes Put Lifesaving Overdose Drugs Within Ready Reach (Brown University News, July 12, 2017) <https://www.brown.edu/news/2017-07-12/NaloxBox>

Gov. Holcomb Announces Initiative to Place Overdose Reversal Kits in all 92 Counties (Indiana Governor's Office press release, February 5, 2021) <https://www.overdoselifeline.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/02.05.2020-Naloxbox-press-release.pdf>

