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Maine Naloxone Distribution Initiative

Project-To-Date Totals through March 31, 2022

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In July 2019, the Maine Naloxone Distribution Initiative (MNDI) launched an overdose education, prevention, and naloxone distribution project. Public health and harm reduction partners, known as Tier 1 Distributors, began distributing state-supplied naloxone rescue kits across Maine to clinicians, community partners, and end users. This brief provides information on naloxone distribution and reported overdose reversals by the Tier 1 organizations comprising the MNDI from the initiation of the project through March 2023, with a particular emphasis on the first quarter of 2023. Additionally, subcategories of naloxone distribution from Tier 1 organizations to the Overdose Prevention Through Intensive Outreach Naloxone and Safety (OPTIONS) initiative and syringe services/access programs in 2021 as well as EMS Naloxone Leave Behind Program are provided.

Tier 1 organizations include Bangor Public Health (BPH), Portland Public Health (PPH), MaineGeneral Health (MG), and Maine Access Points (MAP). BPH serves the Aroostook, Downeast, and Penquis public health districts, PPH serves Cumberland and York, and MG serves Central, Midcoast, and Western. MAP distributes naloxone statewide with a particular focus on rural regions. Data from the Office of the Attorney General’s (OAG) law enforcement administered naloxone program have also been included to provide an overview of the combined public health, harm reduction, and public safety efforts in Maine.

Currently, there is no comprehensive way to fully enumerate the total of nonfatal overdoses as this metric relies on voluntary reporting. Thus, it is difficult to quantify the full efficacy of naloxone distribution efforts during this troubling period. The distribution and reported reversal data tables and figure in this report offer conservative estimates of the lives saved through public health, harm reduction, and safety efforts, which prevented the number of drug deaths from potentially being much higher. Monthly proportions of 2023 overdose fatalities have fluctuated from a low of 4.2% in March to a high of 6.6% in January. During the first three months of 2023, 5.6% of overdoses were fatal

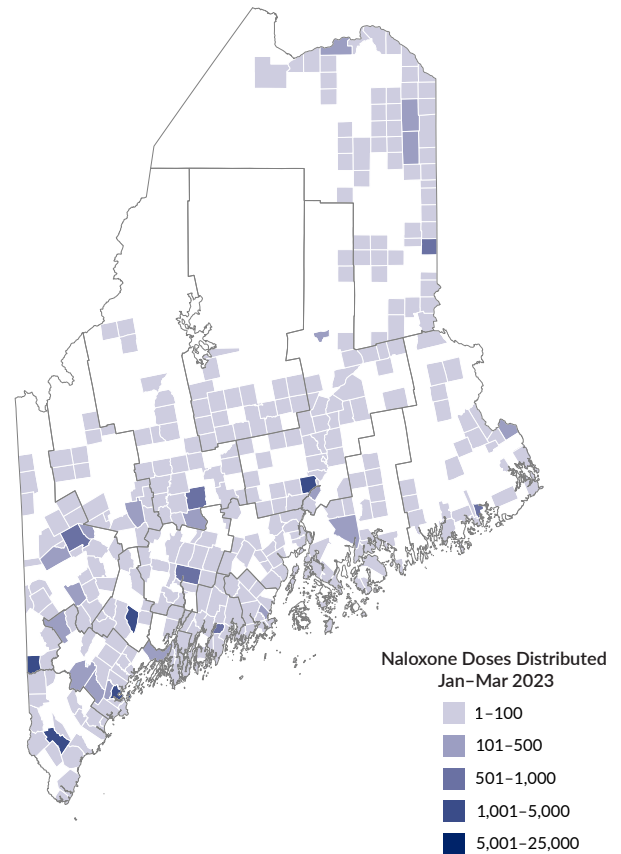


Figure 1: Number of naloxone doses distributed by the Maine Naloxone Distribution Initiative from January through March 2023

while 94.4% consisted of nonfatal overdoses; this proportion is 11.1% lower than the first three months of 2022 (Sorg et al. 2023).

Additional resources, data, and visualizations are available at the Maine Drug Data Hub: <https://mainedrugdata.org/>.

Public Health—Tier 1 Distributors

During the first quarter of 2023 (January–March):

33,774 doses of naloxone have been distributed
613 overdose reversals have been voluntarily reported.

From July 2019 through March 2023 (MNDI project-to-date totals):

293,891 doses of naloxone have been distributed
6,257 overdose reversals have been voluntarily reported.

Public Safety—Law Enforcement Agencies

During the first quarter of 2023 (January–March):

848 doses of naloxone have been distributed
86 overdose reversals have been voluntarily reported.

From July 2019 through March 2023:

15,646 doses of naloxone have been distributed
1,521 overdose reversals have been voluntarily reported.

Table 1 Doses of naloxone distributed by Tier 1 distributors and OAG

	2019	2020	2021	2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Total
BPH	1,768	10,882	15,180	30,572	2,344	2,548	1,832	65,126
PPH (IN)	3,792	8,640	12,240	20,427	1,812	2,342	4,302	53,555
PPH (IM)	0	0	0	590	10	50	50	700
MG	2,550	5,172	13,312	15,874	1,020	2,548	2,384	42,860
MAP (IM)	3,486	19,561	32,590	40,790	2,244	2,468	3,618	104,757
MAP (IN)	510	3,599	6,806	11,776	1,310	1,176	1,716	26,893
OAG	2,034	3,914	5,854	2,996	232	368	248	15,646
Total	14,140	51,768	85,982	123,025	8,972	11,500	14,150	309,537

Notes: (1) Unit is doses for all values. (2) IM = intramuscular; IN = intranasal. All values are IN unless otherwise indicated. (3) MAP distribution initially included state-supplied and nonstate-supplied naloxone. (4) 2019 data is for July through December only. (5) A revision has been made to BPH January and July, 2020 and March 2021 and PPH April 2021, Jan 2022 and MG March 2020, October, November, December 2021 and March, April 2022.

Table 1.1 Doses of naloxone distributed by Tier 1 distributors to OPTIONS liaisons (subcategory of total distribution)

	2021	2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Total
BPH	1,100	1,632	488	96	0	3,316
PPH	570	912	96	240	420	2,238
MG	1,940	3,376	192	292	324	6,124
Total	3,610	5,920	776	628	744	11,678

Notes: (1) Unit is doses for all values.

Table 1.2 Doses of naloxone distributed by Tier 1 distributors through syringe services/access programs (subcategory of total distribution)

	2021	2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Total
BPH	5,130	4,710	504	504	704	11,552
PPH	4,968	9,447	660	780	1,248	17,103
MG	4,012	1,524	120	28	260	5,944
MAP	19,356	32,620	3,272	3,352	4,302	62,902
Total	33,466	48,301	4,556	4,664	6,514	97,501

Notes: (1) Unit is doses for all values. (2) A revision has been made to BPH March 2021 and PPH April 2021. (3) Missing data for January 2021 for PPH.

Table 1.3 Doses of naloxone distributed by Tier 1 distributors to EMS Naloxone Leave Behind Program (subcategory of total distribution)

	2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Total
BPH	480	138	0	40	658
PPH	346	16	4	0	366
MG	464	0	0	160	624
Total	1,290	154	4	200	1,648

Notes: (1) Unit is doses for all values. (2) The EMS Leave Behind Program was launched in January of 2022. T1s are to provide EMS agencies across the state with kits of naloxone to provide to anyone who has refused EMS transport.

Table 2 Number of overdose reversals voluntarily reported to Tier 1 distributors (by individuals or Tier 2 distributors) and overdose reversals reported by OAG law enforcement agencies through the a reporting tool called ODMAP

	2019	2020	2021	2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Total
BPH	17	289	834	602	36	40	98	1,916
PPH	28	304	299	426	34	22	13	1,126
MG	1	87	224	278	18	9	20	637
MAP	29	521	715	936	94	119	101	2,515
OAG	51	401	595	388	31	22	33	1,521
OD-ME app	0	31	14	9	2	2	5	63
Total	126	1,633	2,681	2,639	215	214	270	7,778

Notes: (1) Reversal totals are conservative estimates as not all reversals are reported. (2) OD-ME app is a mobile phone app developed in 2020 to support naloxone administration. (3) Overdose reversal figures may increase as backdated Tier 2 distributor and OAG incident reports are received. (4) 2019 data is July through December only. (5) Law enforcement agencies that receive naloxone from the OAG and report reversals through ODMAP are now being included. ODMAP reversal data has been added from July 2019 to present. (6) A revision has been made to MAP 2022 reversal reports.

References

Marcella H. Sorg, Daniel S. Soucier, and Abby Leidenfrost. (2023). *Maine Monthly Overdose Report for March 2023*. Orono: Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, University of Maine.