

Maine Naloxone Distribution Initiative

Project-To-Date Totals through March 30, 2024

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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 2024, with a particular emphasis on the first quarter of 2024. 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 2024 fatalities have fluctuated from a low of 6.1% in February to a high of 6.7% in both January and March. During the first three months of 2024, fatal overdoses constituted 6.5% of all overdoses, slightly higher than the 5.6% for the same time period in 2024 (Sorg et al., 2024).

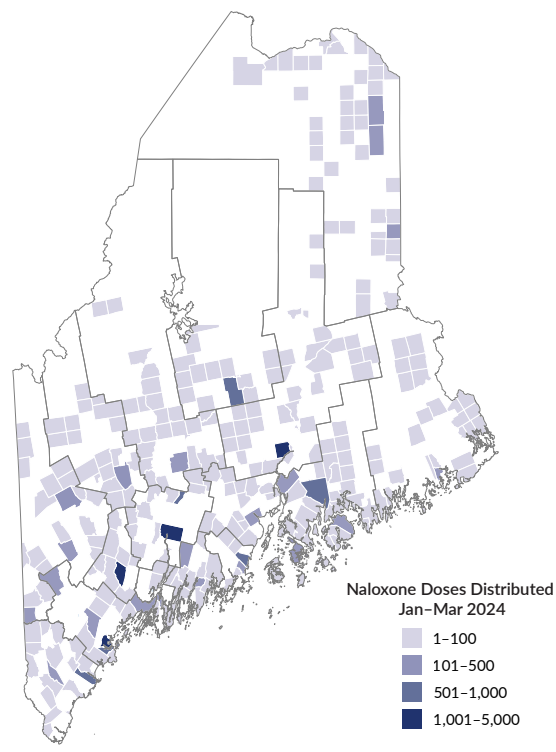


Figure 1: Naloxone doses distributed by the Maine Naloxone Distribution Initiative from January through March 2024

Distribution points on this map prior to 08/23 for Maine Access Points (MAP) were to the end user. Distribution points for MAP from 09/23 to present are to Tier 2 distributors.

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 2024 (January– March):

32,604 doses of naloxone have been distributed
394 overdose reversals have been voluntarily reported.

From July 2019 through March 2024 (MNDI project-to-date totals):

473,222 doses of naloxone have been distributed
8,096 overdose reversals have been voluntarily reported.

Public Safety—Law Enforcement Agencies

During the first quarter of 2024 (January– March):

1,934 doses of naloxone have been distributed
41 overdose reversals have been voluntarily reported.

From July 2019 through March 2024:

20,258 doses of naloxone have been distributed
1,744 overdose reversals have been voluntarily reported.

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

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Total
BPH	1768	10882	15180	30572	38290	2914	2704	1760	104,070
PPH (IN)	3792	8640	12240	20427	38540	2508	3304	3350	92801
PPH (IM)	0	0	0	590	1124	100	156	0	1970
MG	2550	5172	13312	15874	39446	2684	2396	2724	84158
MAP (IM)	5472	23533	36562	44786	36128	1458	2206	1052	151197
MAP (IN)	306	3089	6194	11145	15004	1022	880	1386	39026
OAG	2042	3898	5598	3356	3430	1222	514	198	20258
Total	15930	55214	89086	126750	171962	11908	12160	10470	493480

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. OBH 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. (5) Table 1 includes corrections for MAP reporting that include a decrease in IN doses and an increase in IM doses. 1957 doses of IN naloxone were removed from distribution data from 07/2019 to 07/2023 and 13926 doses of IM naloxone were added to distribution data from 07/2019 to 07/2023.

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

	2021	2022	Jan– Mar 2023	Apr– Jun 2023	Jul–Sep 2023	Oct– Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2023	Mar 2024	Total
BPH	1100	1632	584	1240	1200	1256	200	120	0	7332
PPH	570	912	756	440	600	872	272	200	0	4622
MG	1940	3376	808	840	1512	816	552	312	312	10468
Total	3610	5920	2148	2520	3312	2944	1024	632	312	22422

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– Mar 2023	Apr– Jun 2023	Jul– Sep 2023	Oct– Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Total
BPH	5450	5306	1856	3918	2160	1344	1392	504	0	21930
PPH	4968	9447	3026	3224	2814	2032	630	430	626	27197
MG	4012	1524	408	718	848	610	302	222	236	8880
MAP	19356	32620	10926	10194	13858	10940	2456	2966	2002	105318
Total	33786	48897	16216	18054	19680	14926	4780	4122	2864	163325

Notes: (1) Unit is doses for all values. (2) A revision has been made to BPH March, June, September of 2021 January, April and May of 2022 as well as PPH April 2021 and February of 2023. (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	Apr– Jun 2023	Apr– Jun 2023	Jul– Sep 2023	Oct– Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Total
BPH	480	178	16	514	440	148	128	236	2140
PPH	346	20	46	258	558	56	56	0	1340
MG	464	160	0	568	830	148	56	120	2346
Total	1290	358	62	1340	1828	352	240	356	5826

Notes: (1) Unit is doses for all values. (2) The EMS Leave Behind Program was launched in January of 2022. TIs 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	Apr- Jun 2023	Apr- Jun 2023	Jul- Sep 2023	Oct- Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Total
BPH	17	289	834	602	174	198	130	138	71	54	39	2546
PPH	28	304	299	429	70	82	75	57	17	18	47	1426
MG	1	87	224	278	47	58	78	63	11	49	22	918
MAP	29	521	715	936	314	243	178	127	40	14	10	3127
OAG	51	401	595	388	87	78	54	49	9	20	12	1744
OD-ME app	0	31	14	9	9	6	5	3	0	1	1	79
Total	126	1633	2681	2642	701	665	520	437	148	156	131	9840

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 and PPH February 2023 reversal reports as well as OAG Q1 2023

Works Cited

Marcella H. Sorg, Daniel Soucier, Yimin Wang. (2024). *Maine Monthly Overdose Report*. University of Maine. Orono: Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. <https://mainedrugdata.org/march-2024-monthly-overdose-report/>