



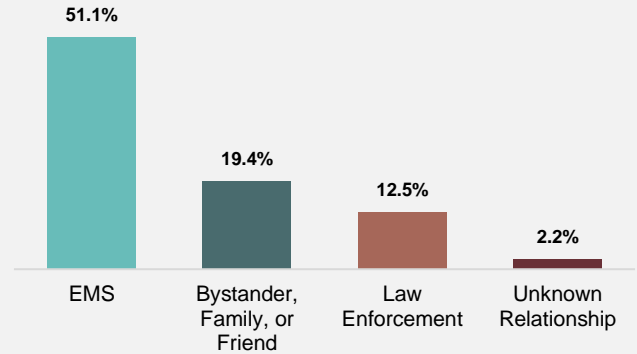
# Naloxone for Opioid Overdose Response

Naloxone is a life-saving opioid overdose reversal medication. When administered, it binds tightly to opioid receptors in the brain to reverse and block the effects of opioids ([SAMSHA](#)).

**Naloxone is an extremely safe medicine.** It will have no effect on someone who does not have opioids in their system.

Community members are nearly always the first on-scene to an opioid overdose, and rapid response with naloxone can save a life. In 2023, about one in five opioid overdose patients treated at the largest hospitals in Snohomish County received naloxone from someone other than a first responder before arrival at the emergency department ([OD2A Local Data](#)).

Who Administered Naloxone to Opioid Overdose Patients Before They Arrived at the Emergency Department?



*Snohomish County, 2023; Categories are not mutually exclusive; Data from 3 local hospital partners.*

**In 2023, about 1 in 5 opioid overdose patients received naloxone from a family member, friend, or bystander.**

Both nasal spray and intramuscular naloxone kits can effectively reverse an opioid overdose. It's important to be familiar with both types of kits and how they work.

**Timely and appropriate use of naloxone can have a major impact on an overdose victim's recovery and response.**

**A single dose of naloxone should be given to the patient immediately.** If the patient does not respond or begin breathing regularly, wait three minutes before administering a second dose. Multiple doses given at once, or any sooner than three minutes apart, will not improve the outcome of the patient or speed up an overdose reversal ([J. Emer. Med., 2023](#)). **Administering more than is needed can also cause great discomfort to the patient** by increasing the risk of poor outcomes including severe withdrawal symptoms like disorientation and vomiting ([MMWR, 2023](#)).

**What else is there to know about naloxone?**

- ✦ Naloxone is commonly called **Narcan**, the brand name.
- ✦ **A person cannot use naloxone on themselves.** When an opioid overdose occurs, they are unconscious. This is why we encourage people to not use alone or to call the **Never Use Alone Hotline** at 877-696-1996.
- ✦ Naloxone works in the body for 30 to 90 minutes. A person can slip back into an opioid overdose after it wears off, so they should seek medical attention and be monitored for at least a few hours ([NIDA](#)).
- ✦ Naloxone has an expiration date and should be kept temperature controlled, but slightly **old naloxone is better than no naloxone** ([Can Pharm J, 2022](#)).

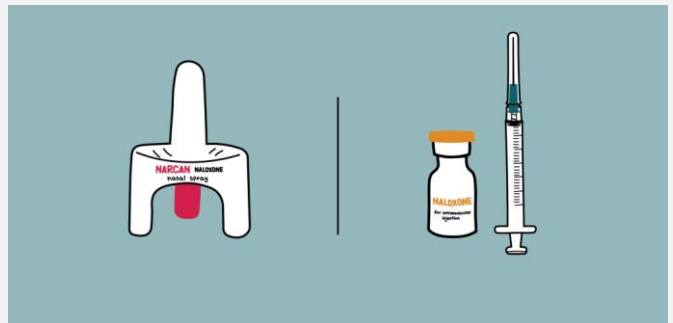
Learn how to properly administer both styles of naloxone using these links below:

[Intranasal Naloxone](https://shorturl.at/fixJ0)

<https://shorturl.at/fixJ0>

[Intramuscular Naloxone](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ojGrGchyGc&t)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_ojGrGchyGc&t](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ojGrGchyGc&t)



**For more information on how to get no-cost naloxone (Narcan), the overdose reversal medicine, visit: [stopoverdose.org](https://stopoverdose.org)**