

# Opiate Overdose Prevention and Survival

## North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition

*The North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition (NCHRC) is North Carolina's only comprehensive harm reduction program.*

NCHRC engages in grassroots advocacy, resource development, coalition building and direct services for law enforcement and those made vulnerable by drug use, sex work, overdose, immigration status, gender, STIs, HIV and hepatitis.

We believe that the key to bringing sex workers, crack smokers, injection drug users and others who engage in high-risk activities closer to prevention and health services is to treat every person, regardless of their circumstance or condition, with dignity and respect.



NCHRC maintains staff in Fayetteville, Asheville and Durham, NC.

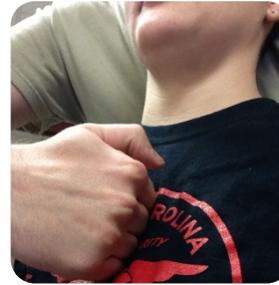
**336-543-8050**

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**Mailing and Office Address:**  
NC Harm Reduction Coalition  
2416 Hillsborough St,  
Raleigh, NC 27607

### Sternal Rub

Check if they are responsive by rubbing your fist up and down their chest along the sternum. If they don't wake up, call 911.



### Call 911

State what you see:

"The person is unconscious and not breathing." Clearly state the address of the overdose.

### Give Naloxone

Insert tip of the nozzle into either nostril. Press the plunger firmly. If no response in 2 minutes, administer another dose



### Give Rescue Breathing

Tilt their head back slightly, pinch their nose, and give 1 breath every five seconds.



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**If you suspect an overdose,  
Call 911**

You **cannot** be prosecuted for:

- Small amounts of drugs
- Possession of drug paraphernalia
- Underage possession or consumption of alcohol
- Violation of probation or parole or post-release

**REPORT:** If you use this kit to reverse an overdose, please notify your local naloxone distributor or call or text us at (336) 543-8050 for another **free** kit. Reports remain anonymous.

## Signs of an Overdose

The #1 sign of an OD is:

### Unresponsiveness

Other signs include:

- Not breathing, turning blue, deep snoring
- Vomiting
- Gasping, gurgling



Risk Factors:

- **Mixing** different types of drugs (opiates with alcohol and/or benzos)
- **Quality** and difference in purity levels based off batch
- **Low Tolerance** due to not using opiates after incarceration, detox, or drug-free drug treatment
- **Using Alone** behind locked door, unable to be found
- **Compromised Health** due to an infection, lack of sleep
- **Stressful or new environments**

## Overdose Myths

The following **do not** work to reverse opiate and opioid-based overdoses, but are not limited to:

- Cold shower
- Letting them sleep it off
- Giving someone coffee or making them walk around
- Injecting with anything other than naloxone (salt water, milk, other drugs)

**The only viable option when someone is experiencing an opiate overdose is to initiate rescue breathing, administer naloxone and seek medical assistance.**

**To find a drug treatment center near you, visit:**

<http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov>

**or call**

**1-800-662-(HELP) 4357**

**REPORT:** If you use this kit to reverse an overdose, please notify your local naloxone distributor or call or text us at (336) 543-8050 for another free kit. We will **NOT** ask for personal information, only the date and the city/town of where the kit was used.

## 911 Good Samaritan and Naloxone Access Law

**Naloxone (Narcan) is an effective, prescription medication that reverses opioid drug overdose.**

**For Overdoses:** As of April 9th, 2013, a person who seeks medical assistance for someone experiencing a drug overdose cannot be prosecuted for possession of small amounts of drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia, or underage drinking if evidence for the charge was obtained as a result of the person seeking help. The victim is protected from these charges as well.

As of August 1, 2015, a person who seeks medical assistance for someone experiencing a drug overdose cannot be considered in violation of a condition of parole, probation, or post-release, even if that person was arrested. The victim is also protected. Also, the caller must provide his/her name to 911 or law enforcement to qualify for the immunity.

**Immunity:** Medical providers who prescribe naloxone, including to third parties, are immune from civil or criminal charges as long as they act in good faith. This immunity also extends to pharmacists who dispense naloxone and anyone who administers it.