



SAFEProject
Stop the Addiction Fatality Epidemic

COMMUNITY PLAYBOOK

A Step-by-Step Guide to
Making Your Community
a SAFE Community



DEAR COMMUNITY LEADERS,

Substance use disorder is tearing apart the fabric of our nation. And sadly, the addiction epidemic has only worsened with the onset of COVID-19. The fallout has been extensive for communities. As a country, we have all seen the rise in overdoses and the crushing demands that have been placed on your resources.

With the loss of thousands of American lives, the addiction crisis continues to be one of the most complex problems facing our nation today. Although this national challenge is a common one, each community is different. Despite many critical initiatives at both the federal and state levels, we know that to be most effective, this crisis needs to be resolved at the local level with solutions that are identified by and centered within each community.

This playbook and our newly launched SAFE Solutions platform have been created to assist each of you. Both of the tools provided offer a framework and a compendium of strategies and best practices to explore, help mitigate the problem, and ultimately stop the addiction epidemic. Many of these strategies are low cost or no cost efforts that can be implemented within your community without any additional assistance. However, our team is available to answer your questions and provide technical assistance as desired.

We congratulate you for deciding to stand up and take on this epidemic. We hope you find these tools useful to your efforts, and we stand ready to assist you in any way we can.



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY PLAYBOOK AND SAFE SOLUTIONS

Recognizing the complexities of this disease and its impact on communities, SAFE Project has developed two free resources – both of which are designed with communities at the forefront and intended to complement each other:

- The Community Playbook serves as a blueprint framework for rural, suburban, and urban communities navigating an effective, collaborative response using a six-step approach.
- SAFE Solutions is a comprehensive resource platform designed as a one-stop-shop where community leaders can dig into the details and explore various strategies that may be most suitable for their community. In this ever-growing resource, you'll be able to find relevant research, educational materials, innovative approaches, and promising practices used by other communities.

While neither of these tools are a cure for the addiction crisis, and it is likely that your community may already have some initiative or organized effort already in place, we hope that you're able to take portions of the playbook and information from the platform to support you in your response. Even though we are all faced with a shared challenge, each community is different, and therefore, the approaches and solutions will be different too.

About SAFE Project

SAFE Project is a national 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to overcoming the epidemic of addiction in the United States. SAFE Project also provides a variety of services to include technical assistance, expert consultation, group-process facilitation, and leadership development and training. For more information, please contact community@safeproject.us or complete visit our SAFE Communities web page to submit a formal request for technical assistance at <https://www.safeproject.us/community/>.

SAFE Project's Community Playbook and SAFE Solutions platform are available as free resources to communities who are working diligently on-the-ground in response to the addiction epidemic. Funding for both of these resources are sustained through private and corporate donations. As a supporter, your donation assures these tools remain available to communities at no cost. With your generous contribution, communities are able to respond with more resiliently, capacity, and coordination to this crisis - ultimately saving more lives. To make a donation, please visit <https://www.safeproject.us/donate/>.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Step One: Convene Your Community Team	4
Step Two: Assess Your Community	5
<i>SAFE Project Community Pulse Survey</i>	7
<i>SAFE Project Community Resources Exercise</i>	10
Step Three: Set Your Community Goal(s)	16
Step Four: Put Your Plan Into Action.....	18
<i>SAFE Project Action Plan Template</i>	19
Step Five: Measure Your Progress	21
Step Six: Sustain Your Efforts.....	22
FAQs: Frequently Asked Questions.....	24
Instructions: How to Navigate SAFE Solutions	26



STEP ONE: CONVENE YOUR COMMUNITY TEAM

Whether the issue is drunk driving, breast cancer awareness, or civil rights, history tells us that large, complex problems require a coordinated community response to be successful. Coalitions are vital! Without a unified strategy and focus on common goals, communities addressing a crisis as large as the addiction epidemic will not be poised for success. By bringing together and working with a broad range of local stakeholders, communities large or small can develop solutions that work for all those touched by this crisis.

Creating a community coalition is one of the most effective ways to solve complex problems and is at the core of creating a local movement. A coalition is simply a group of individuals and organizations with a common interest, who agree to see the problem through each other's eyes and to work together toward a common goal. A coalition concentrates a community's focus on a particular problem, creates alliances among those who might not normally work together, and keeps the community's approach consistent.

Consistency is key. Nonprofit organizations, healthcare facilities, government offices, businesses, and communities are all working hard to stem the impacts of substance use disorder. If their approaches differ significantly and if they are not collaborating, it can lead to conflicting purposes and duplicity, with little accomplishment. With broad agreement across the country that the addiction epidemic is a shared challenge, a well-built local movement can convert a community's focus on the problem into consistent action.

For more information on coalition building strategies and who to invite to the table, please visit the SAFE Solutions platform and explore the System Building button.



STEP TWO: ASSESS YOUR COMMUNITY

A community assessment can help to provide a baseline summary of data about the addiction epidemic in your community. Once you've brought together your community stakeholder group or coalition, engage the team in gathering your community's available data and collectively reviewing findings closely - examining access to services, honing in on any trends, identifying any existing disparities or gaps, and determining future priorities and needs.

While detailed quantitative data is valuable, it does not tell your community's entire story. Communities should take time to reflect on their own historical context, community attributes, political conditions, and environmental factors too. What works in one community will not work in another community and having the background information and understanding of the key drivers or levers for success in your community will help to ensure positive outcomes.

For your community coalition to be most successful, it will need to understand how the community perceives a number of elements of addiction, as well as what resources are already at work across the many stakeholder sets within your community. To evaluate perception and resources, communities may use the SAFE Project Community Pulse Survey and SAFE Project Community Resources Exercise. These tools, found on pages 8 and 11 respectively, are designed specifically to provide you with the insight your coalition needs to focus and prioritize your work.

For more information on assessment to include data collection, monitoring, and reporting, please visit [SAFE Solutions](#) and explore the System Building button.



The SAFE Project Community Pulse Survey

The SAFE Project Community Pulse Survey examines your community's perceptions of the addiction crisis through a short survey. It is not meant to be a scientific analysis of attitudes and perceptions, but rather to give you a snapshot of how the community as a whole perceives the issues your coalition will be tackling. This is also a great way to let the broader community know about your coalition's focus and to engage with other community members.

The survey also will help inform the community regarding the coalition's agenda. Not everyone will agree on the best approaches; the climate survey allows the community to "speak for itself." SAFE Project can work with you to customize the community survey — just like the coalition you build, the survey should reflect your community's unique attributes and culture.

The survey focuses on several types of questions intended to gauge knowledge/awareness and attitudes among different demographics, including:

- attitudes toward overall drug use;
- attitudes toward use and disposal of prescription medicine;
- awareness of drug availability in the community; and
- awareness of treatment and recovery capability in the community.

The outcome of the survey will go a long way toward informing the types of programs your community adopts and where they are focused.

To be effective, the survey should be distributed widely. To get the broadest sample possible, use your coalition members and their local networks of friends, colleagues, and neighbors to distribute the survey to a large cross-section of the community. Also, reach out to local media and organizations to distribute the survey. You can use this opportunity to communicate the mission and vision of your coalition as well, increasing awareness of your work and broadening your base of support.

Tallying the survey results can be done relatively quickly and will inform your next step – finding solutions that fit your community.

COMMUNITY PULSE SURVEY

- At what age should we start talking to people about drug and alcohol use?
 - Elementary school aged
 - Middle school aged
 - High school aged
 - College aged and older
 - Other (please specify)
- Are you aware of a drug take-back program in your community?
 - Yes
 - No
- If I have leftover medication but no longer need it, I am inclined to:
 - Sell it
 - Save it for future use
 - Take it to a drug take-back location
 - Give it to a friend
 - Throw it in the garbage
 - Dispose of it using a disposal pack
 - Flush it down the toilet
- If your doctor or dentist has prescribed opioid pain medication to you or a family member, were you provided any warning about the dangers of opioids by that doctor or dentist?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Not applicable
- If your doctor or dentist has prescribed opioid pain medication to you or a family member, were you provided any warning about the dangers of opioids by the pharmacist who filled your prescription?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Not applicable
- Do you know of a local family who has been negatively impacted by substance use?
 - Yes
 - No
- Do you think your community has an addiction problem?
 - Yes
 - No

8. Illicit opioids, including illicit prescription medication and drugs like heroin, are readily available in my community.
- Yes No
9. Other drugs, such as cocaine and methamphetamines, are readily available in my community.
- Yes No
10. Use of other drugs, such as alcohol, marijuana, and benzodiazepines, can lead to misuse of opioids, cocaine, or methamphetamines.
- True A disease.
 False A moral failing.
 Addiction is:
11. I believe that law enforcement in my community has enough capacity and that its efforts are effective in limiting substance use.
- Strongly agree Disagree
 Agree Strongly disagree
 Neither agree nor disagree
12. There is an addiction treatment program in my community.
- Strongly agree Disagree
 Agree Strongly disagree
 Neither agree nor disagree
13. I would know where to turn to for addiction help for myself, a family member, or friend.
- Strongly agree Disagree
 Agree Strongly disagree
 Neither agree nor disagree
14. My community has effective programs in place, such as counseling and transition living services, to support people in recovery for substance use disorder.
- Strongly agree Disagree
 Agree Strongly disagree
 Neither agree nor disagree



The SAFE Project Community Resources Exercise

In contrast to the SAFE Project Community Pulse Survey and its wide distribution, the SAFE Project Community Resources Exercise is an activity for your coalition to complete to provide an overview of the existing resources in your community and to identify any potential gaps.

Sometimes, when individual community sectors do their work to mitigate the addiction crisis, they are so busy doing good work that they aren't aware of other services the community offers and how they might interact. They don't have time to survey the landscape and see what else is available. The SAFE Project Community Resources Exercise seeks to address this issue by helping coalition members understand the resources their fellow members bring to the table as well as educate the coalition about the depth and breadth of other services that are offered in the community.

The completed product will provide your coalition and community with a map of current community resources as well as any gaps. This resource map, together with the SAFE Project Community Pulse Survey, will indicate to your coalition the potential areas where the community should focus its work.

Focusing your community's efforts does not mean doing only one thing to combat the epidemic. By identifying your community's attitudes and perceptions, as well as gaps in services, you will be better able to prioritize your available time and energy on paths that have the most opportunity for impact.

Note: You may have local organizations that have completed a similar scan of resources. There is no need to duplicate their good work! Incorporate that information into this exercise. To keep things moving, you can either have the coalition members complete the exercise on their own and then compile the results, or you can complete it as a team at one of your meetings.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES EXERCISE

This exercise is intended to identify any existing resources in your community. Please list resources and information in all fields below, wherever possible. Your responses will be compiled with those from others in your coalition to provide a 360-degree view of the landscape of resources in your community, as well as highlight the gaps your coalition will need to work to fill.

Public Awareness Resources

Public awareness programs such as posters and media messages that stress the risks of legal and illegal opioids.

Public awareness campaigns that aim to reduce the stigma of substance use disorder.

Programs for credible speakers to reach into the community.

List any other public awareness activities.

Prevention Resources

Credible speakers to present in middle schools and high schools.

Programs to educate parents of elementary students on how to protect their children from falling into drug use.

Programs to educate students and parents on various forms of mental health challenges.

Community mental health awareness and treatment programs.

High schools with mental health awareness/substance use prevention clubs and programs.

Law enforcement professionals trained on and engaged in substance use prevention in high schools.

Workplace prevention programs.

List any other prevention resources, including any prevention coalitions:

Closest substance use prevention coalition:

Prescription Medicine

Doctor feedback reports from your state's prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP).

Hospitals with prominently displayed warnings regarding opioid use.

Hospitals that use data science to track opioid prescription rates, use rates, and prescribing goals for doctors.

Tools to evaluate doctor and dentist prescribing habits.

Naloxone availability in the community, including naloxone training and kit distribution program for citizens.

Continuing education courses and training programs for physicians and dentists on the risks associated with opioid prescribing and on alternative methods for treating pain (both acute and chronic).

Robust and well-publicized drug take-back programs that include year-round take-back opportunities.

Pharmacies that dispense opioid neutralizing packets when dispensing drugs.

Pharmacies that use cipher-lockable bottles when dispensing opioids.

Resources or programs encouraging more physicians to become certified to prescribe medication-assisted treatment options for opioid and other substance use disorders.

List any other prescription medicine resources in your community.

Law Enforcement and Medical Response

A pre-arrest diversion program into a drug court or other mechanism.

A robust harm-reduction program.

Law enforcement personnel who work with the harm-reduction community

A community-based quick-reaction team (social worker or peer support specialists who follow up with someone who was revived by first responders).

Law enforcement personnel and other first responders who carry naloxone for (1) their protection and/or (2) the ability to revive someone undergoing an opioid overdose.

Naloxone training and kit distribution programs for citizens.

Naloxone kits in schools, public libraries, community and recreation centers.

Pharmacies that dispense naloxone without a prescription or under a standing order.

A medication-assisted treatment program for those in jail and support for incarcerated people in recovery.

A post-release support program for individuals with substance use disorder being released from incarceration.

An overdose response plan that introduces overdose patients to peer counseling and craving-reduction drugs in the emergency room and onward into medication-assisted treatment programs.

List any other law enforcement, first responder, or medical response resources or programs:

Treatment and Recovery

List all of your inpatient treatment facilities and their capacity:

List all of your outpatient treatment facilities and their capacity:

Ways for community members to find treatment options.

Facilities that treat individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders or dependence.

Narcotics Anonymous groups.

Safe recovery houses.

Certified buprenorphine prescribers.

Recovery coaches available to people emerging from treatment for substance use/dependence.

Local higher education institutions with collegiate recovery programs.

Employment programs for people in recovery.

Treatment information available and accessible to those who do not use English as a first language.

List any other treatment and recovery resources:

Family Outreach and Support

Support groups for families who have a loved one who is substance dependent.

List any other family outreach and support resources:



STEP THREE: SET YOUR COMMUNITY GOAL(S)

Once you have collected a comprehensive set of quantitative and qualitative data, work with your coalition to use the data to identify your priority area(s). Together, consider the following questions:

- What are some of our greatest challenges or obstacles?
- What has been done previously to address the addiction epidemic? What worked well? What might not have worked as well?
- How does the community perceive their quality of life?
- Are neighborhoods, populations or zip codes underserved? How does the data break down by race, ethnicity, language, gender, or other relevant lenses?
- Are there any opportunities to expand, connect, align or overhaul programs, policies or systems?
- Once you agree on a priority area(s), do they address the underlying root causes of substance use disorder in your community?

As you utilize your assessment(s) to identify your priority areas, try to keep policy, funding, and political discussions at the forefront of your conversations. Then, work together to turn your priority areas into community goals. If you need ideas, check out SAFE Project's SAFE Solutions platform where you will find a compilation of community-based strategies and promising practices.



Set Your S.M.A.R.T. Goal!

Setting clearly defined goals can lay the foundation for a desired result. When you're ready, work with your coalition to write your goal (or goals) using a S.M.A.R.T. format, as outlined below.

- Specific – What is the specific change agent or strategy?
- Measurable – Does the goal contribute to better outcomes? How will you quantify success?
- Attainable – Is the goal attainable/realistic?
- Relevant – Is the goal related to the identified priority areas and driven by the assessment?
- Time Bound – Is the target completion date included and reasonable?

Example: By December 31, 2022, our community will increase the number of naloxone doses dispensed to potential overdose bystanders from 25% to 30%.

Double check your work!

- Is your goal reasonable and attainable?
- Can your goal be measured?
- Does your goal accurately describe the population(s) you are trying to target?
- Is your goal data-informed and/or address some of the key findings in your community assessment?
- Are there any expected barriers to implementing your goal? What steps will you need to take to mitigate them?
- Are there any existing or developing state or local level initiatives aligned with your goal?



STEP FOUR: PUT YOUR PLAN INTO ACTION

Action planning is a process to help you focus all of your strategies and turn the planning phase towards implementation. Once you've set your community goal(s), work with your coalition to outline a series of tasks that work towards achieving your goal. A well written action plan will highlight each step comprehensively, clearly indicate who will be responsible for leading the charge, provide a timeline, and describe how success will be measured. Where possible, leverage the networks and resources of your coalition and secure easier wins early on in the process to initiate momentum for items that may require more endurance and time, and include some summary of how you arrived at the plan (incorporating findings from your assessment and information on your community's current environment). A good action plan will not only hold you accountable, but it will also help provide some historical context for any natural staff attrition.

On the next page, you'll find a template action plan to help get you started. For more information on activating your community, supporting key legislative and policy changes, and effective action planning and implementation, please visit SAFE Solutions and explore the System Building button.

FUN FACT!



SAFE Project's No Shame pledge and social media toolkit helps communities easily replicate an anti-stigma campaign and build momentum around their community's action plan.

Visit <https://www.safeproject.us/takethepledge/> for more information.

SAMPLE ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE

What is your long-term, big picture vision?

Where do you want your community to be in the short-term (6-18 months), mid-term (2-3 years) and long-term (3-5 years) from now?

Short-Term:

Mid-Term:

Long-Term:

Below, please list your identified S.M.A.R.T. goal (s). You may add additional rows to map out your specific strategies or duplicate the boxes as needed. Ideally, each S.M.A.R.T. goal will have its own box with identified steps to support.

S.M.A.R.T. GOAL			
Action Steps or Activities	Identified Persons Responsible	Timeline	Resources Available/Needed

Double Check - Does your S.M.A.R.T. goal(s) build towards your short-term, mid-term, and long-term vision outlined above?

Are there any local/state policy or system changes that could augment your efforts?

What funding opportunities need to be explored to further support and sustain your goals? (i.e., fundraiser, grants, public funding, fee-for-service)

How will you know that you've accomplished your goal? Please list indicator(s) to measure your success and any strategies for collecting the data below. Add additional rows as needed.

Indicator	Source of Data	Person(s) Responsible	Reporting Frequency/Timeline

Identify any communications strategies that will help to build momentum around your initiative(s). Add additional rows as needed.

Strategy	Resources Available/ Needed	Primary and Secondary Audiences	Tactics (i.e. storytelling, media event, press release, op-ed)	Timeline	Communication Goals (i.e. increase engagement, raise awareness, influence policy)



STEP FIVE: MEASURE YOUR PROGRESS

Once your plan is in place, the hard work begins! The community coalition can support implementation of your plan by checking in with each other, tracking and monitoring key milestones, brainstorming as problems arise, reporting on progress made, celebrating accomplishments, planning for long-term sustainability, and implementing quality improvement processes. Remember, **ACTION REQUIRES ACCOUNTABILITY!**

While it's important to communicate with stakeholders and the general public about your efforts early on in order to gain buy-in, it's also critical to keep those who have championed your efforts in the loop once you are in implementation mode. Reporting on your progress is a great way to share your successes, maintain momentum, and demonstrate your impact or return on investment made. Communities can also use their data to help inform local policy and develop budgetary recommendations. Remember, when communicating your impact, use common language and avoid any unnecessary jargon.

Here are a few ways to use your data and showcase progress you're making:

- Highlight how program quality has improved or share increased competencies or skills in the workforce
- Emphasize improved operational efficiencies or alignment of standards
- Illustrate expanded programmatic reach or increased access to services
- Share new programs or services that have been developed to fill gaps
- Explain how funding has been leveraged
- Validate the success of joint planning efforts
- Demonstrate programmatic scale
- Incorporate quotes from people who have been directly impacted by the changes

For more information on improving data collection, monitoring, and reporting, please visit [SAFE Solutions](#) and explore the System Building button.



STEP SIX: SUSTAIN YOUR EFFORTS

Congratulations! If you've reached this point, it means your efforts are thriving and your community has been able to unite around a shared vision, mission, and goals. Once you have made some progress on your implementation, your community coalition can now move towards establishing your efforts as permanent initiatives.

Here are a few principles which can help to ensure successful sustainability in your community over time:

- Where you're able, connect your local initiatives to state-level efforts. This helps communities link to broader activities, ensures that communities are not working in isolation of each other or in isolation of the state, elevates local best practices for potential scaling across regions, and allows communities to position and advocate for policy changes that positively impact them locally.
- Continue to honor the voice and perspectives of those most impacted by your decisions. Communities who incorporate people directly impacted by substance use disorder into their process are better able to meet the needs of their community, understand root causes, and ultimately improve systems so that they are more equitable.
- Welcome non-traditional partnerships and innovative solutions. When communities bring together multi-sector representatives from philanthropy, economic development, business, school system, planning and zoning, housing, health care, and public assistance programs into their planning and execution, they are able to establish new champions who can help spread the common message, facilitate stronger connections to other priority areas in the community, integrate efforts into other key policy areas, and identify new, creative and out-of-the-box solutions.



- Identify dedicated staff who can coordinate and drive efforts. Often, systems change requires a significant amount of time and resources and typically lies outside of the traditional programmatic roles. A dedicated staff position can help to focus on critical aspects of sustainment like convening key partners, staying connected to key policy agendas and leaders, connecting disparate pieces together, pushing the work forward, and maintaining an eye on all of the data.
- Pursue new funding opportunities. Oftentimes, when thinking through how to sustain community efforts, many communities naturally stress the need to identify new, reliable funding streams. Communities have several options and can do this through public funding (federal, state, or local funds), developing fee-for-service, fundraising, soliciting contributions or in-kind support, leveraging corporate resources, and tapping into existing public funding streams ultimately blending or braiding multiple streams.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Who is the intended audience for these tools?

Although SAFE Solutions' primary audience are community-based leaders working in prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support services, we acknowledge that the addiction epidemic is a multi-faceted problem that requires engagement from leaders across all sectors. Therefore, we invite stakeholders from non-profits, businesses, government, and philanthropy to utilize the resources contained in the platform and actively support localized response.

What makes SAFE Solutions different from other resources?

SAFE Project understands that the most successful solutions are community-centered, so our team regularly works alongside a national network of multi-disciplinary subject matter experts to expand the content in the platform and incorporate new and cutting-edge ideas from across the country for communities to explore and implement.

How do I join the network of subject matter experts?

We know that, collectively, we can save more lives. SAFE Project is always recruiting for its national network of professionals who help to contribute digestible, yet actionable content for SAFE Solutions in their area of expertise. If you or someone you know might be interested in participating, please contact community@safeproject.us for more information.



How do I share my community best practice solution or case study with SAFE Project for SAFE Solutions?

Although every community is different and may face unique circumstances, communities can still learn a lot from each other about how they tackled a specific problem and lessons they learned along the way. We're always looking to incorporate successful community models and best practices into SAFE Solutions for other communities across the nation to explore and replicate. If you have a story you would like to share with us about how your community addressed this crisis, please contact community@safeproject.us.

How do I request technical assistance or additional support for my community?

SAFE Project offers a variety of services to include technical assistance, expert consultation, group-process facilitation, and leadership development and training. For more information, please visit the SAFE Communities web page at <https://www.safeproject.us/community/> and complete the technical assistance request form or contact us directly at community@safeproject.us.



INSTRUCTIONS: HOW TO USE SAFE SOLUTIONS

SAFE Project encourages communities to use the Community Playbook and the SAFE Solutions platform in whatever manner that most helps you and your community. Whether you're an elected official, work in community health, or are a concerned resident who wants to learn and make a difference, these tools can be useful resources. If you see a broad need to form a community coalition, coordinate efforts, raise awareness, and create and expand programs to fill known gaps in services, SAFE Solutions can help provide the details you might need. If your goal is simply to learn about specific strategies and programs communities have used to address different areas of focus, SAFE Solutions can help there as well with background information, recent reports and research, and best practices. Whether your community is just getting started or more advanced in their implementation efforts, we encourage everyone to fully explore these resources and hope you find some sentiments or learnings to expand and strengthen your initiatives.

Below are instructions on how to use the SAFE Solutions platform. SAFE Project has also made available a short, pre-recorded demonstration video as well as a more in-depth introduction to the Community Playbook and SAFE Solutions platform on its web page. To access these resources, please visit <https://www.safeproject.us/community/> or contact us directly at community@safeproject.us.

To access the SAFE Solutions directly, please visit www.yoursafesolutions.us.





There are nearly 100 strategies in the SAFE Solutions platform to support a community response. Once on the navigation portal, you may search these strategies and filter by outcome you are seeking to achieve. They are:

I want to assist my community with:

- Reducing Long-Term Effects and Death
- Resources to Respond
- Reducing Stigma

I want to assist individuals with:

- Access to Education and Basic Economic Security
- Safe, Stable, and Affordable Housing
- Optimizing Health and Well-Being
- Creating Strong Social and Community Connections

Searching by intended outcome allows the user to view strategies across the entire continuum of care that all support collective progress towards that outcome.

Alternatively, if you are working solely in one of these areas, you may also search strategies singularly by area along the continuum of care (i.e., prevention, early intervention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery, or system building).

Once an outcome or area on the continuum of care is selected, a list of strategies will pre-populate that correspond to that specific selection. You may then preview and select a strategy you would like to learn more about. Once a strategy is selected, it will direct you to a page full of content highlighting background information on that topic, key information or subtopics, recent data points or research, impactful federal, state, and local policies, promising practices and community success stories, and links to helpful toolkits, fact sheets, infographics, and technologies in the field.



Reducing Long-Term Effects and Death

Resources to Respond

Reducing Stigma

Access to Education and Basic Economic Security

Safe, Stable, and Affordable Housing

Optimizing Health and Well-Being

Creating Strong Social and Community Connections

Search by CONTINUUM OF CARE

Prevention

Early Intervention

Harm Reduction

Treatment

Recovery

System Building

I want to assist my community with: Reducing Injury, Morbidity, and Mortality

Prevention

- + Improve Protective Factors to Reduce SUDs
- + Become a Trauma-Informed Community
- + Prevent First Time Use and Misuse through Education
- + Reduce Non-Medical Access to Prescription Drugs
- + Reduce Over-Prescription of Prescription Drugs
- + Reduce Criminal Diversion of Prescription Drugs
- + Disrupt Supply of Illegal Drugs

Early Intervention

Harm Reduction

Treatment

Recovery

System Building

Some strategies have sub-strategies housed underneath them, as indicated by a plus sign on the left side. To view these sub-strategies, click the plus sign to expand the list or minus sign to roll up the list for easier viewing.

Users who choose the outcome, “I want to assist my community with reducing long-term effects and death,” can view all of the strategies contained in the SAFE Solutions platform.



SAFE Solutions

Page: Discussion Log In Request account

Read View source View history Search Made a Wiki

Increase Access to Overdose Reversal Medications

Plan to Open! No-Low Strategy Map or Zoom Map (Expand/Hide) Reduction Practices Available with Opioid Misuse or ZOOMMAP - Improve Access to Treatment and Prevent Overdose Deaths

Comments [10]

- 1 Overview
- 2 Key information
- 3 Relevant Resources
 - 3.1 Evidence about Changes of Law
- 4 Impactful Federal, State, and Local Policies
 - 4.1 Good Samaritan Laws
 - 4.2 Increasing Autonomy of Law
 - 4.3 Federal Changes to Address Problem
 - 4.4 State Law Passage
 - 4.5 Pharmacies
 - 4.6 New in 2015: Improved Access to Naloxone
 - 4.7 Law Enforcement Use of Naloxone
 - 4.8 Distribution of State Legislative Efforts
 - 4.8.1 Prevent Overdose strategies
- 5 Promising Practices
 - 5.1 Where Others
- 6 Tools & Resources
 - 6.1 Actions to Take
- 7 Sources

Overview

Naloxone (Narcan) is a prescription medicine that can reverse an opioid overdose or prevent long enough for the person to receive adequate medical care. It blocks the opioid receptors in the brain to prevent an opioid user's breathing and heart from slowing to fatal levels. Beginning in 2016, many states have made Narcan available to the general public as an over-the-counter drug to use as a nasal spray. Many other states are now working to pass laws that give police, first responders, and concerned family members the ability to carry and administer Narcan when called to a possible overdose situation. It is either injected or administered in a nasal spray.

While Narcan is not readily available by ordinary citizens, it can be easily administered with little or no formal training. State laws have made it difficult for citizens to obtain the life-saving medication, due to third party prescription and prescription vs. standing order policies. The third party prescription law prohibits the prescription of drugs to a third party other than whom the drugs will be given to, while the standing order law prohibits the prescription of drugs to a person not personally examined by the prescribing physician. Although, the drug could potentially save more lives if more widely distributed, there is fear of bystanders not wanting medical assistance due to possible prosecution against them.

According to a report by CADCA, a small community in Connecticut has made training for first responders to an overdose mandatory. Officers found a man in an unconscious state and realized he was overdosing. With the administration of Narcan, the man was able to recover from the overdose and regain consciousness.

Narcan has the potential to be very beneficial in communities with a high opioid problem. Making a community aware of this evidence, and its power to reverse overdose is a benefit unlike any other. Narcan will allow victims of abuse to be more likely to survive an overdose when first responders are not yet prepared. This medicine is one of the best if a community is struggling with an opioid problem. It has been effective in saving lives, giving people with addiction a chance to realize the origin of their problem and a chance to ask for help.^[1]

Key Information

There is some evidence that opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution programs increase knowledge of appropriate overdose response among participating opioid users and others likely to encounter an overdose situation. Naloxone distribution through such programs is associated with reduced overdose deaths and appears to increase participants' confidence in their ability to respond effectively to overdose situations. However, additional evidence is needed to confirm effects.

The purpose of SAFE Solutions is not to duplicate the great work already underway in the field. Rather, the platform helps to bring together that information, so that communities use their time and capacity to explore opportunities that best suit their needs. You will also find linked footnotes referencing data and research contained within SAFE Solutions. Because of this, most of the content within the strategies do contain links to external organizations and it may direct you away from SAFE Project's web page. Once you have finished reviewing a strategy, please be sure to return back to the main navigation page at www.yoursafesolutions.us to explore further strategies.

SAFE Project makes every effort to ensure this resource is functioning properly, however, if you come across a broken link, please email us directly at community@safeproject.us, so we may address that issue immediately.







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Stop the Addiction Fatality Epidemic