



**MESA COUNTY  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

# **NALOXONE KIOSK IMPACT REPORT**

*Expanding community access to life-saving overdose prevention.*

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# Context & Call to Action

## SUBSTANCE USE & OVERDOSE TRENDS

Drug overdose deaths in Mesa County have more than **tripled** since the early 2000s. The rate has increased from around 7.7 up to 25.0 deaths per 100,000 residents in recent years. Between 2020 and 2024, **198** Mesa County residents died from overdose, 82% of which were unintentional.

Mesa County also consistently experiences **higher rates** of nonfatal overdose emergency department visits than the Colorado average. In 2024, the local rate was 239.3 visits per 100,000 residents compared to 182.2 statewide.

Despite these higher emergency overdose rates, Mesa County's overdose mortality rate has remained closer to the statewide average. Local opioid overdose death rates have **stabilized** since 2021, while statewide opioid overdose death rates nearly doubled.



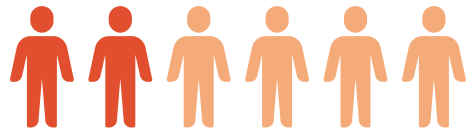
### THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GAP

From 2020 to 2024, 36% of individuals who died of a drug overdose in Mesa County had a diagnosed mental health condition. Only 17% of those who overdosed were actively receiving treatment.

### MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS AND ACTIVE TREATMENT AMONG OVERDOSE FATALITIES

**2 in 6**

Had a diagnosed mental health condition



**1 in 6**

Were actively receiving mental health treatment



SOURCE: SUDORS, 2020-2023

### WHAT IS NALOXONE?

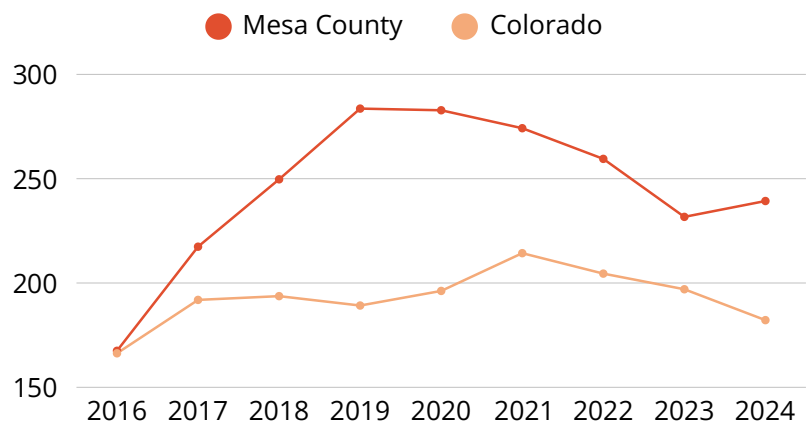


Naloxone is a safe, easy-to-use medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose. It is commonly known by the brand name, Narcan. It attaches to opioid receptors and blocks the effects of drugs such as fentanyl, heroin, morphine, oxycodone, methadone, and hydrocodone.

**No side effects:** It has no effect on someone who does not have opioids in their system. It cannot get someone high, and it cannot be abused.

**A first-aid staple:** Naloxone keeps for a long time, making it ideal to keep in a car or first-aid kit. Opioids can affect anyone, and having easy access gives all residents the power to save a life.

### EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS FOR OVERDOSE, AGE-ADJUSTED RATE PER 100,000 PEOPLE



SOURCE: [CDPHE OVERDOSE DASHBOARD](#)

# Intervention & Impact

## NALOXONE KIOSK PROGRAM

The Naloxone Kiosk Program is one of Mesa County Public Health’s (MCPH) community based overdose prevention strategies. Designed to address local behavioral health gaps, this low-barrier model **empowers residents** to respond immediately to overdoses, especially when EMS is delayed.

The program is funded through the CDC’s Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) framework via the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). OD2A specifically supports overdose prevention programs, outreach by people with lived experience, and **equal health outcomes** to reduce disparities in overdose deaths.

In partnership with the Western Colorado Area Health Education Center (WCAHEC), the kiosks are regularly maintained, tracked, and restocked to ensure **constant availability**.



### CURRENT KIOSK LOCATIONS

- **Libraries:** Clifton, Collbran, Orchard Mesa, Palisade
- **Higher Education:** University Center at Colorado Mesa University, Kayenta Hall at CMU Tech
- **Public Health & Safety:** Mesa County Public Health, Mesa County Sheriff’s Office, Mesa County Criminal Justice Services Treatment Center
- **Community Resources:** Colorado Health Network, Western Colorado Area Health Education Center, Lifespan Psychiatry of Colorado, Family Health West, Lighthouse Program, GVT Clifton Transfer Facility, Hilltop on Main Street, GVT West Transfer Facility

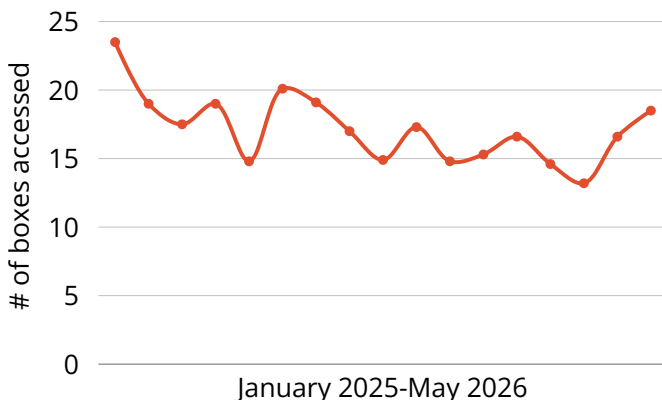
### DESIGNED FOR ACCESSIBILITY



- Free & anonymous
- High-visibility in public spaces
- Bilingual instructions
- QR codes to local resources
- Available across urban & rural communities

## KIOSK UTILIZATION

### AVERAGE DAILY NALOXONE BOX CONSUMPTION, MESA COUNTY



SOURCE: MCPH OVERDOSE DASHBOARD

# 9.5k boxes accessed

Residents have accessed around 9,500 boxes of naloxone through kiosk locations across Mesa County since the program launched in December 2024. This averages to approximately **17 kits per day**.



### ECONOMIC IMPACT

A national study estimated that every \$1 invested in community naloxone distribution programs yields \$2,742 in savings due to avoided healthcare costs and averted overdose fatalities. (Naumann, 2019)

# Community Response

## TOP THEMES

To better understand community experiences and the impact of the naloxone kiosk program, Mesa County Public Health collected feedback from both kiosk-hosting organizations and community members. Participants frequently expressed that the kiosks serve as a **vital piece of local safety infrastructure**.

### CIVIC PREPAREDNESS

Community members, social workers, transit workers, and staff use kiosks to keep kits nearby, similar to jumper cables or first aid kits for emergencies.



### ANONYMITY

The absence of intake forms, ID checks, or payment is widely praised for reducing stigma and enabling comfortable access.



### SAVING LIVES

Kiosk-hosting organizations and community members agree that if kiosks were removed, lives would be lost.



## TESTIMONIALS

"Staff found a person down (unconscious, unwitnessed) outside along 12th St. one night after dinner in February and provided multiple rounds of Narcan at roadside while awaiting EMS to arrive."

"I'm a social worker who travels to homes in the community. Protecting myself and those I work with is important to me."

"Recently my wife and I were driving down North Avenue when we noticed someone laying on the ground by a bus stop. We pulled over and he was an obvious overdose. So we used the naloxone and called 911. Thanks to its availability it saved his life as he was then able to walk to the ambulance."

“  
*My son died from fentanyl poisoning. Naloxone could have saved him if it was more accessible at the time.*  
”



# Overdose Education

## SAVE A LIFE WITH NALOXONE

### SIGNS OF OVERDOSE

- Pinpoint pupils
- Falling asleep or losing consciousness
- Slow, weak, or no breathing
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Cold and/or clammy skin
- Discolored skin, especially in lips and nails

### THE GOOD SAMARITAN LAW



In Colorado, a person is immune from criminal prosecution when they report, in good faith, an emergency drug or alcohol overdose to a law enforcement officer, the 911 system, or a medical provider.

### WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE IS OVERDOSING



Call 911 immediately.



Administer naloxone, if available.



Try to keep the person awake and breathing.



Lay the person on their side to prevent choking.



Stay with them until emergency workers arrive.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS



MESA COUNTY  
OPIOID RESPONSE  
GROUP



GRAND VALLEY  
CONNECTS

COLORADO  
HEALTH  
NETWORK  
INC.

Western Colorado  
WCAHEC  
Area Health Education Center

### REFERENCES

- Colorado Drug Overdose Dashboard, 2019-2023
- State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS), 2020-2023
- Mesa County Tell Us Community Survey, 2022
- Mesa County Community Health Needs Assessment, 2024