

Opioid Reversal Agent Distribution Program

Division of Pharmacy Services

Opioid Reversal Agent Distribution Program Overview

- Historically, no-cost naloxone distribution in Virginia has been **demand-driven**.
- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH), along with other state agency partners, has developed a plan to **distribute naloxone**, or other opioid reversal agents, and **harm reduction test strips to eligible entities and individuals at no cost** across Virginia.
- Current and future focus is distribution of **no-cost naloxone to high-priority populations and settings**, including:
 - People who use drugs (PWUD)
 - Friends, family, and caregivers of people who use drugs
 - People who work with people who use drugs
 - High-priority locations within communities, e.g., public schools, homeless service providers, juvenile detention centers
 - Organizations that have high levels of interaction with people who use drugs and their friends and family
- This focus ensures that naloxone is accessible in the event of an opioid overdose and allows VDH to continue providing no-cost naloxone to partners that have the most interaction with PWUD and therefore are likely to have greater impact on reducing overdose deaths.
- VDH continues to evaluate demand for naloxone, trends in opioid overdose, and feedback from community partners to further shape plans for strategic naloxone distribution.

Partner Organizations

VDH currently partners with and provides no-cost naloxone to the following organization types*:

- Authorized Comprehensive Harm Reduction Sites
- Community Services Boards
- Department of Corrections facilities
- Department of Juvenile Justice facilities
- Fire departments (non-EMS)
- Law enforcement (e.g., police departments)
- Licensed EMS
- Public K-12 school
- Local Health Departments
- Other High-Impact Naloxone Partners that serve high-risk populations, e.g., recovery and treatment centers, homeless service providers, free clinics

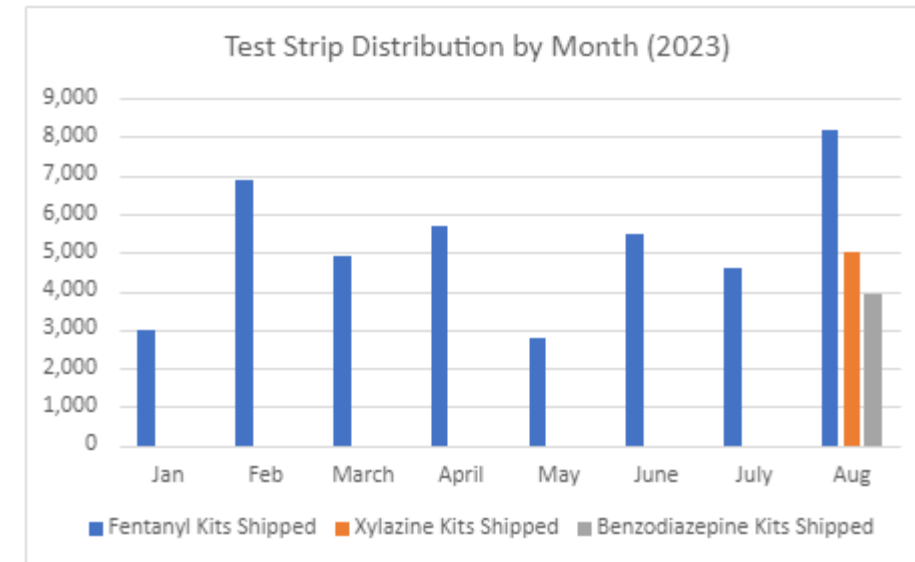
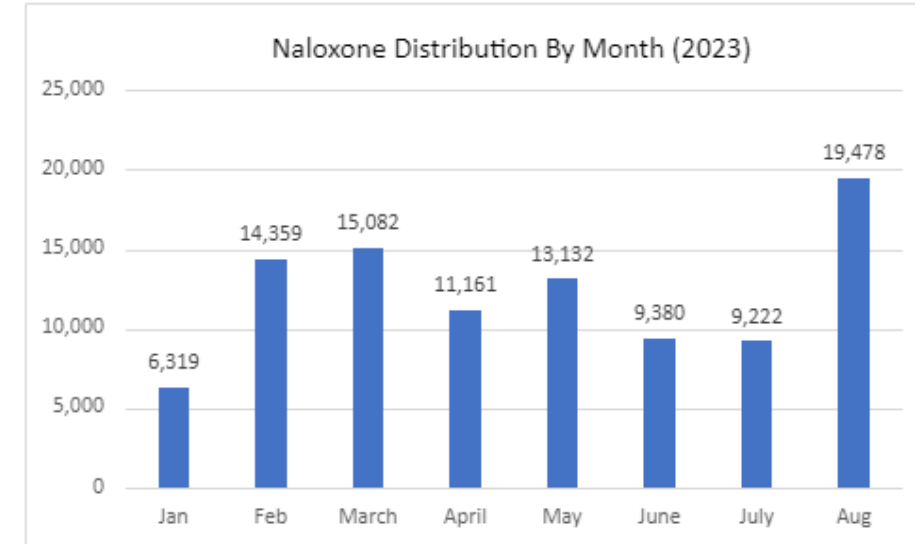
*VDH will continue to assess demand for naloxone and will be able to identify additional high-priority entities as needed.

Current Naloxone Partnership Activities:

- Distribution of no-cost naloxone to organizations and community partners that are considered "high-impact".
- Identification of additional "high-impact" organizations to partner with to ensure high-priority individuals have ready access to naloxone
- Development of organization-specific toolkits **for partners** to guide local efforts to obtain naloxone at the best pricing available to them and provide targeted education and resources to their respective populations.

Current Activities

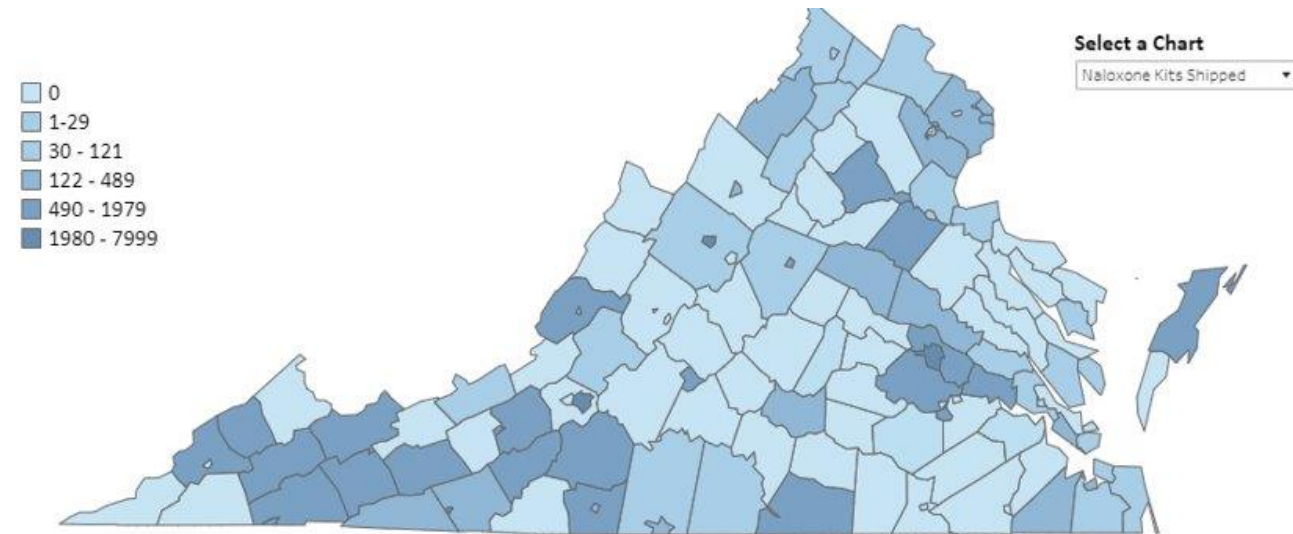
- Through the Division of Pharmacy Services (DPS), VDH ships:
 - Naloxone 4mg nasal spray to eligible organizations upon request
 - Fentanyl test strips (FTS), Xylazine test strips (XTS), and Benzodiazepine test strips (BTS) to local health departments, authorized comprehensive harm reduction sites, and community service boards.
- Eligible organizations may keep naloxone on-hand as **undesignated stock** available to use in the event of suspected overdose, to **dispense to individuals**, and/or **leave behind doses** following an emergency call.
- DPS is focusing on distribution of no-cost naloxone to **high-impact settings**, i.e., organizations that have high levels of interaction with people who use drugs and their friends and family, as well as the development of a mail-to-home program that allows high-risk individuals to request naloxone to be shipped directly to their homes to improve access to high-impact individuals.



Note: VDH began distributing XTS and BTS in August 2023

Naloxone Distribution-Current Activities, Continued

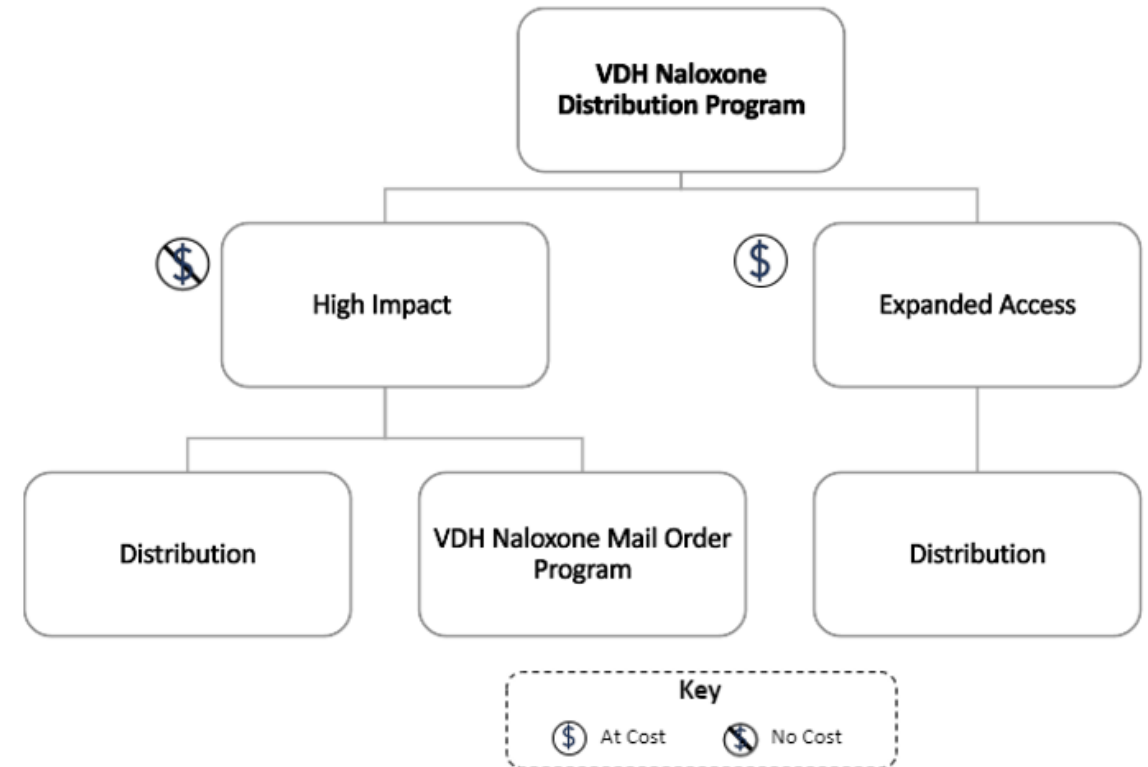
- Development of Naloxone Distribution and Saturation Plan
- VDH continues to strategize funding solutions and recently received a \$1,000,000 award from Opioid Abatement Authority to purchase naloxone
- VDH has distributed over 29,000 naloxone kits to eligible settings in SFY24 (as of 9/8)
- VDH distribution of naloxone to schools to date during Calendar Year 2023 has seen a 3-fold increase as compared to the number of kits distributed to schools in 2022



Map: Naloxone Distribution by Locality

Expanded Access to Naloxone

- **Local funding sources** may be available to organizations that want to **purchase/obtain naloxone and enable wider access.**
- Organizations not eligible for no-cost naloxone but may **purchase naloxone from VDH at competitive pricing.**
- These organizations **may not have high levels of interaction with PWUD**, but as opioid use touches the whole of communities, may wish to access naloxone.
- These funds supplement federal and state-funded naloxone.



Alternative Access to Naloxone

- Virginia has a standing order allowing for anyone to receive **prescription naloxone** from a retail pharmacy without an individual prescription. While there is a cost, individuals can access via their insurance, if applicable.
- Organizations may work directly with manufacturers and/or wholesalers to purchase naloxone.
- Name brand Narcan® 4mg nasal spray is now available in stores as an **OTC product**. Narcan 4mg nasal spray 2-pack can be purchased in stores for \$44.99.
- VDH recognizes that responding to the opioid crisis is a whole community effort and is committed to promoting naloxone access while reserving state resources for the highest priority and highest impact settings.