

# Naloxone Distribution from the Ground Up: *A Local Approach to Saturation*

Chris Smith, Overdose Prevention Liaison

June 17, 2025



# Chris Smith, RN-BSN

Overdose Prevention Liaison  
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- Emergency Medical Technician
  - 3 years
- Registered Nurse
  - Emergency Department
    - 5 years
  - Public Health/Harm Reduction
    - 7 years

# The 2025-2026 Kentucky Naloxone Saturation Strategic Plan is readable, actionable, and shareable.

## Kentucky Naloxone Saturation Strategic Plan: 2025-2026



To reduce overdose mortality in an equitable manner across the commonwealth, government agencies and community-based organizations must collaborate to distribute naloxone, the drug used to reverse opioid overdose. Implementing this naloxone saturation strategic plan will maximize the impact of resources, support coordination across agencies and enable Kentucky to significantly reduce overdose mortality in disproportionately affected communities.

Saturation means that naloxone is available for at least 80% of witnessed overdoses (Irvine et al., 2022). Saturation in Kentucky will require delivery of Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) to people most likely to witness overdose. Strategic planning will focus resources proactively by promoting naloxone saturation across key agencies on a statewide level (top-down), while simultaneously prioritizing local saturation at the county level based on need and readiness (bottom-up). This approach will address changing patterns of substance use in a rapidly evolving risk environment.

**As the landscape of risk continues to change, rates of opioid overdose remain elevated in Kentucky, particularly among Black, Hispanic, and Appalachian Kentuckians.**

Opioid overdose deaths among Kentucky residents by ethnicity and race, 2019–2023

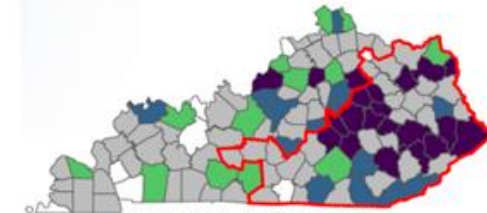
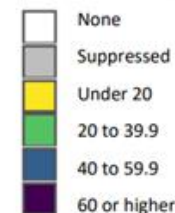
Race	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022-2023 % change	2019-2023 % change
Hispanic	7.8	12.2	13.7	22.1	17.8	-19%	+128%
Non-Hispanic Black	22.2	38.6	53.4	59.3	58.6	-1%	+164%
Non-Hispanic White	25.2	40.5	44.4	40.8	36.4	-11%	+44%

Opioid overdose deaths among Kentucky residents by Appalachian region, 2019–2023

Region	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022-2023 % change	2019-2023 % change
Appalachian counties	21.7	39.4	51.6	47.2	47.4	0%	+118%
Non-Appalachian counties	24.1	36.9	39.3	38.1	32.8	-14%	+36%

*Rates have been age-adjusted using the US Standard 2000 population and are presented as the number of deaths per 100,000 population.*

Drug overdose deaths by Kentucky county of residence, 2023



Red line denotes Appalachian counties.

(Steel et al., 2024)

Strategic planning will focus resources proactively by promoting naloxone saturation across key agencies on a statewide level (top-down), while simultaneously prioritizing local saturation at the county level based on need and readiness (bottom-up).



#### Top-down

This plan will support critically positioned agencies across Kentucky by providing technical assistance with policy creation to implement standardized distribution of naloxone to individuals likely to witness overdose. These policies will emphasize opt-out, hand-to-hand distribution over written prescriptions. The following distribution settings will be offered technical assistance to implement agency-wide naloxone distribution policies.

- Administrative Office of the Courts
  - Pretrial Services
  - Alternative Sentencing Program
  - Specialty Courts
- Community Mental Health Centers
- Regional Prevention Centers
- Department of Corrections
  - State Prisons
  - Regional Jails
- Probation and Parole
- Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers
- Rural Health Clinics
- Hospitals
  - Emergency Departments
  - Labor and Delivery, Perinatal Units
- Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services
- Local Health Departments
- Narcotic Treatment Programs
- Recovery Community Centers

#### Bottom-up

Local saturation will require tailored technical assistance to implement naloxone distribution strategies that focus on people most likely to witness overdose. The Kentucky Department for Public Health Overdose Prevention Liaison will work with Local Health Departments, Kentucky Income Reinvestment Program's Target 4 Project Health Education Coordinators, and local Collaboration Specialists embedded in Community Mental Health Centers to provide capacity-building technical assistance to communities in response to trends in overdose mortality.

This team will evaluate local factors contributing to overdose trends and help partners select and tailor strategies that promote naloxone saturation within each community's unique social-ecological landscape. Working from materials published on the Find Naloxone Now KY website, this technical assistance will support Local Health Departments and community-based organizations to collaborate with people with lived experience and provide OEND to people most likely to witness overdose.

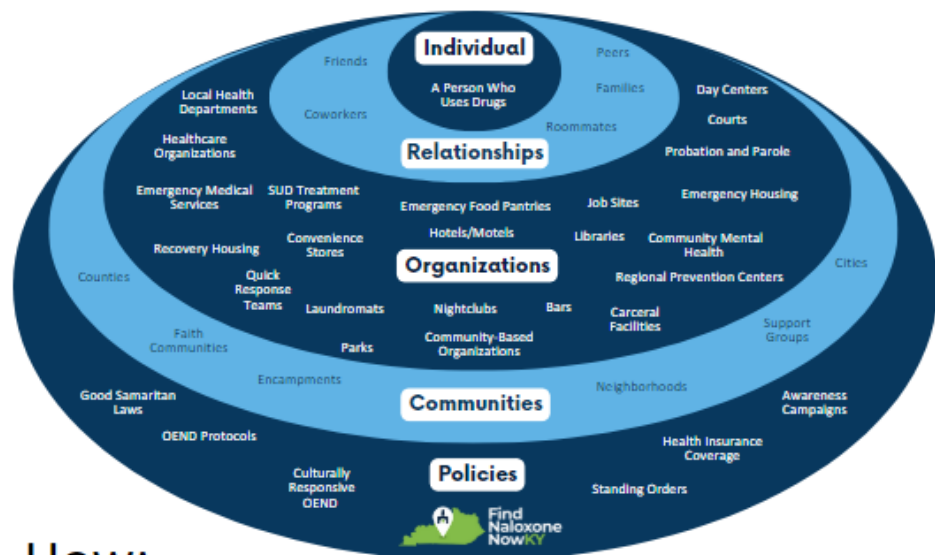
# Saturation Plan

**What:** Distribute naloxone, the drug used to reverse opioid overdose.



## Who and Where:

Distribute naloxone to the people most likely to witness overdose in the places where it is needed most.



## How:

Active distribution strategies bring naloxone to people, meeting them where they are and offering support.

- Community OEND Events
- Culturally Responsive OEND Materials
- First Responder Leave-Behind
- Mail Order
- Opt-Out Hand-to-Hand Distribution
- Secondary or Peer-to-Peer Distribution
- Quick Response Teams (Post-Overdose Response Teams)

Passive distribution strategies make naloxone available to communities, conveniently and anonymously.

- Harm Reduction Vending Machines
- Emergency Naloxone Storage Boxes
- Naloxone Kiosks

## Looking Forward

Through implementation of this plan, top-down and bottom-up strategies merge to inform a dynamic and evolving approach to statewide naloxone saturation. Standardized naloxone distribution policies across identified agencies will further normalize carrying naloxone across the commonwealth. This increased acceptance will, in turn, expand local opportunities for capacity building and technical assistance. Through publication and dissemination, this plan will also serve as a resource for independent and local implementation of the outlined strategies. The collaborative partnerships that result from all of these efforts will help us continue to identify new agency partners, distribution locations, and innovative strategies as we work to ensure that naloxone is available when and where it is needed most.

## Acknowledgements

**Chase Barnes**, MPH, Harm Reduction Program Manager, Kentucky Department for Public Health

**John Bowman**, Kentucky Senior Campaign Coordinator, Dream.org

**Ben Goldman**, MA, Community Health Administrator, Behavioral Health Equity Team, Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness

**Caitlyn Hood**, PhD, Project Director, Kentucky Overdose Response Effort, Assistant Director, Kentucky Division of Substance Use Disorder, Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

**Van Ingram**, Executive Director, Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy

**Josiah Jagers**, PharmD, Director of Pharmacy Public Health Programs, Kentucky Pharmacy Education and Research Foundation

**Katherine Marks**, PhD, Commissioner, Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

**Chris Smith**, RN, BSN, Overdose Prevention Liaison, Kentucky Department for Public Health, Vital Strategies

**Shelly Steiner**, CPS, Prevention/Harm Reduction Implementation Specialist, Kentucky Overdose Response Effort, Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

## References

Irvine, M. A., Oller, D., Boggis, J., Bishop, B., Coombs, D., Wheeler, E., Doe-Simkins, M., Walley, A. Y., Marshall, B. D. L., Bratberg, J., & Green, T. C. (2022). Estimating naloxone need in the USA across fentanyl, heroin, and prescription opioid epidemics: a modelling study. *The Lancet. Public health*, 7(3), e210–e218.  
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(21\)00304-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(21)00304-2)

Steel, M., Mirzaian, M., Daniels, L. (2024). Kentucky Resident Drug Overdose Deaths, 2019–2023: Annual Report, Updated May 2024. Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center.  
[https://kiprc.uky.edu/sites/default/files/2024-07/2023\\_2019\\_od2a\\_overdosemortalityannualreport.pdf](https://kiprc.uky.edu/sites/default/files/2024-07/2023_2019_od2a_overdosemortalityannualreport.pdf)



## The 2025-2026 Kentucky Naloxone Saturation Strategic Plan is a collaborative effort:

- Kentucky Department for Public Health
- Dream.org
- Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness
- Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
- Kentucky Pharmacy Education and Research Foundation
- Kentucky Overdose Response Effort
- Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy

# What is naloxone saturation?

Saturation means that naloxone is available for at least 80% of witnessed overdoses.

(Irvine et al., 2022)

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ARTICLES · Volume 7, Issue 3, E210-E218, March 2022 · [Open Access](#) [Download Full Issue](#)

## Estimating naloxone need in the USA across fentanyl, heroin, and prescription opioid epidemics: a modelling study

[Michael A Irvine, PhD<sup>a,b</sup>](#) · [Declan Oller, PhD<sup>c</sup>](#) · [Jesse Boggis, MPH<sup>d</sup>](#) · [Brian Bishop, PharmD<sup>e</sup>](#) · [Prof Daniel Coombs, PhD<sup>f</sup>](#) · [Eliza Wheeler, MPA<sup>g</sup>](#) et al. [Show more](#)

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### Summary

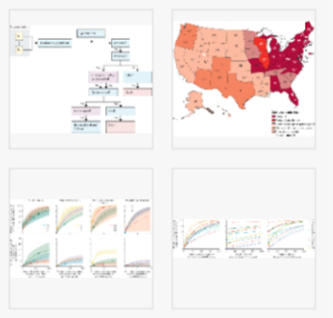
**Background**

The US overdose crisis is driven by fentanyl, heroin, and prescription opioids. One evidence-based policy response has been to broaden naloxone distribution, but how much naloxone a community would need to reduce the incidence of fatal overdose is unclear. We aimed to estimate state-level US naloxone need in 2017 across three main naloxone access points (community-based programmes, provider prescription, and pharmacy-initiated distribution) and by dominant opioid epidemic type (fentanyl, heroin, and prescription opioid).

**Methods**

In this modelling study, we developed, parameterised, and applied a mechanistic model of risk of opioid overdose and used it to estimate the expected reduction in opioid overdose mortality after deployment of a given number of two-dose naloxone kits. We performed a literature review and used a modified Delphi panel to inform parameter definitions. We refined an established model of

**Figures (4)** [Figure Viewer](#)



# What is naloxone saturation in Kentucky?



Saturation in Kentucky will require delivery of Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) to people most likely to witness overdose.

**As the landscape of risk continues to change, rates of opioid overdose remain elevated in Kentucky, particularly among Black and Hispanic Kentuckians.**

**Opioid overdose deaths among Kentucky residents by ethnicity and race, 2019–2023**

Race	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022-2023 % change	2019-2023 % change
Hispanic	7.8	12.2	13.7	22.1	17.8	-19%	+128%
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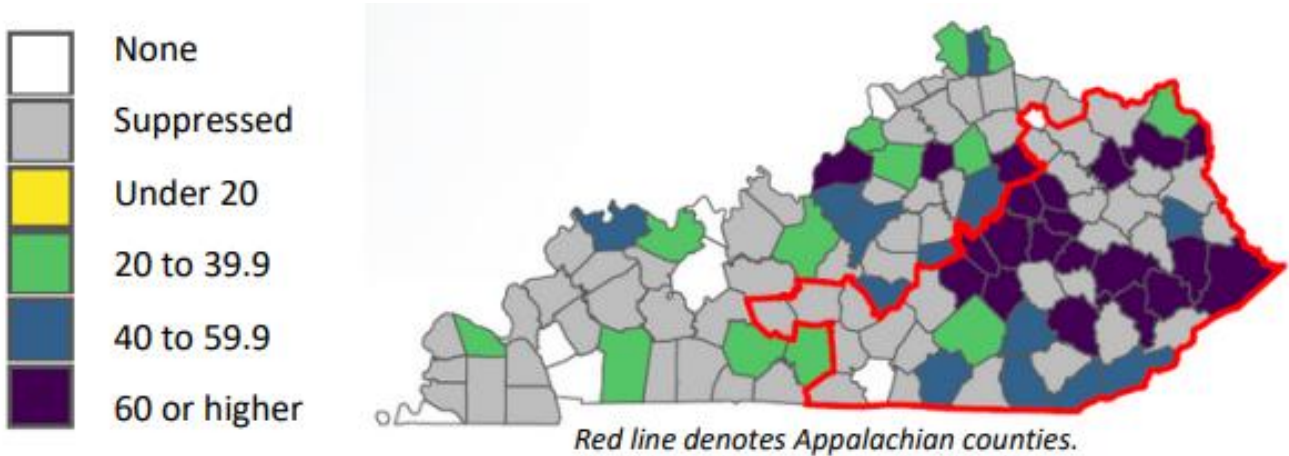
Steel et al., 2024

As the landscape of risk continues to change, rates of opioid overdose remain elevated in Kentucky, particularly among Appalachian Kentuckians.

Opioid overdose deaths among Kentucky residents by Appalachian region, 2019–2023

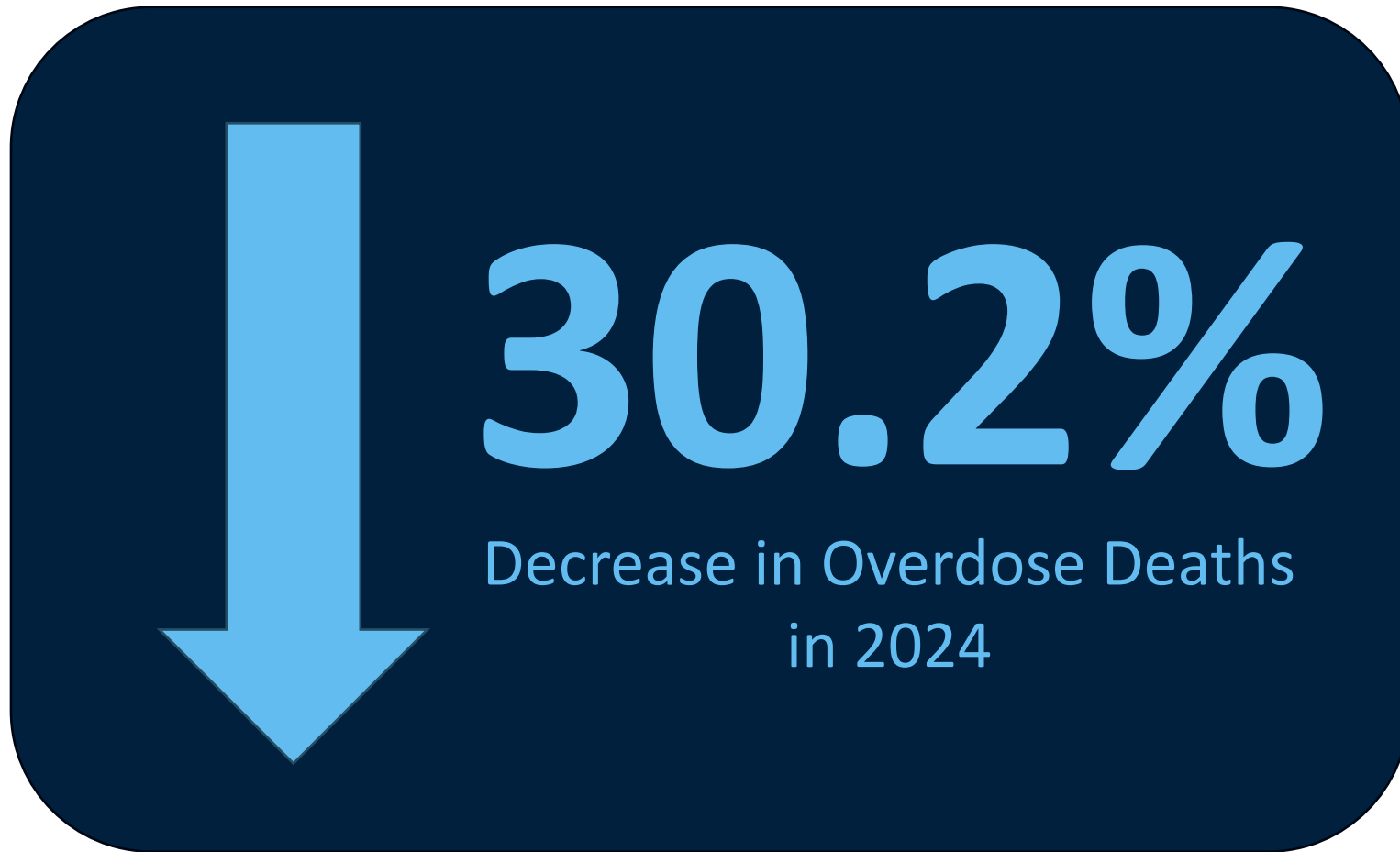
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Rates have been age-adjusted using the US Standard 2000 population and are presented as the number of deaths per 100,000 population.



Steel et al., 2024

# We are starting to see significant improvement.



Steel & Daniels, 2025

# Disparities remain but are improving, too.

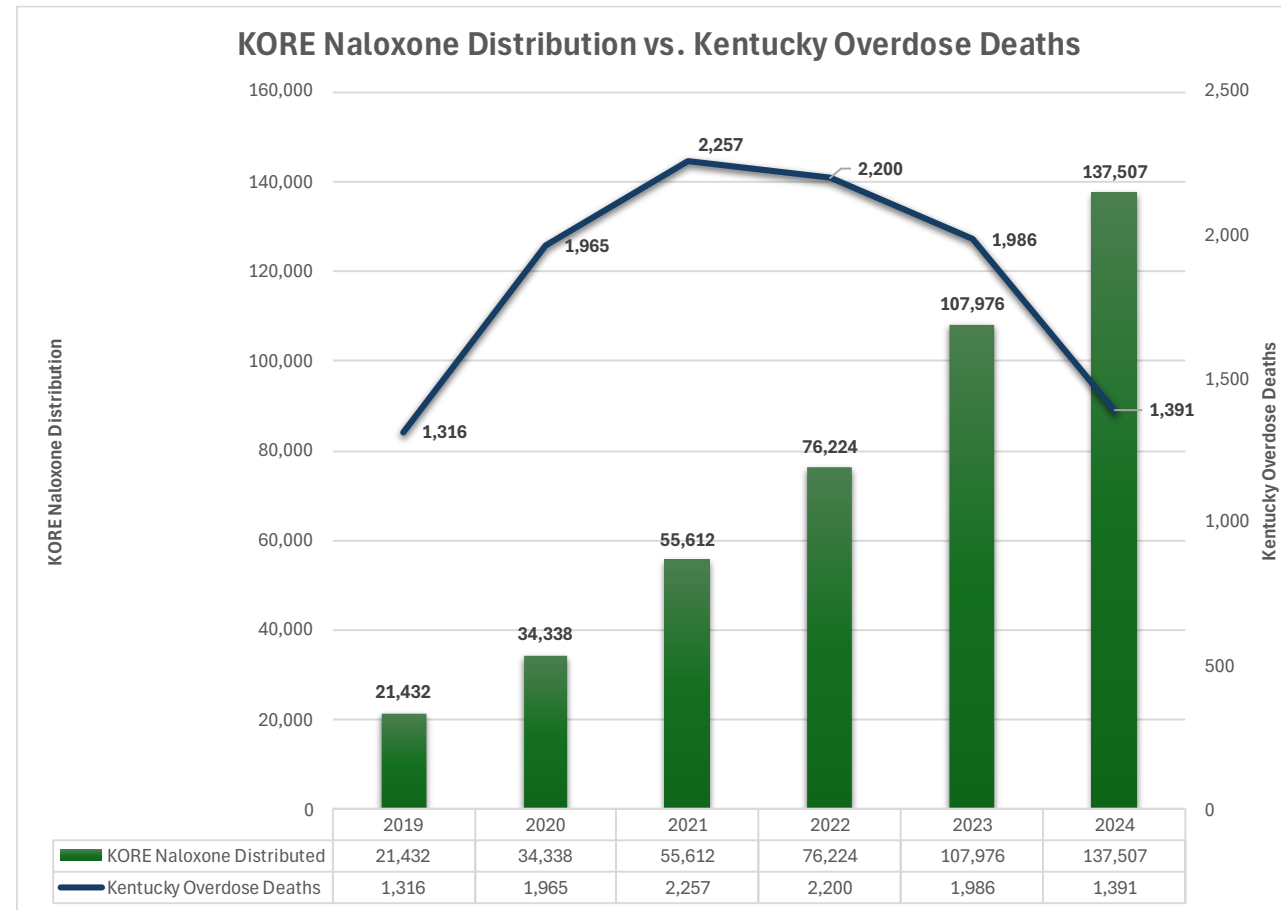
## Drug overdose deaths among Kentucky residents by race, 2022–2024

Race	2022	2023	2024	2023-2024 % change
Black	67.5	69.2	43.3	-37.4
White	51.3	45.7	31.6	-30.9
Other	20.2	16.7	12.2	-26.9

*Rates have been age-adjusted using the US Standard 2000 population and are presented as the number of deaths per 100,000 population.*

Steel & Daniels, 2025

# Decreased overdose mortality is correlated with increased naloxone distribution.



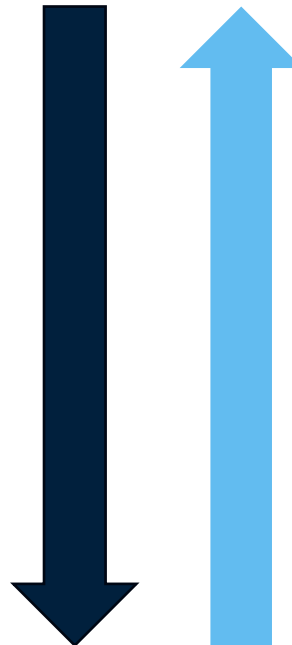
Data Sources: Kentucky Pharmacy Education and Resource Foundation, Kentucky Injury Prevention Resource Center

# Strategic planning focuses resources proactively.

by promoting naloxone saturation across key agencies on a statewide level,  
while simultaneously prioritizing local saturation at the county level  
based on need and readiness.

## Top Down

Provide technical assistance  
to support statewide agencies  
to develop and implement  
policies to standardize  
naloxone distribution to  
people most likely to witness  
overdose.



## Bottom Up

Provide technical assistance to  
support local communities to  
choose and implement  
naloxone distribution  
strategies focused on people  
most likely to witness  
overdose.

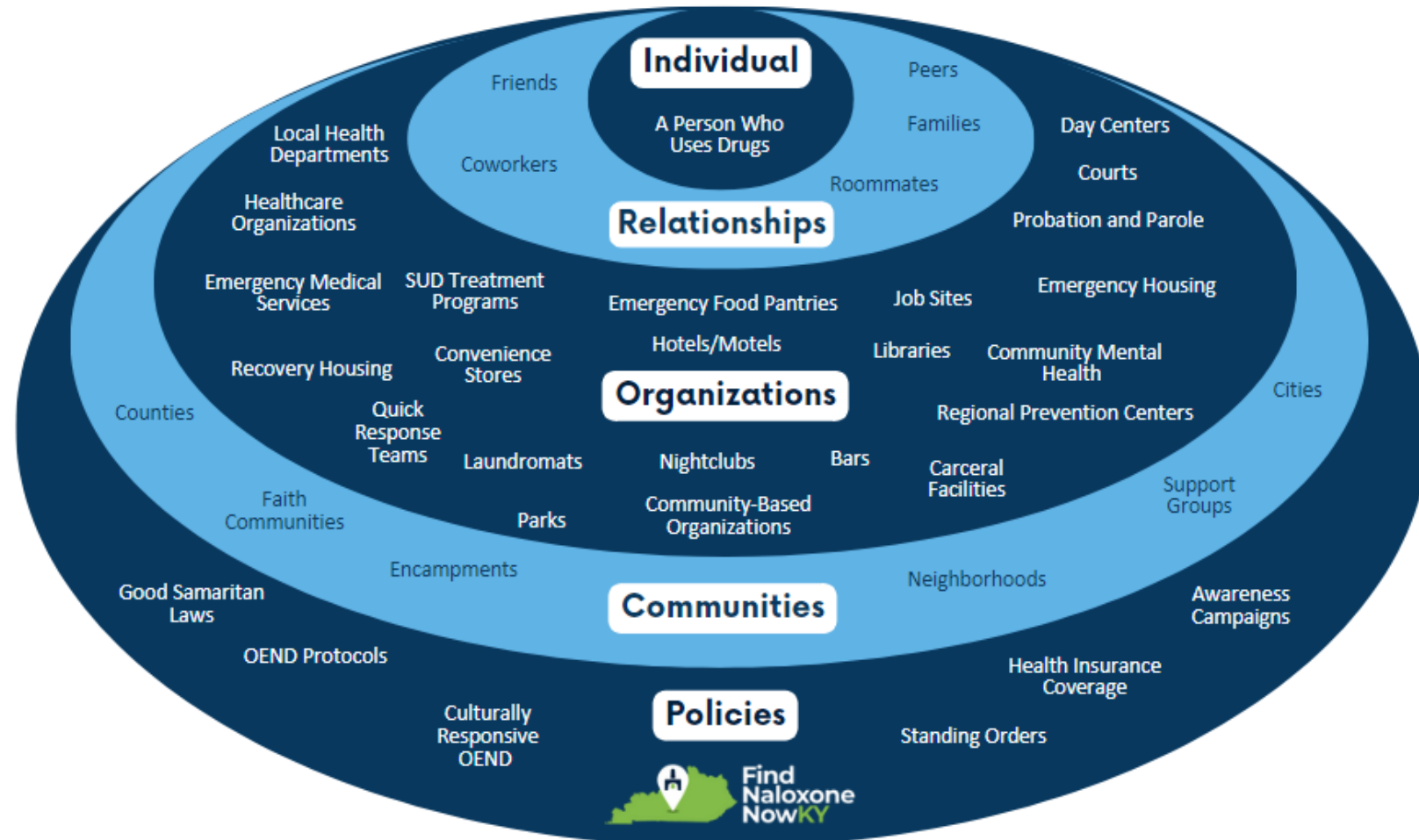
# What?

# Who?

# Where?



Distribute naloxone to the people most likely to witness overdose in the places where it is needed most.



# How?

## Active distribution strategies

bring naloxone to people, meeting them where they are and offering support.

- Community OEND Events
- Culturally Responsive OEND Materials
- First Responder Leave-Behind
- Mail Order
- Opt-Out Hand-to-Hand Distribution
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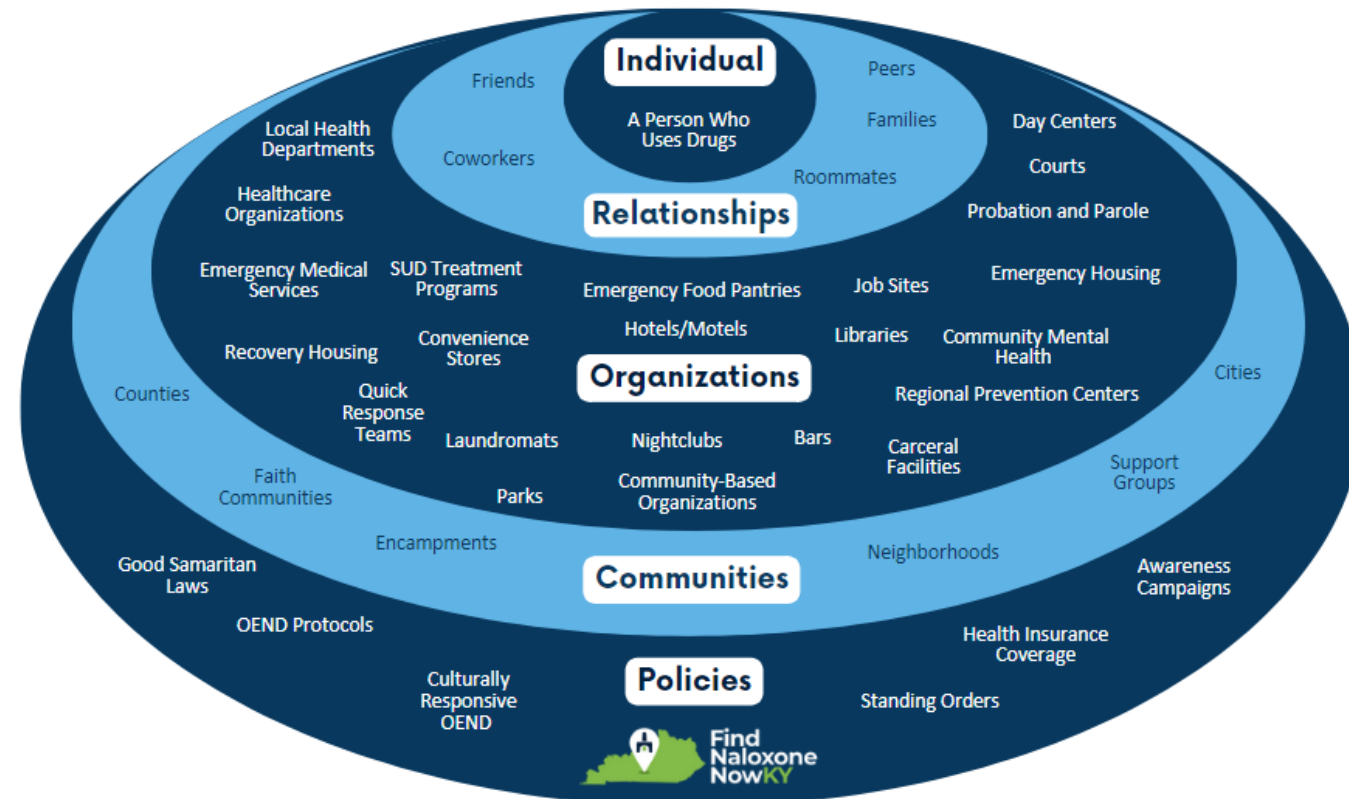
## Passive distribution strategies

make naloxone available to communities, conveniently and anonymously.

- Harm Reduction Vending Machines
- Emergency Naloxone Storage Boxes
- Naloxone Kiosks

# Who?

# Where?



“...government agencies and community-based organizations must collaborate to distribute naloxone...”



Kentucky Department for Public Health

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## Find Naloxone NowKY

Find Naloxone Now is a website that connects Kentuckians to naloxone, the drug used to reverse opioid overdose.

Reverse overdose. Save lives.  
Find naloxone near you.

Search for Naloxone by:

- City or Zip Code
- County

Locations Where Naloxone is Available:

- Community-Based Organizations
- County and Vending Machines
- Emergency Medical Services
- Healthcare Organizations
- Other Agencies
- Regional Prevention Centers

For more information Contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health Harm Reduction Program at: [HarmReduction@ky.gov](mailto:HarmReduction@ky.gov)

See reverse side for FAQs

## Naloxone Kiosks

Naloxone kiosks are publicly accessible outdoor boxes that are designed to distribute naloxone anonymously around-the-clock.

Naloxone Kiosks can be placed anywhere in your community where there is increased risk for overdose.

Unlike vending machines, these boxes are inexpensive, portable and can be placed outside.

For more information Contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health Harm Reduction Program at: [HarmReduction@ky.gov](mailto:HarmReduction@ky.gov)

See reverse side for FAQs

## Naloxone Leave Behind

Naloxone leave behind is a collaboration between public health and public safety that allows First Responders to leave naloxone on-scene with patients and their support system.

First Responders who carry naloxone can distribute it to those who need it most.

For more information Contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health Harm Reduction Program at: [HarmReduction@ky.gov](mailto:HarmReduction@ky.gov)

See reverse side for FAQs

## Quick Response Teams

Quick Response Teams (QRTs) follow up with people who have survived an overdose, offering naloxone and linkage to life-saving community support.

For more information Contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health Harm Reduction Program at: [HarmReduction@ky.gov](mailto:HarmReduction@ky.gov)

See reverse side for FAQs

## Naloxone To GO

It's now easier than ever for hospitals and healthcare organizations to distribute naloxone directly to people that are likely to witness overdose.

Hand-to-hand opt-out distribution gets naloxone to where it's needed most.

For more information Contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health Harm Reduction Program at: [HarmReduction@ky.gov](mailto:HarmReduction@ky.gov)

See reverse side for FAQs

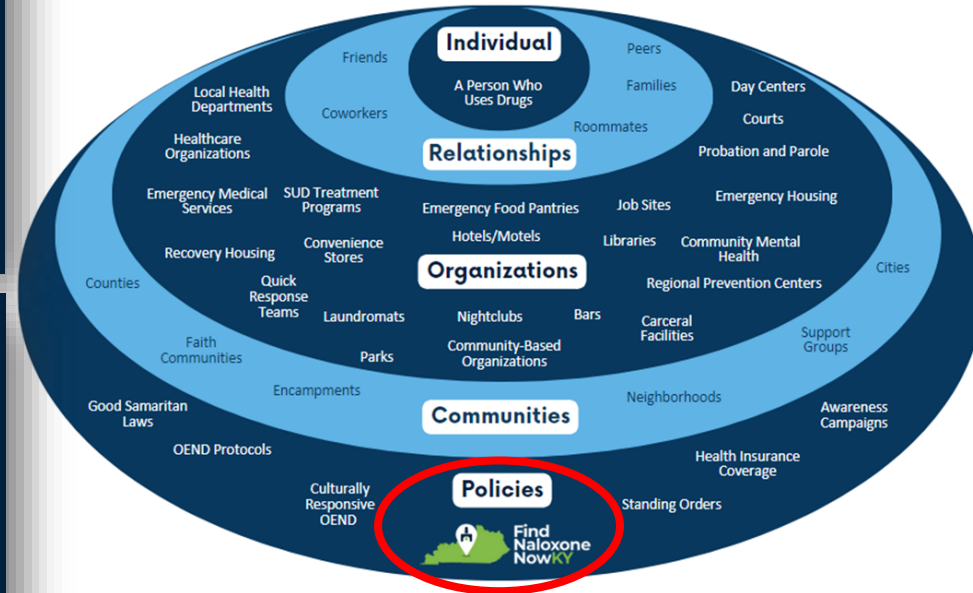
## Peer-to-Peer or Secondary Naloxone Distribution

People who get naloxone from your program likely know other people who need it, too.

Secondary naloxone distribution means making sure trusted community members have enough naloxone to pass along to their peers.

For more information Contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health Harm Reduction Program at: [HarmReduction@ky.gov](mailto:HarmReduction@ky.gov)

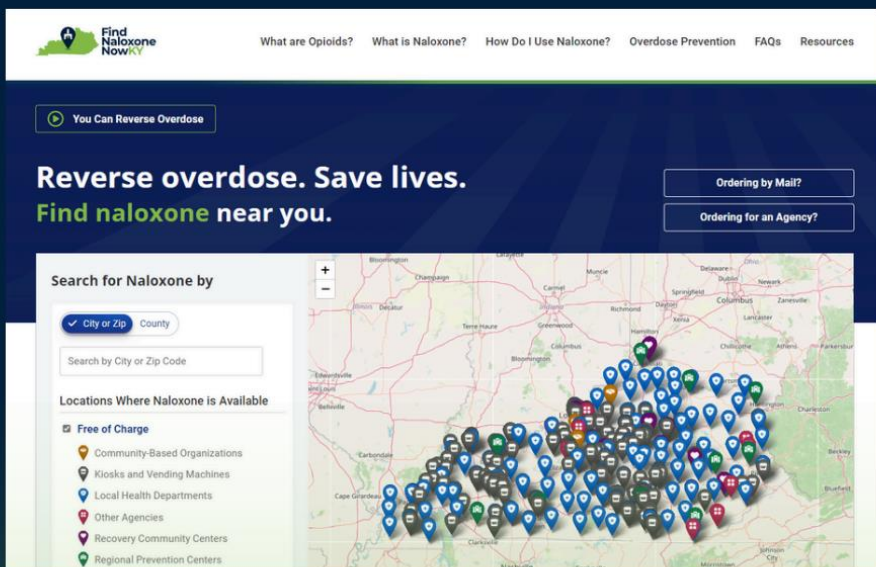
See reverse side for FAQs





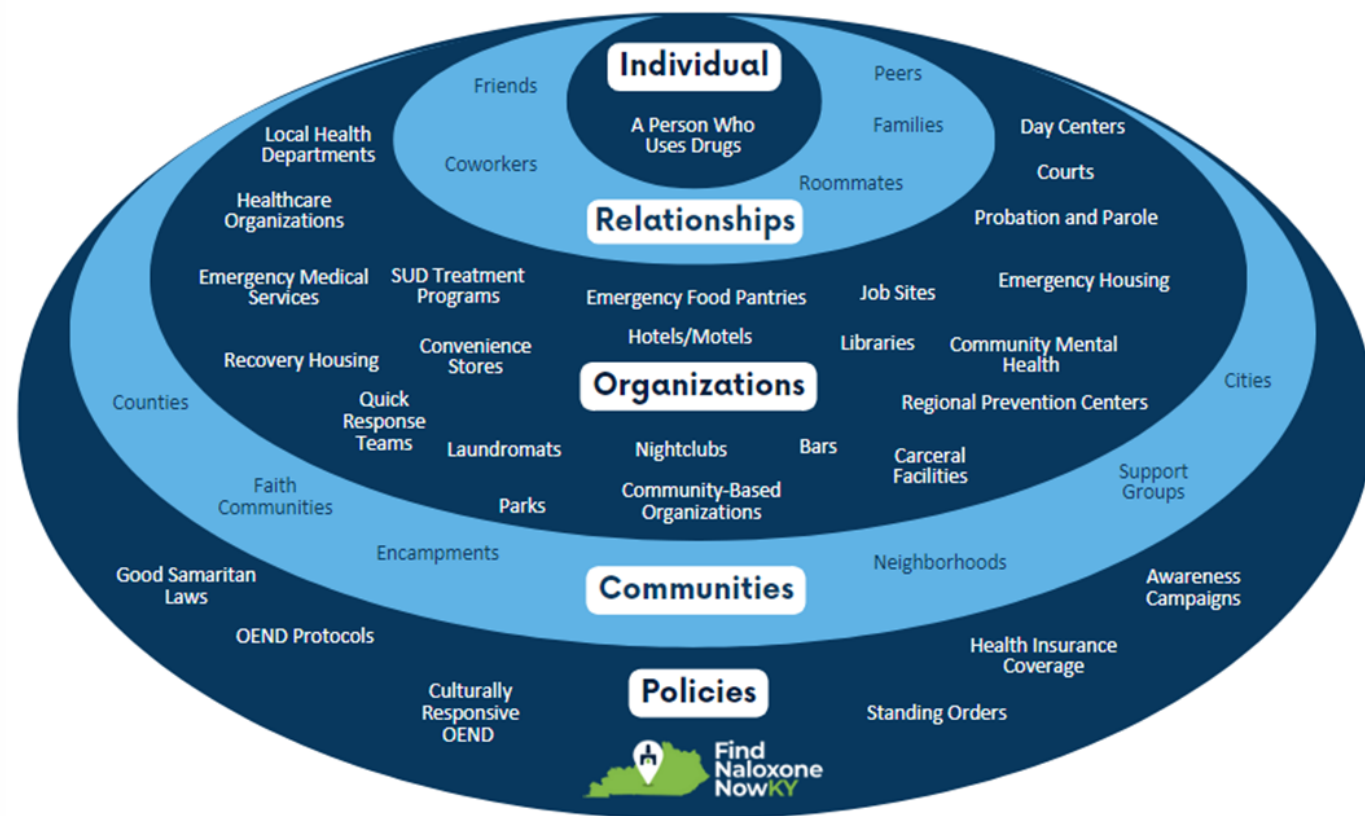
# Find Naloxone Now KY

Find Naloxone Now is a website that connects Kentuckians to naloxone, the drug used to reverse opioid overdose.



For more information Contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health Harm Reduction Program at:  
[HarmReduction@ky.gov](mailto:HarmReduction@ky.gov)

See reverse side for FAQs



# Find Naloxone Now KY

**Find Naloxone Now KY**

What are Opioids? What is Naloxone? How Do I Use Naloxone? Overdose Prevention FAQs Resources

**You Can Reverse Overdose**

**Reverse overdose. Save lives.**  
**Find naloxone near you.**

**Search for Naloxone by**

☒ City or Zip ☐ County

Search by City or Zip Code

**Locations Where Naloxone is Available**

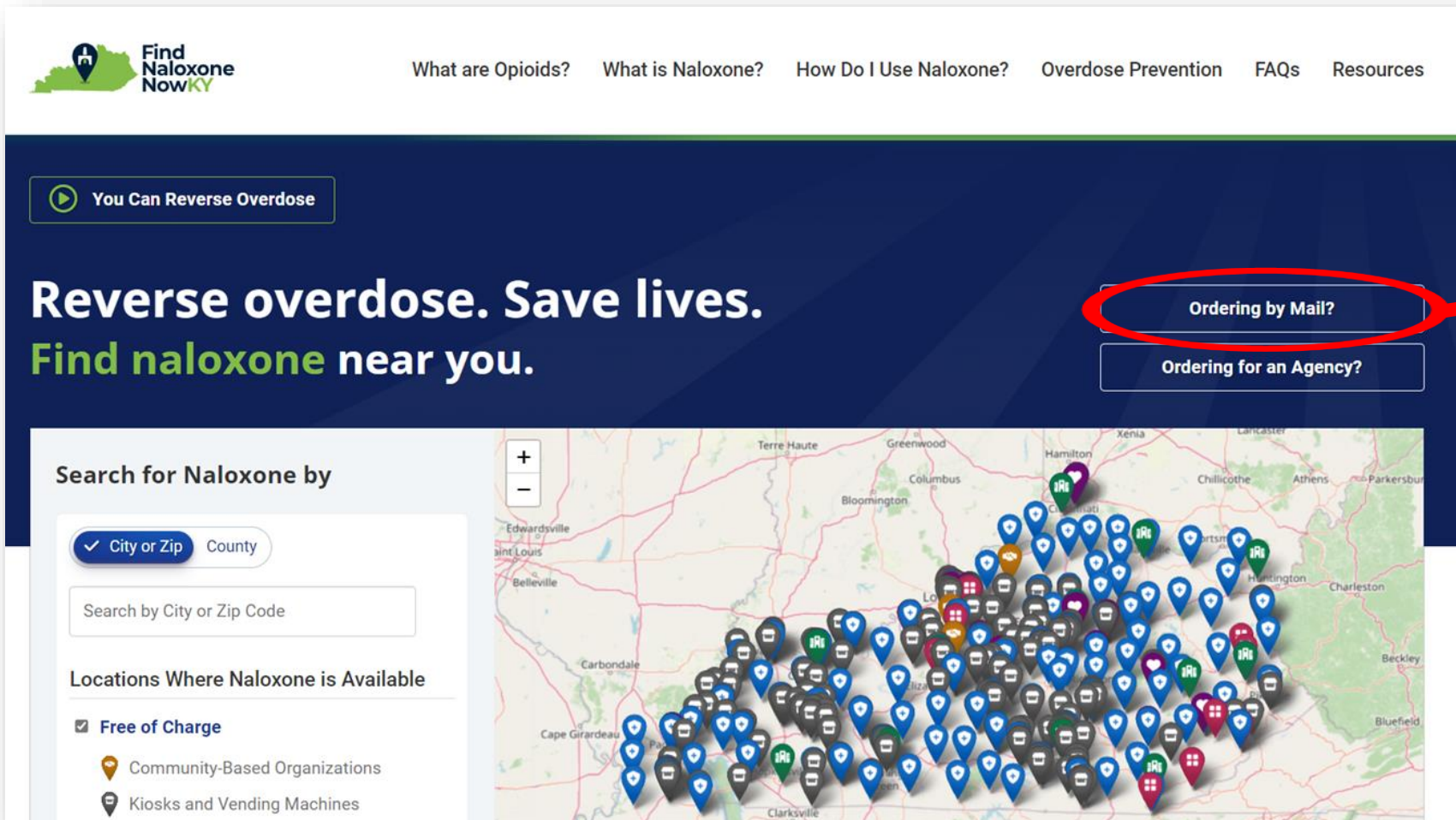
☒ Free of Charge

- Community-Based Organizations
- Stands and Vending Machines

The map shows numerous location pins across Kentucky, with a red arrow pointing from a pin to the Find Naloxone Now KY logo on the right.



# Ordering by Mail?

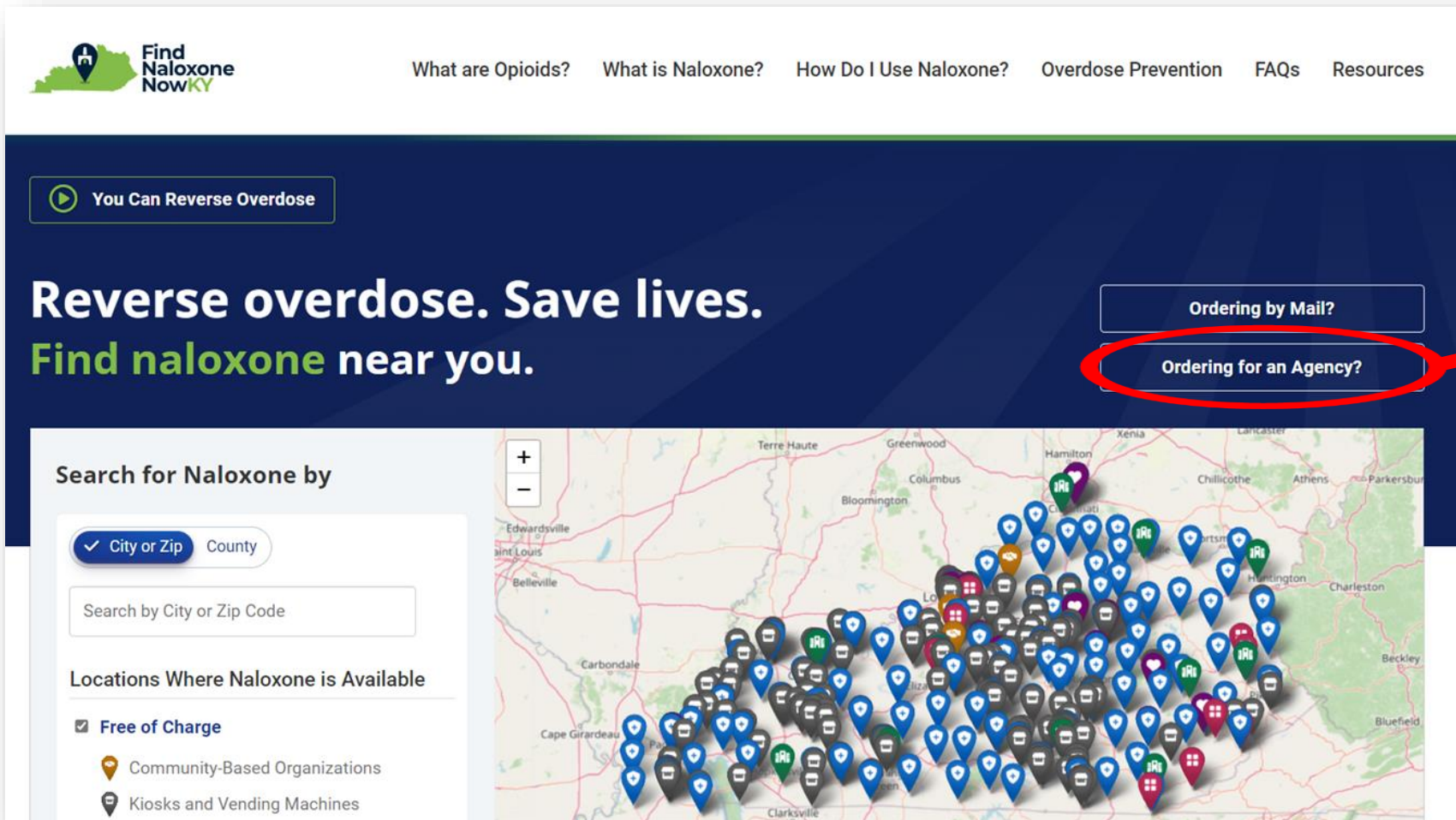


The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Find Naloxone Now KY' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: 'What are Opioids?', 'What is Naloxone?', 'How Do I Use Naloxone?', 'Overdose Prevention', 'FAQs', and 'Resources'. Below the navigation bar, a dark blue banner features the text 'Reverse overdose. Save lives. Find naloxone near you.' and a button labeled 'You Can Reverse Overdose'. On the right side of the banner, two buttons are visible: 'Ordering by Mail?' (circled in red) and 'Ordering for an Agency?'. Below the banner, there is a search section titled 'Search for Naloxone by' with a dropdown menu set to 'City or Zip' and a search input field. To the right of the search section is a map of Kentucky with numerous location pins indicating where naloxone is available. A legend on the left of the map lists 'Free of Charge' locations, including 'Community-Based Organizations' and 'Kiosks and Vending Machines'.

Ordering by Mail?



# Ordering for an Agency?



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Find Naloxone Now KY

What are Opioids? What is Naloxone? How Do I Use Naloxone? Overdose Prevention FAQs Resources

You Can Reverse Overdose

Reverse overdose. Save lives.  
Find naloxone near you.

Ordering by Mail?

Ordering for an Agency?

Search for Naloxone by

City or Zip County

Search by City or Zip Code

Locations Where Naloxone is Available

☒ Free of Charge

- Community-Based Organizations
- Kiosks and Vending Machines

Ordering for an Agency?



# Find Naloxone Now KY: How Do I Use Naloxone?

Overdose response training materials are available on [Find Naloxone Now KY](#), Kentucky's naloxone access website.

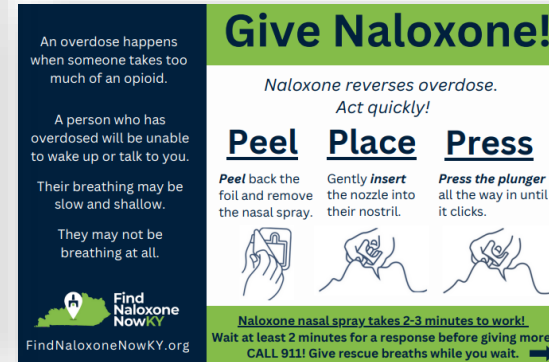


A screenshot of the Find Naloxone Now KY website. The top navigation bar includes links for "What are Opioids?", "What is Naloxone?", "How Do I Use Naloxone?", "Overdose Prevention", "FAQs", and "Resources". The "How Do I Use Naloxone?" link is circled in red, with a red arrow pointing to it from the text on the left. Below the navigation bar, there is a dark blue banner with the text "Reverse overdose. Save lives. Find naloxone near you." and two buttons: "Ordering by Mail?" and "Ordering for an Agency?". Below the banner, there is a search section titled "Search for Naloxone by" with a dropdown menu set to "City or Zip" and a search input field. To the right of the search section is a map of Kentucky with numerous location pins indicating where naloxone is available. The pins are color-coded: blue for "Community-Based Organizations" and grey for "Kiosks and Vending Machines".

# Overdose Response

Click the [How do I Use Naloxone?](#) tab for overdose response training materials including:

- trifold brochures,
- palm cards,
- and a four-minute animated video.



# Never Use Alone

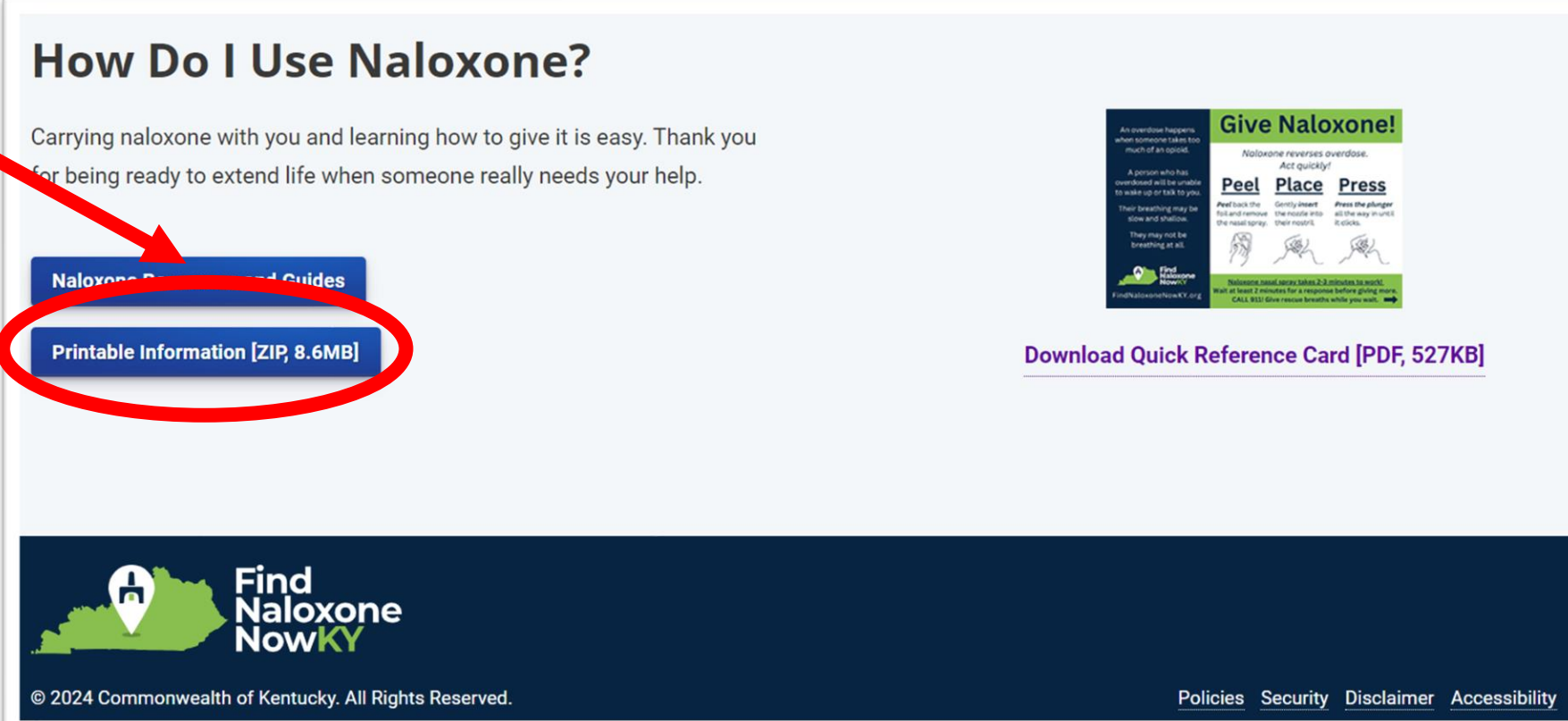


Toll-free national overdose prevention, detection, life-saving crisis response and medical intervention services for people who use drugs while alone.

Never Use Alone's peer operators are available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.  
**No stigma. No judgment.**

# Find Naloxone Now KY: Printable Information

A zip folder containing printable versions of all this information can be found at the bottom of the [Find Naloxone Now KY](#) homepage.



**How Do I Use Naloxone?**

Carrying naloxone with you and learning how to give it is easy. Thank you for being ready to extend life when someone really needs your help.

[Naloxone Resources and Guides](#)

[Printable Information \[ZIP, 8.6MB\]](#)


**Give Naloxone!**

Naloxone reverses overdose. Act quickly!

**Peel Place Press**

Peel back the foil and remove the nasal spray. Gently insert the nozzle into their nostril. Press the plunger all the way in until it clicks.

[Download Quick Reference Card \[PDF, 527KB\]](#)

 **Find Naloxone Now KY**

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# Find Naloxone Now KY is part of Find Help Now.

The screenshot shows the homepage of findhelpnow.org. At the top, the logo is on the left and navigation links (Home, Learning Materials, FAQs, About, Contact) are on the right. A dark blue banner contains the text: "If you're experiencing a crisis, call 988 to reach someone at the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline immediately." Below this, the main content area has a dark blue background. On the left, there's a section titled "Start Here To Find Treatment and Recovery Openings" with descriptive text and contact information. On the right, there are four white cards with blue icons and "Start Your Search" buttons. The cards are for "Mental Health Treatment", "Substance Use Disorder Treatment", "Recovery Housing", and "Naloxone". The "Naloxone" card is circled in red. At the bottom left, there are logos for KIPRC and TEAM KENTUCKY.

findhelpnow.org

Home Learning Materials FAQs About Contact

If you're experiencing a crisis, call 988 to reach someone at the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline immediately.

### Start Here To Find Treatment and Recovery Openings

Use this website to find facilities and providers who are actively taking new clients. We work with hundreds of mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, naloxone, and recovery housing organizations in Kentucky to bring you up-to-date and accurate information and available openings.

Experiencing a Crisis? Call or text 988 or [Live Chat](#).

Need help finding substance use disorder treatment? Have questions about treatment or recovery? Contact our partners at the KY HELP Statewide Call Center to speak with a screening and referral specialist Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm EST/EDT at [1-877-318-1871](#).

After hours and need assistance? Call the Kentucky Opioid Assistance and Resource Hotline (KY-OAR) at [1-800-854-6813](#).

Interested in knowing your HIV status or ways to prevent HIV? Call [844-294-2448](#) for more information and resources near you!

**Mental Health Treatment**  
Start Your Search

**Substance Use Disorder Treatment**  
Start Your Search

**Recovery Housing**  
Start Your Search

**Naloxone**  
Start Your Search

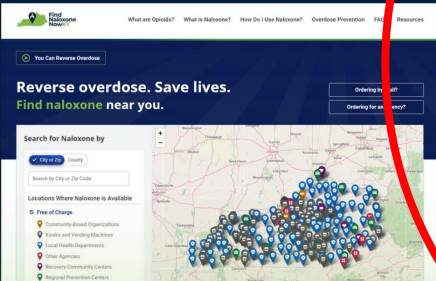
KIPRC  
KENTUCKY INDIAN PEOPLES RECOVERY CENTER

TEAM KENTUCKY  
CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES



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Reverse overdose. Save lives.  
Find naloxone near you.

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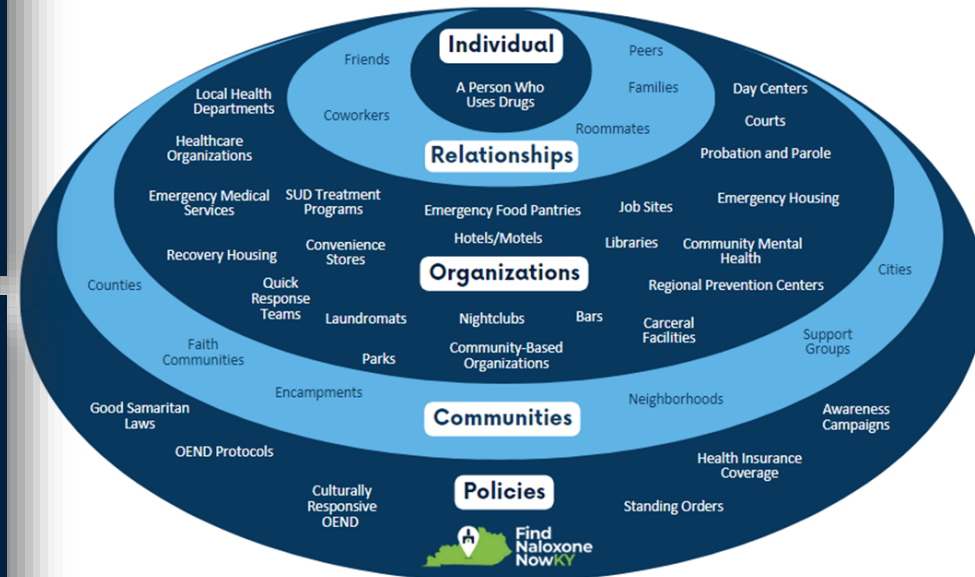
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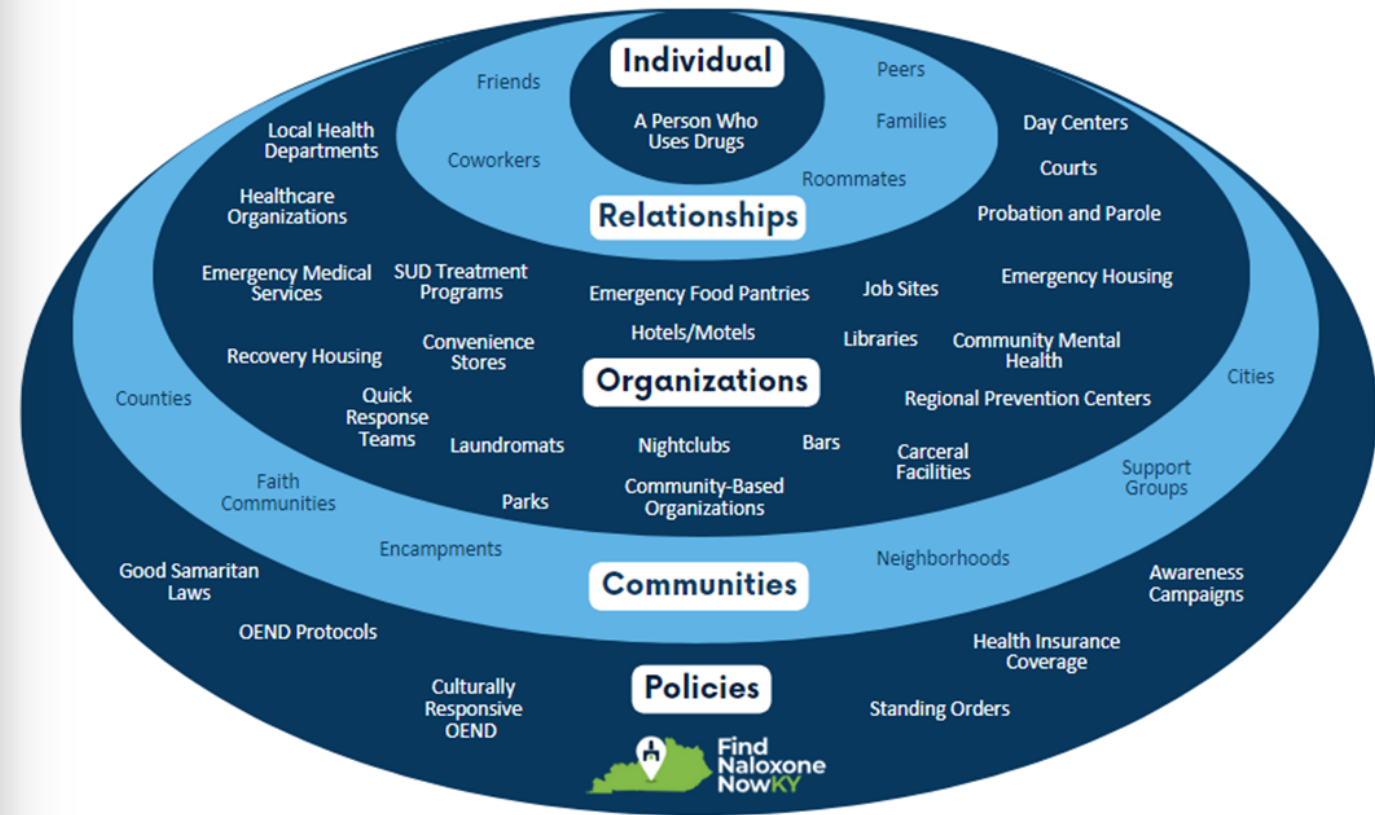


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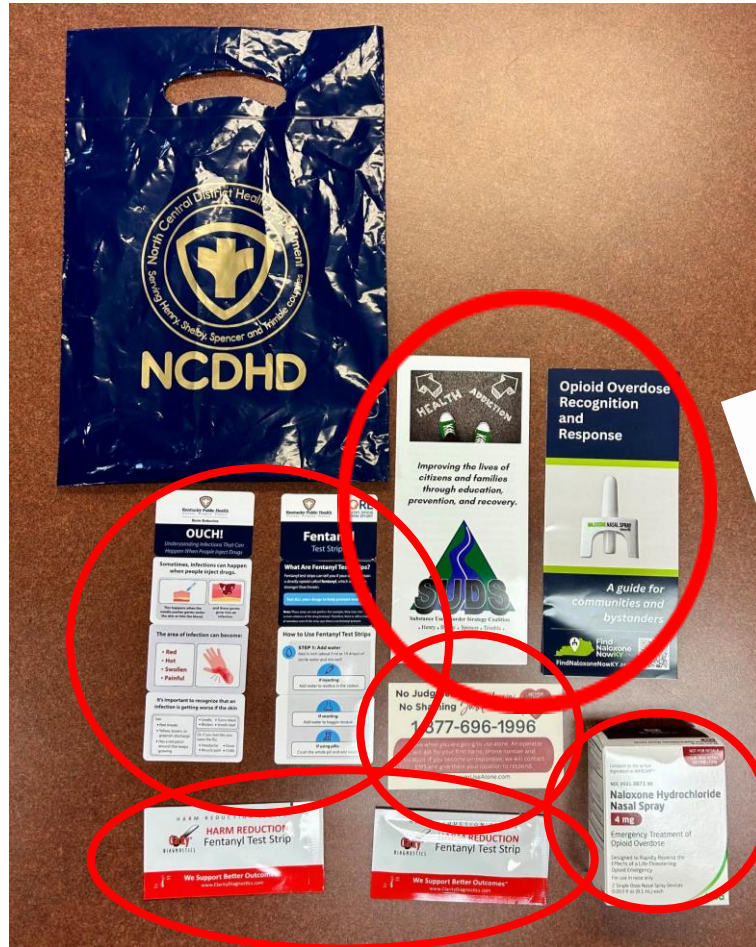
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# Naloxone kiosks can go anywhere.



# Naloxone kiosks offer people what they need to prevent overdose.



North Central District Health Department



Kentucky Department for Public Health

# Naloxone kiosks can be anything.



Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness



DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
AND WELLNESS



Kentucky  
Harm Reduction Coalition  
Engage Educate & Empower



Kentucky Harm Reduction Coalition

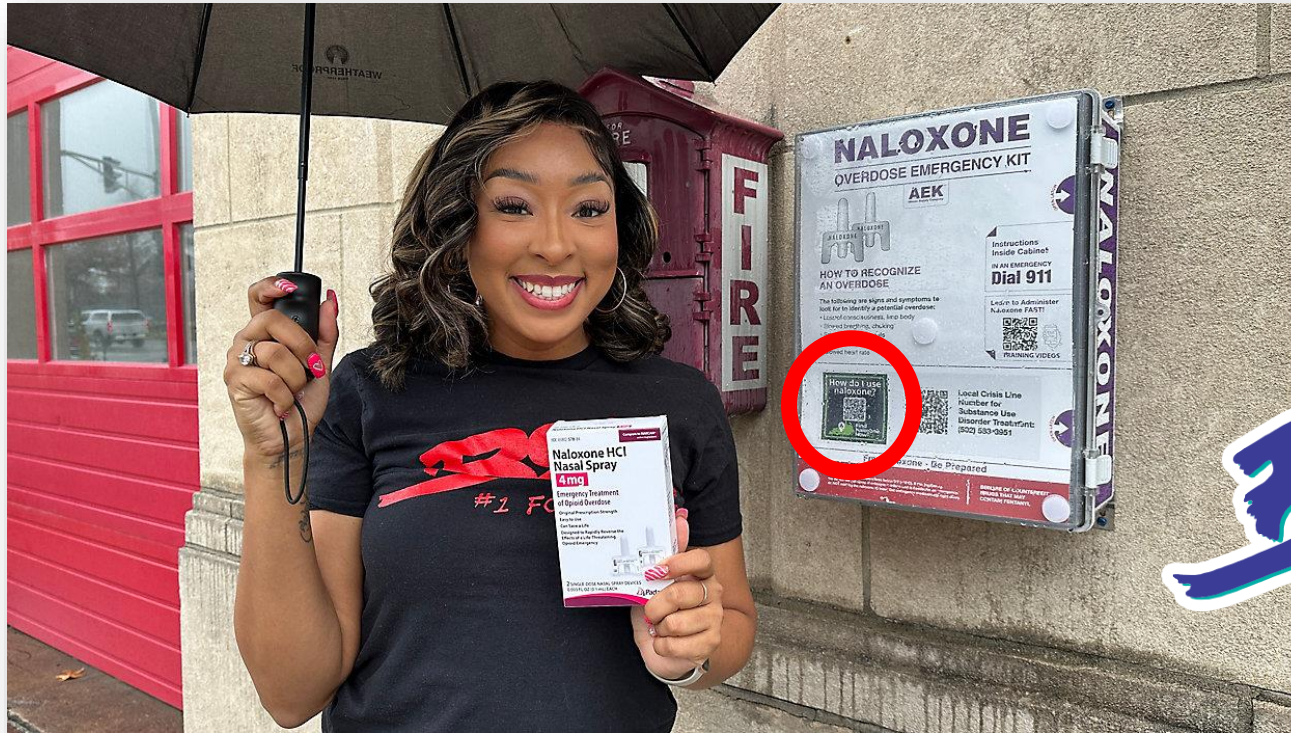
# Naloxone kiosks can be inexpensive and creative.



Future Problem Solvers of Olive Hill KY



# Naloxone kiosks are accessible.



**96.5**  
96.5 FM  
#1 FOR HIP HOP



DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC HEALTH  
AND WELLNESS**



**Vital  
Strategies**

**Magic 101.3**  
The R&B Station



# Find Naloxone Now KY resources support Naloxone Kiosks.

## How do I use naloxone?



**Find  
Naloxone  
NowKY**

## Free Naloxone

Please take what you need!

Naloxone reverses opioid overdose!

Carrying naloxone with you  
and being ready to give it is easy!

**Peel**



*Peel* back the  
foil and  
remove the  
nasal spray.

**Place**



Gently *insert*  
the nozzle  
into their  
nostril.

**Press**



*Press the  
plunger* all the  
way in until it  
clicks.

Find more naloxone  
near you here:



[FindNaloxoneNowKY.org](https://findnaloxone.ky.gov/)



Kentucky Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Harm Reduction

Learn more about how to  
use naloxone here:



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# FREE naloxone!

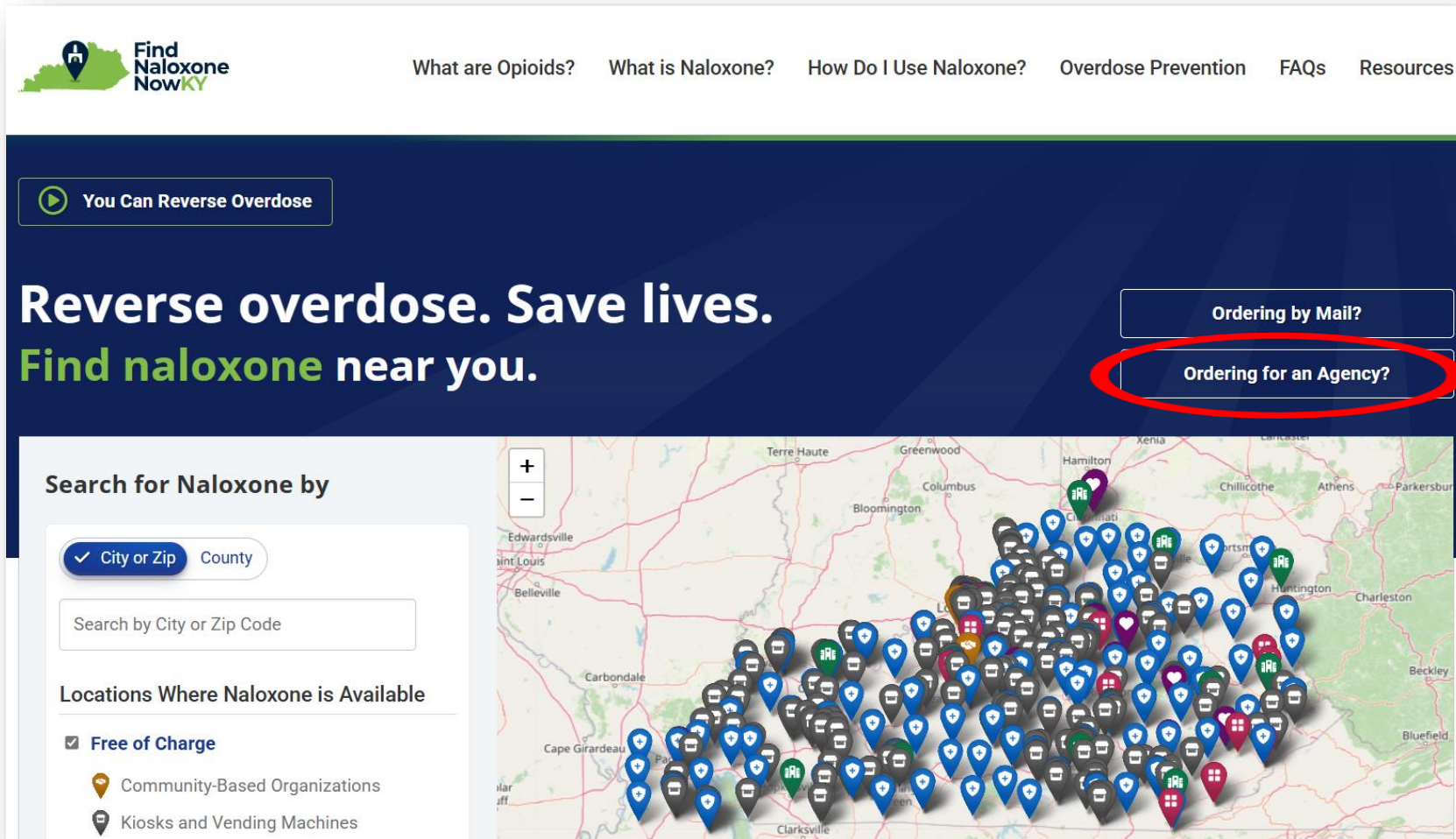
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Please take what you need.*



**Find  
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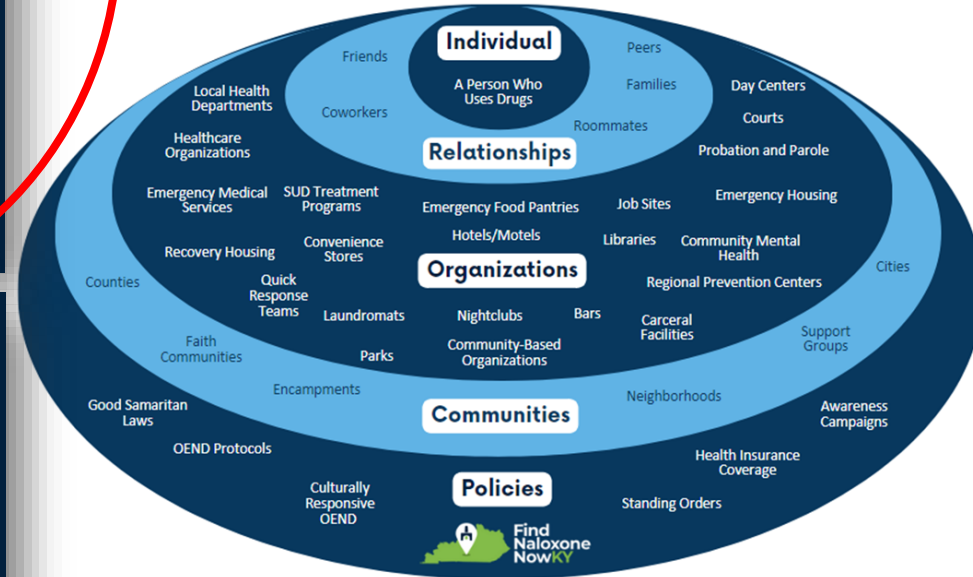
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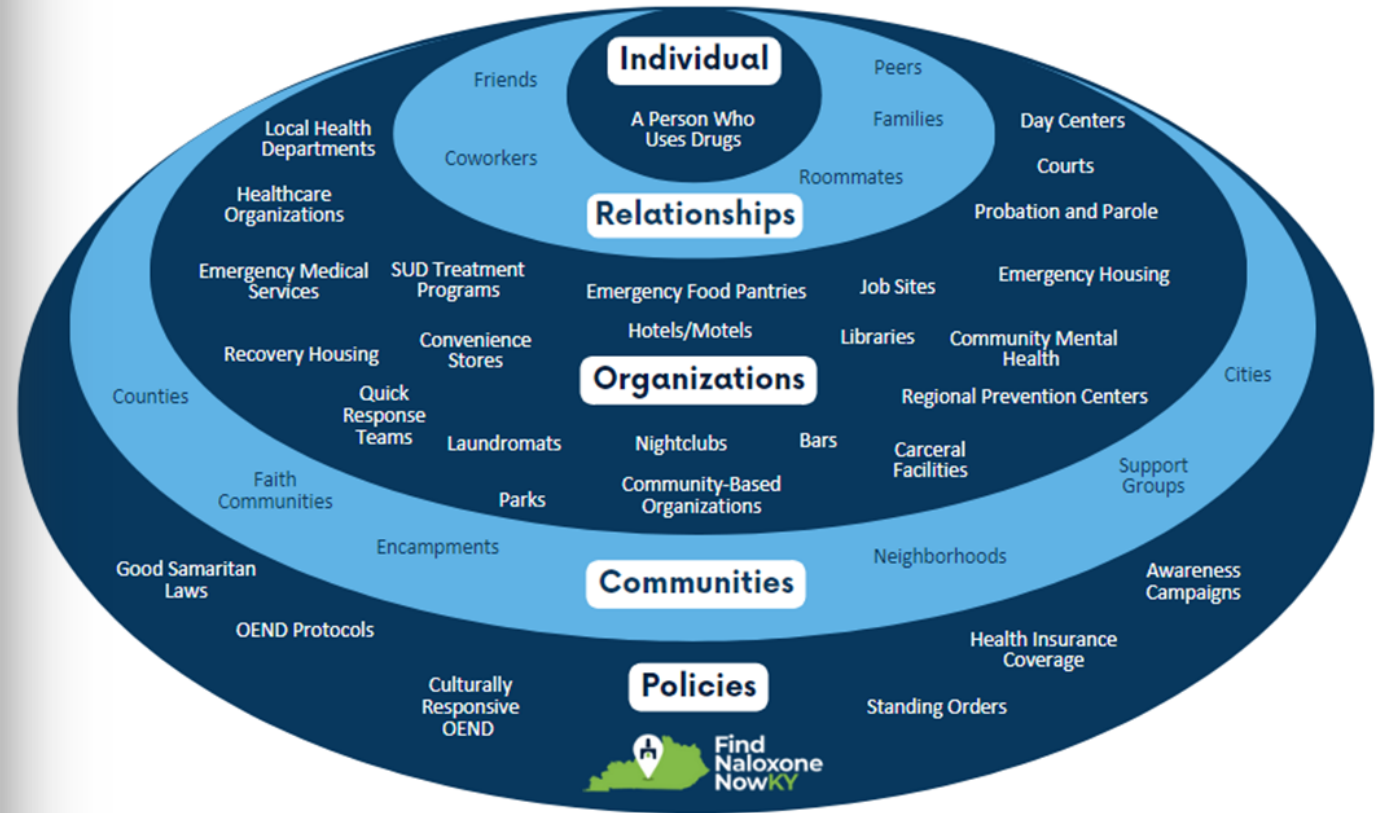
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# Why should First Responders distribute naloxone?

**Because they work with  
people who need it!**

- Most bystander overdose reversals occur in private residences.
- Placing naloxone kits in the hands of the friends and families of people at risk helps to ensure that overdoses are reversed as rapidly as possible.

# Why should First Responders distribute naloxone? (continued)

- Non-fatal overdose is a significant risk factor for fatal opioid overdose
  - in the next 48 hours
  - and beyond.
- First Responder touch points are opportunities to offer life-saving naloxone!

# How do First Responders identify people that need naloxone?

- People who use drugs are more likely than anyone else to witness an overdose.  
  
***We encourage First Responders to offer naloxone to people who use drugs, their friends, and their families.***
- Negotiate up! Offer multiple kits!

# Treatment Refusals Are Common After Overdose

If someone refuses further care after an overdose, before you leave, First Responders can make sure that someone else on the scene

- ✓ has naloxone,
- ✓ knows how to use it,
- ✓ and can administer it, if needed.



JEMS – Journal of Emergency Medical Services

# Leave Naloxone Behind



Whitley County Health Department

# Local Health Departments and Community Based Organizations have historically led collaboration with First Responders to Leave Naloxone Behind.



Jessamine County Health Department



Whitley County Health Department



Kentucky Harm Reduction Coalition

# KBEMS Naloxone Leave Behind protocols are now in place.

The Kentucky Board  
of Emergency  
Medical Services  
(KBEMS)  
has recently  
published a new  
Leave Behind  
Naloxone Protocol.

## Leave Behind Naloxone Protocol



### INDICATION

- Any patient with known or suspected opioid overdose, history of opioid use, risk for opioid overdose, or person who requests opioid overdose antidote (naloxone) kit.
- Any EMS provider may use this protocol

### CONTRAINDICATION

None per se

### ASSESSMENT/ TREATMENT GUIDELINES

Each service's individual kit selection and the availability of certain types of kits may vary. It is the responsibility of the service to provide specific training on the use of each kit's specific contents and use of the contents.

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Naloxone kits may be given to anyone who is at risk for overdose, who may witness an overdose, or who requests a kit.
- Every effort should be made to give a naloxone kit any patient who has been revived with naloxone
- Naloxone kits should be left with the patient or bystander even if the patient is transported to the hospital
- Instruct the recipient on indications for use of intranasal naloxone
- Advise the recipient to carry the kit with them and have it handy for use in case they witness an overdose
- Give the recipient information on naloxone information, such as on the following sheet (free to print and distribute. Advise the recipient that they are allowed to have it, and that if they use it to help a person who has overdosed they are protected by Kentucky's laws.

# Do First Responders provide naloxone training?

- Most agency Naloxone Leave Behind protocols will require making sure that someone who receives naloxone knows how to use it.
- Depending on context, training may be as simple as passing along printed information or could include detailed demonstrations and time for questions.
  - Extensive training should never be a barrier to receiving naloxone when a brochure or card would suffice.
- As the drug supply changes, rescue breathing has become an increasingly important part of overdose response.
  - Make sure to emphasize rescue breathing in your conversations about naloxone.

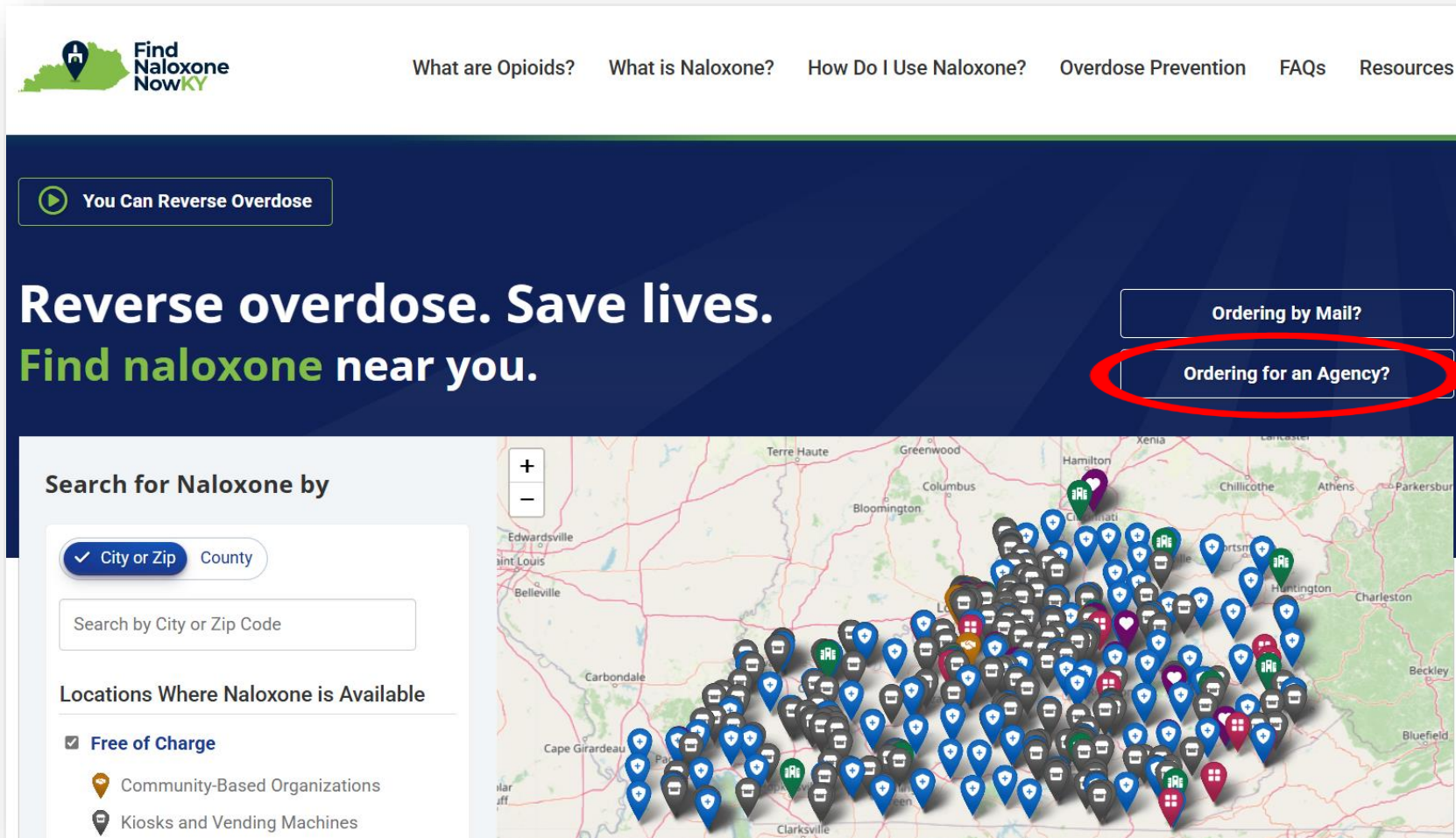
# Where does this naloxone come from?

The Kentucky Office of the Attorney General negotiated a settlement with Teva pharmaceuticals to provide more than 20,000 two-dose units of naloxone annually to first responders for Leave Behind programs.



The Kentucky Pharmacy Education and Research Foundation responds to requests for this no-cost naloxone and ships the product directly to First Responder agencies.

# How do First Responders get Naloxone to Leave Behind?

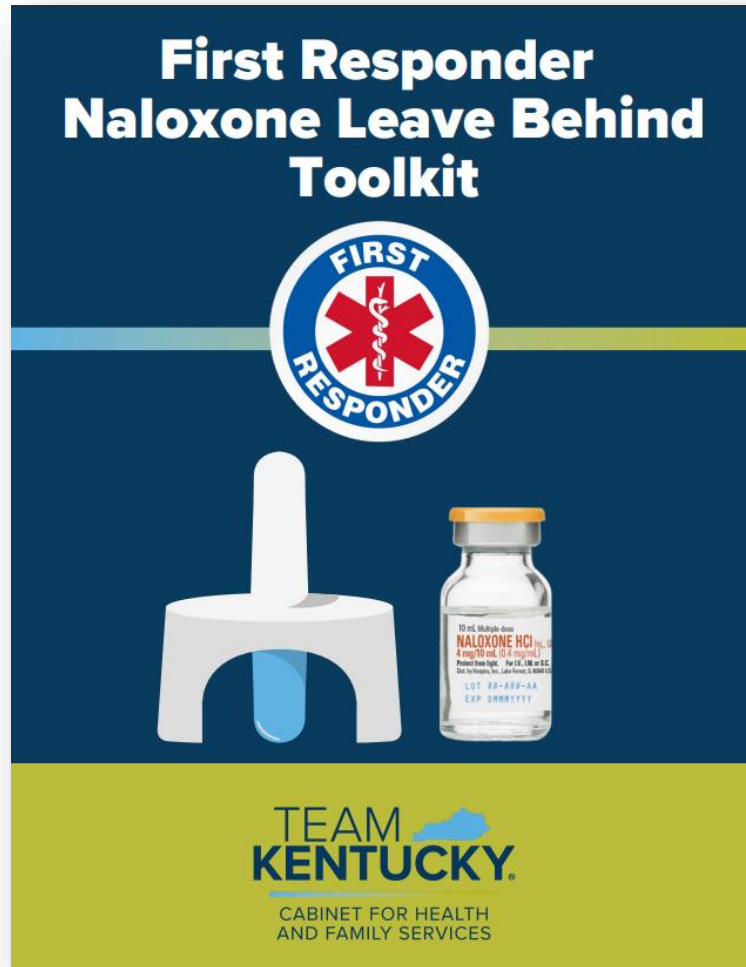


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Ordering for an Agency?



# Team Kentucky supports Naloxone Leave Behind.



The First Responder  
Naloxone Leave  
Behind Toolkit  
provides detailed  
technical assistance  
and links to training.

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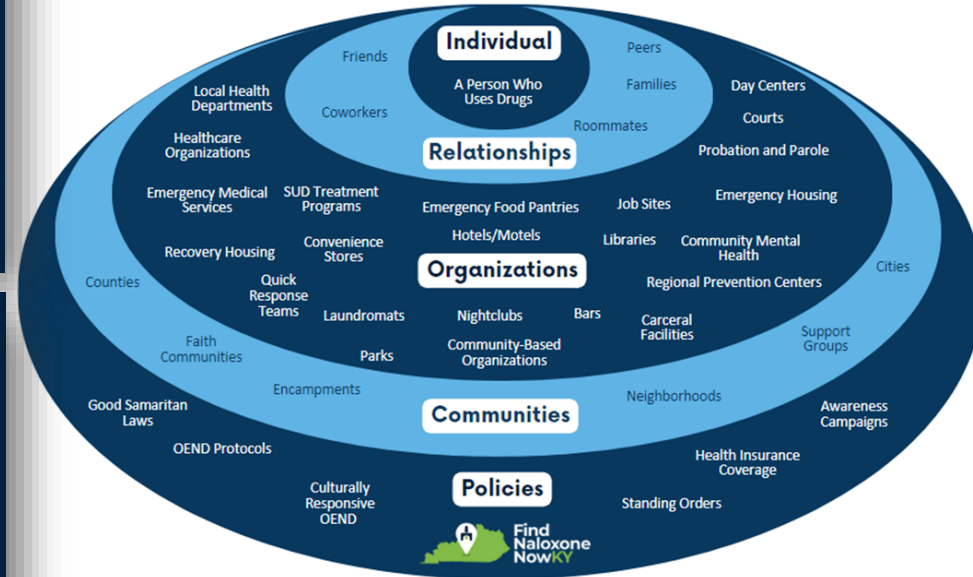
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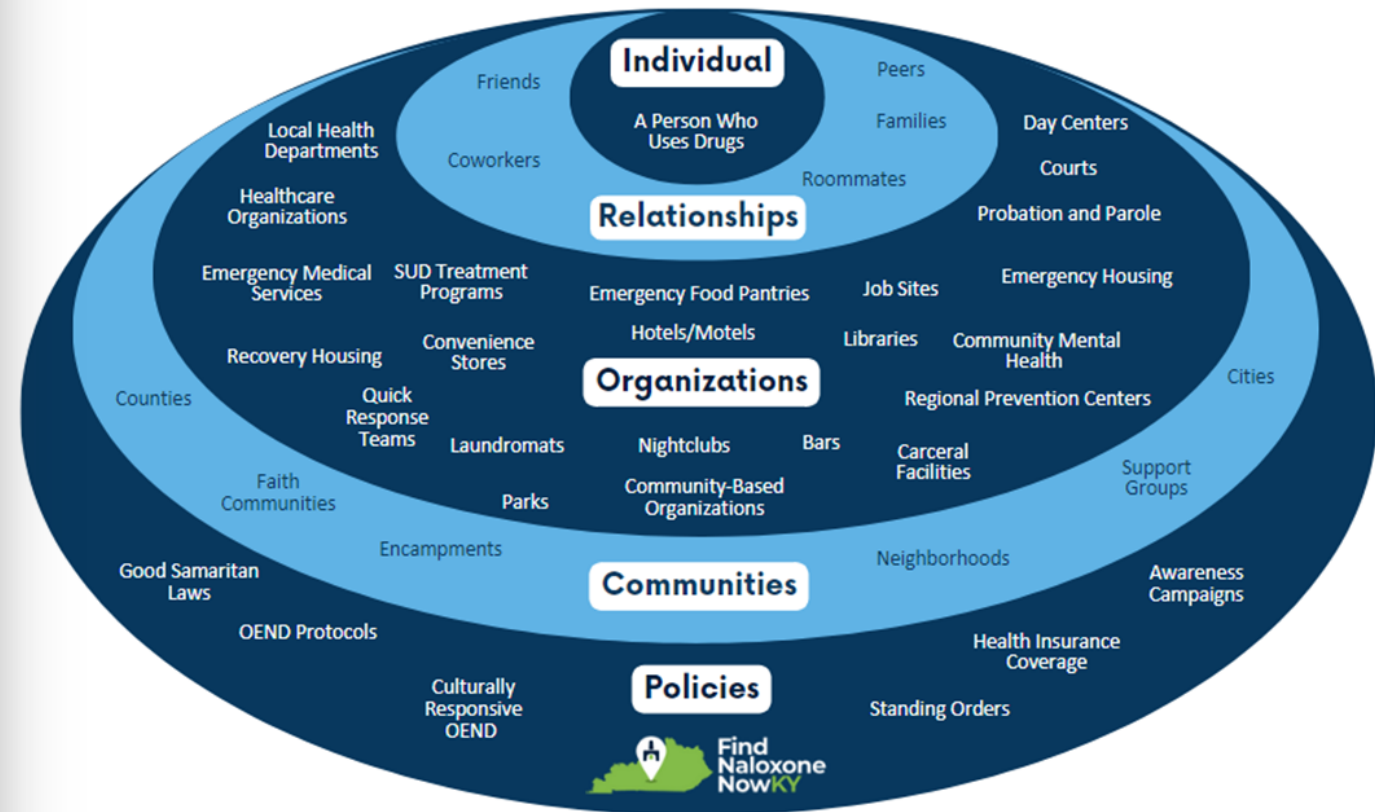


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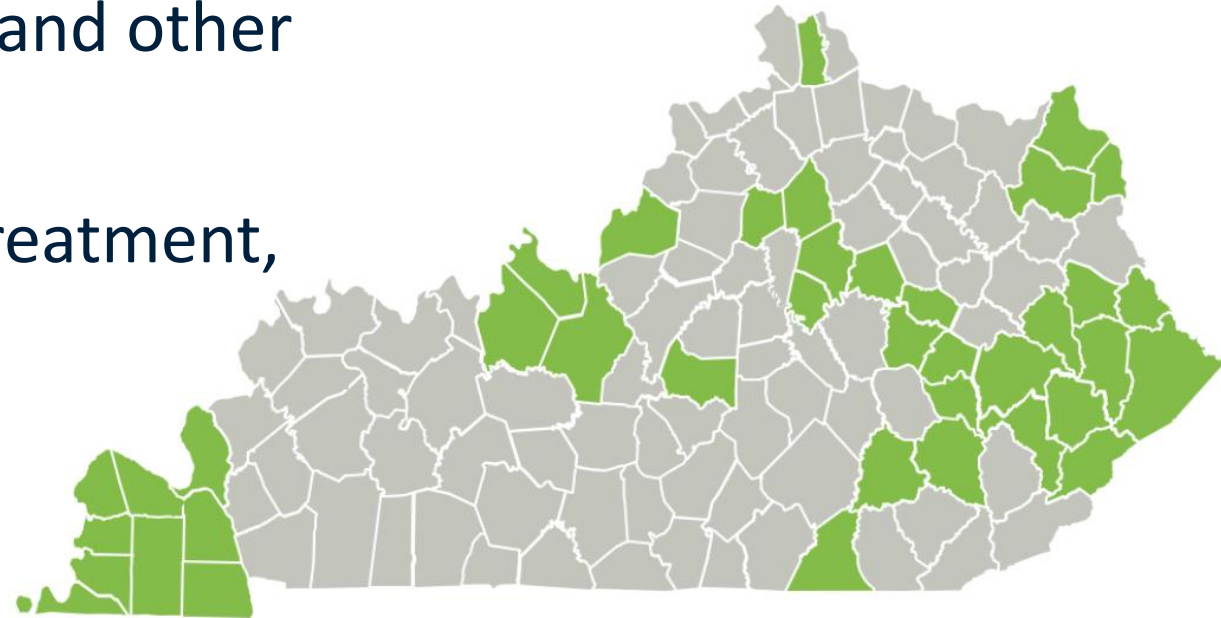
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# “We are here for you, and we care.”

## “Here’s what we can offer to help.”

- linkage to harm reduction programs and other supportive community services
- referrals to substance use disorder treatment, when requested
- information and resources
- naloxone



QTRs in Kentucky as of January 2025

## **within 72 hours immediately following an overdose**

# QRTs model responses to substance use that support people at risk.



Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness

# QRTs collaborate!



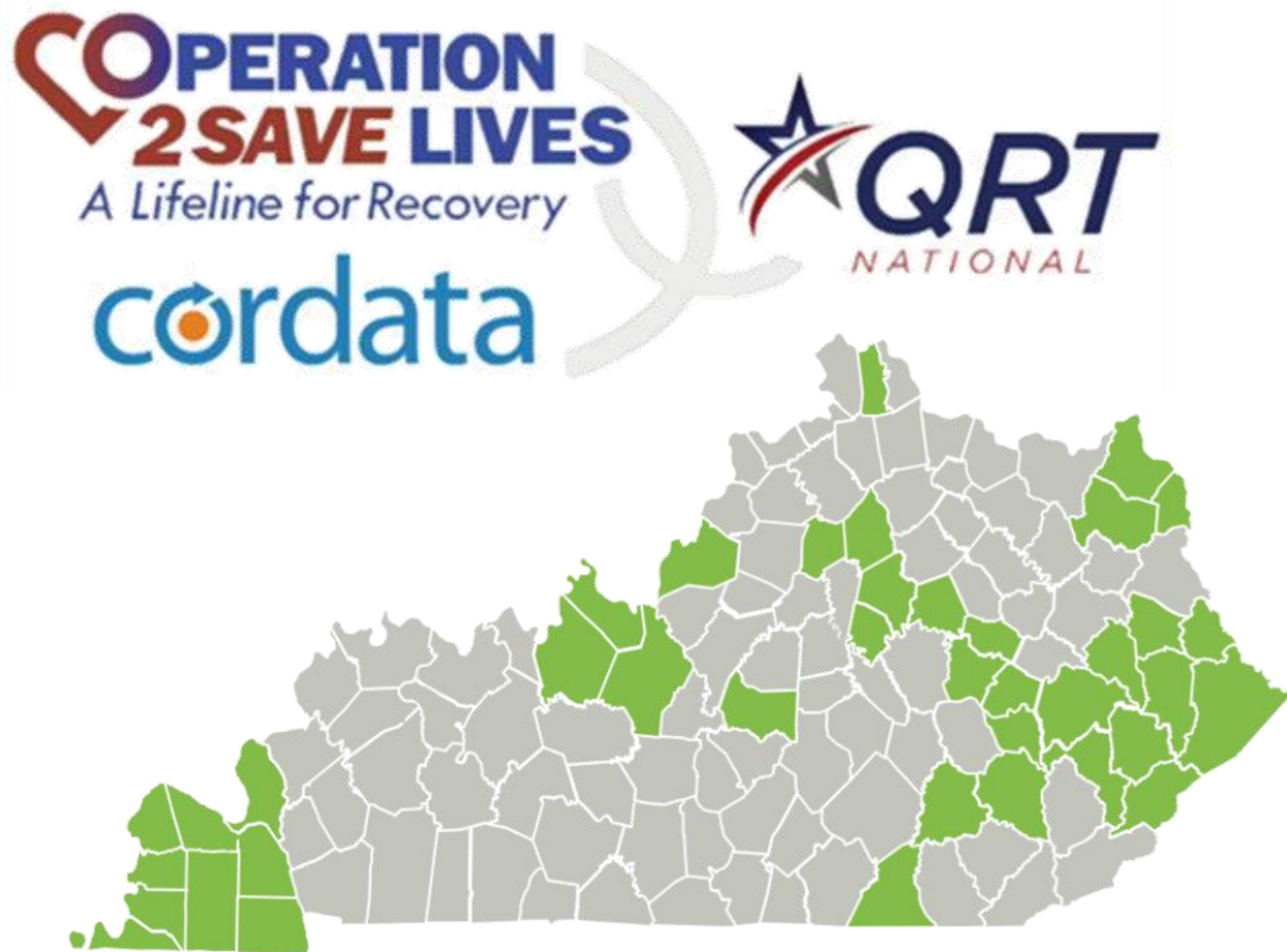
Kentucky Department for Public Health

**QRTs collaborate around the Situation Table and seek solutions together.**

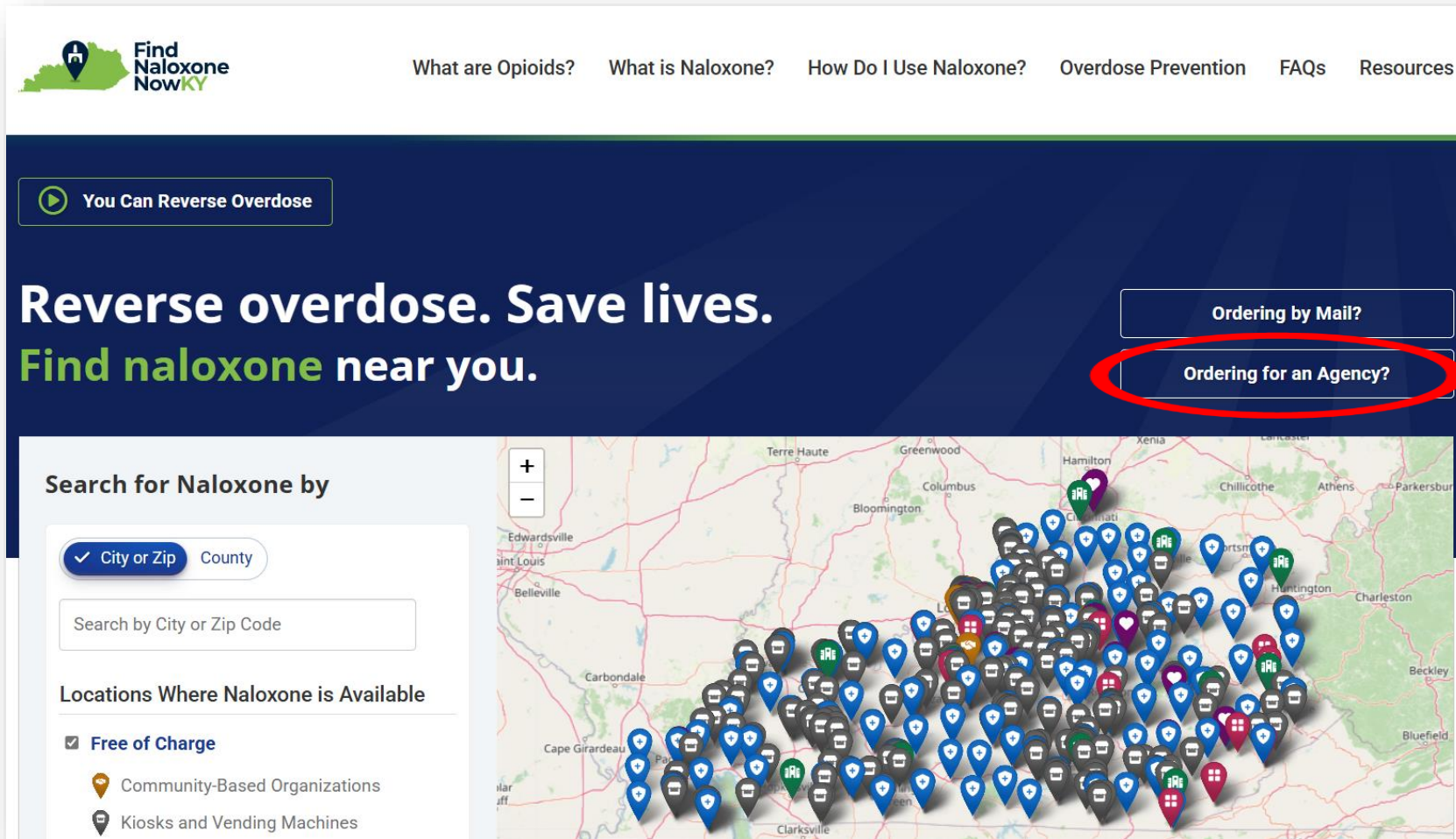


Perry County QRT

# QRT National provides technical assistance to QRTs in Kentucky.



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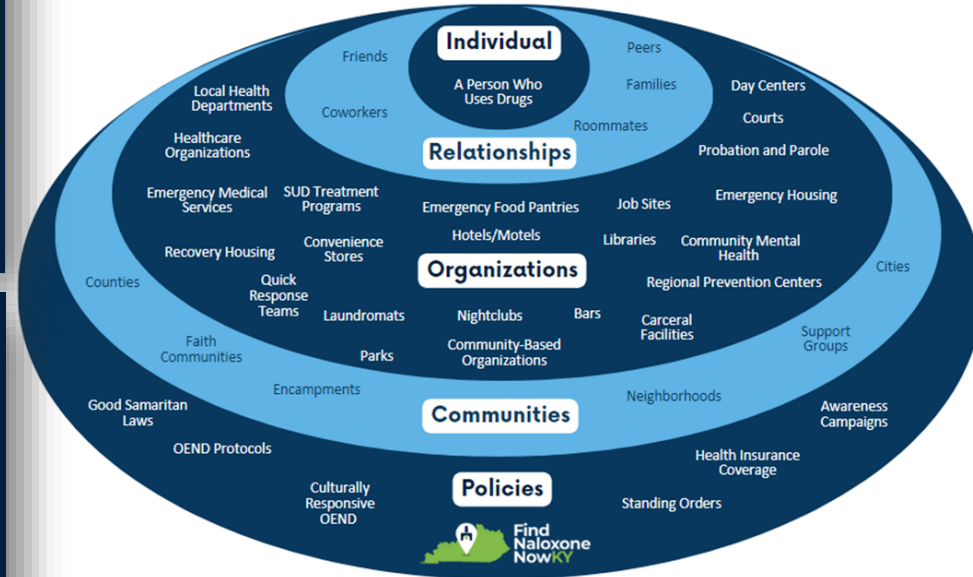
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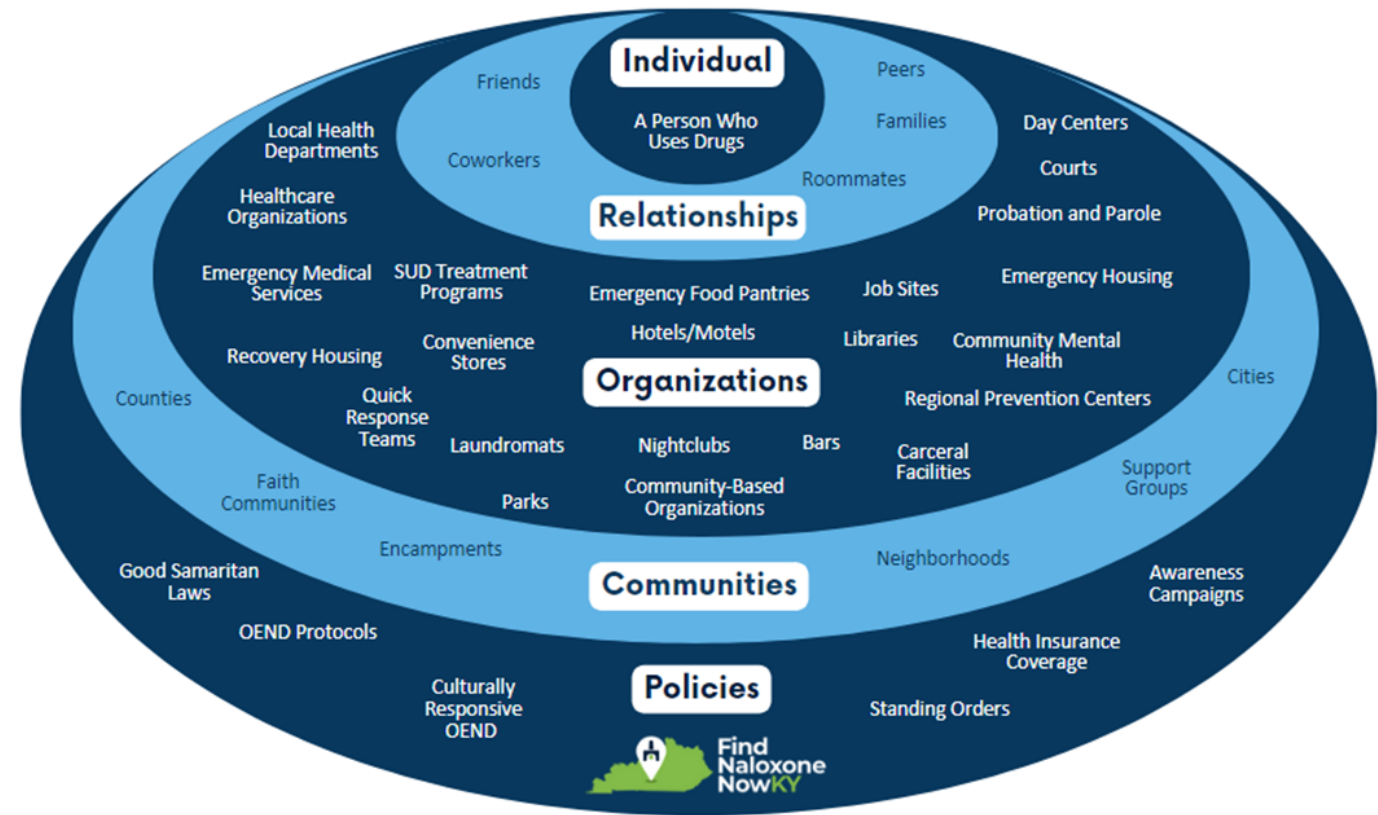
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**Naloxone kits should be offered, without judgement, whenever you see any sign of substance use.**

- Here, an opt-out, hand to hand approach is best.

***“Ok, we’ve got you ready to go.  
Here’s a naloxone kit  
and some information about using it.”***

- This direct handoff is always more effective than a written prescription.

# KY-SOS ED Bridge Program Naloxone To GO Pilot

- Baptist Health-LaGrange
- Carroll County Hospital
- Med Center Health-Bowling Green
- Mercy Health-Marcum and Wallace
- Mercy Health-Lourdes
- Saint Joseph London
- Saint Joseph Mount Sterling
- Harrison Memorial Hospital
- Monroe County Medical Center

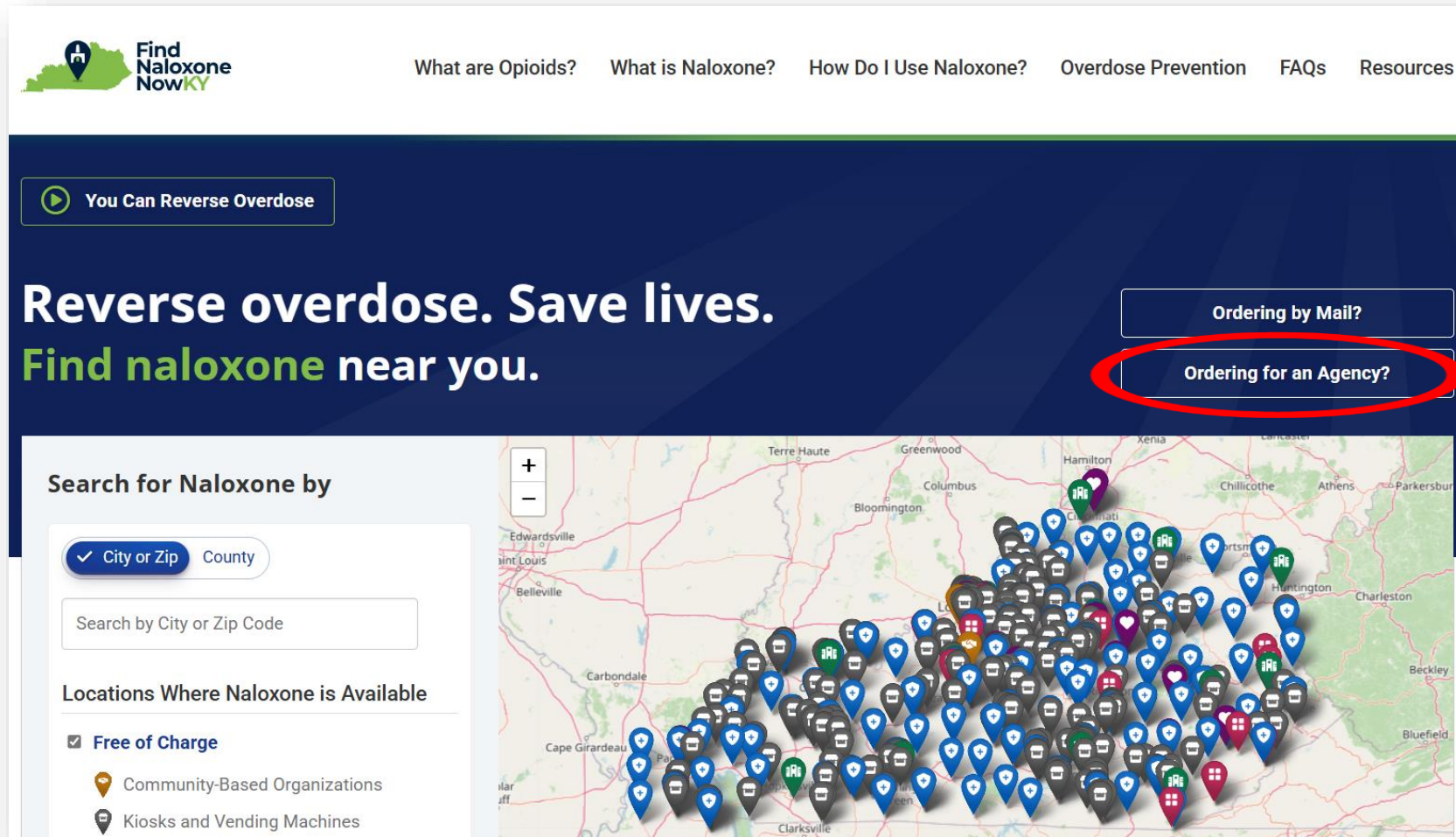


# KyPQC Naloxone To GO Pilot: The 5 Ps



1. Did any of your **Parents** have problems with alcohol or drug use?
2. Do any of your friends (**Peers**) have problems with alcohol or drug use?
3. Does your **Partner** have a problem with alcohol or drug use?
4. Before you were pregnant did you have problems with alcohol or drug use? (**Past**)
5. In the past month, did you drink beer, wine or liquor, or use other drugs? (**Pregnancy**)

# How do healthcare organizations get naloxone?



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Find Naloxone Now KY' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: 'What are Opioids?', 'What is Naloxone?', 'How Do I Use Naloxone?', 'Overdose Prevention', 'FAQs', and 'Resources'. Below the navigation bar, there is a dark blue banner with the text 'Reverse overdose. Save lives. Find naloxone near you.' and a button labeled 'You Can Reverse Overdose'. To the right of the banner, there are two buttons: 'Ordering by Mail?' and 'Ordering for an Agency?'. The 'Ordering for an Agency?' button is circled in red. Below the banner, there is a search section titled 'Search for Naloxone by' with a dropdown menu set to 'City or Zip' and a search box. To the right of the search box is a map of Kentucky with numerous location pins indicating where naloxone is available. A legend on the left side of the map indicates that pins are color-coded by type: blue for 'Community-Based Organizations' and red for 'Kiosks and Vending Machines'. A checkbox labeled 'Free of Charge' is checked.

Ordering for an Agency?



## Find Naloxone NowKY

Find Naloxone Now is a website that connects Kentuckians to naloxone, the drug used to reverse opioid overdose.

Reverse overdose. Save lives.  
Find naloxone near you.

Search for Naloxone by:

- City or Zip Code
- County

Locations Where Naloxone is Available:

- Community-Based Organizations
- County and Vending Machines
- Emergency Medical Services
- Healthcare Organizations
- Other Agencies
- Recovery Community Centers
- Regional Prevention Centers

For more information Contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health Harm Reduction Program at: [HarmReduction@ky.gov](mailto:HarmReduction@ky.gov)

See reverse side for FAQs

## Naloxone Kiosks

Naloxone kiosks are publicly accessible outdoor boxes that are designed to distribute naloxone anonymously around-the-clock.

Naloxone Kiosks can be placed anywhere in your community where there is increased risk for overdose.

Unlike vending machines, these boxes are inexpensive, portable and can be placed outside.

For more information Contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health Harm Reduction Program at: [HarmReduction@ky.gov](mailto:HarmReduction@ky.gov)

See reverse side for FAQs

## Naloxone Leave Behind

Naloxone leave behind is a collaboration between public health and public safety that allows First Responders to leave naloxone on-scene with patients and their support system.

First Responders who carry naloxone can distribute it to those who need it most.

For more information Contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health Harm Reduction Program at: [HarmReduction@ky.gov](mailto:HarmReduction@ky.gov)

See reverse side for FAQs

## Quick Response Teams

Quick Response Teams (QRTs) follow up with people who have survived an overdose, offering naloxone and linkage to life-saving community support.

For more information Contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health Harm Reduction Program at: [HarmReduction@ky.gov](mailto:HarmReduction@ky.gov)

See reverse side for FAQs

## Naloxone To GO

It's now easier than ever for hospitals and healthcare organizations to distribute naloxone directly to people that are likely to witness overdose.

Hand-to-hand opt-out distribution gets naloxone to where it's needed most.

For more information Contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health Harm Reduction Program at: [HarmReduction@ky.gov](mailto:HarmReduction@ky.gov)

See reverse side for FAQs

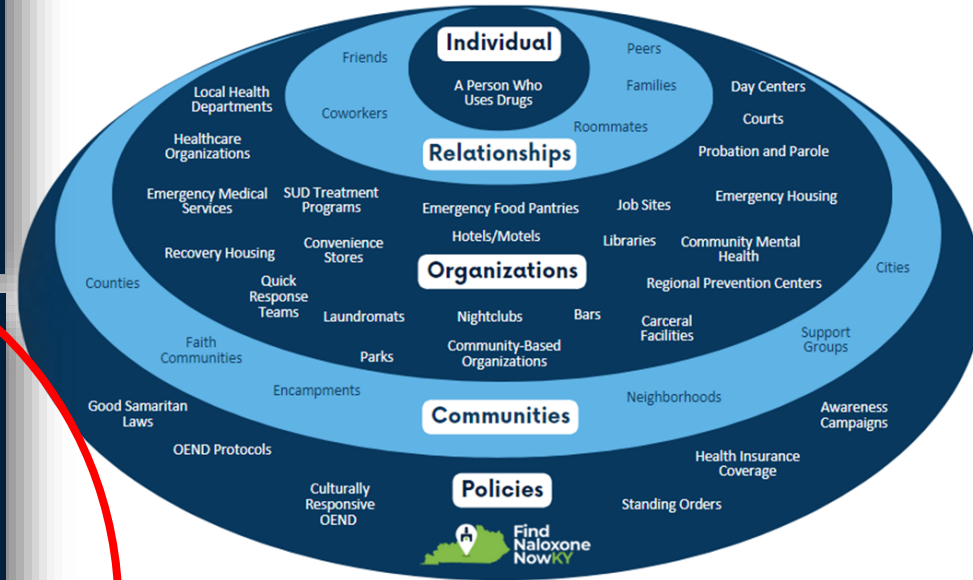
## Peer-to-Peer or Secondary Naloxone Distribution

People who get naloxone from your program likely know other people who need it, too.

Secondary naloxone distribution means making sure trusted community members have enough naloxone to pass along to their peers.

For more information Contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health Harm Reduction Program at: [HarmReduction@ky.gov](mailto:HarmReduction@ky.gov)

See reverse side for FAQs



# Peer-to-Peer or Secondary Naloxone Distribution

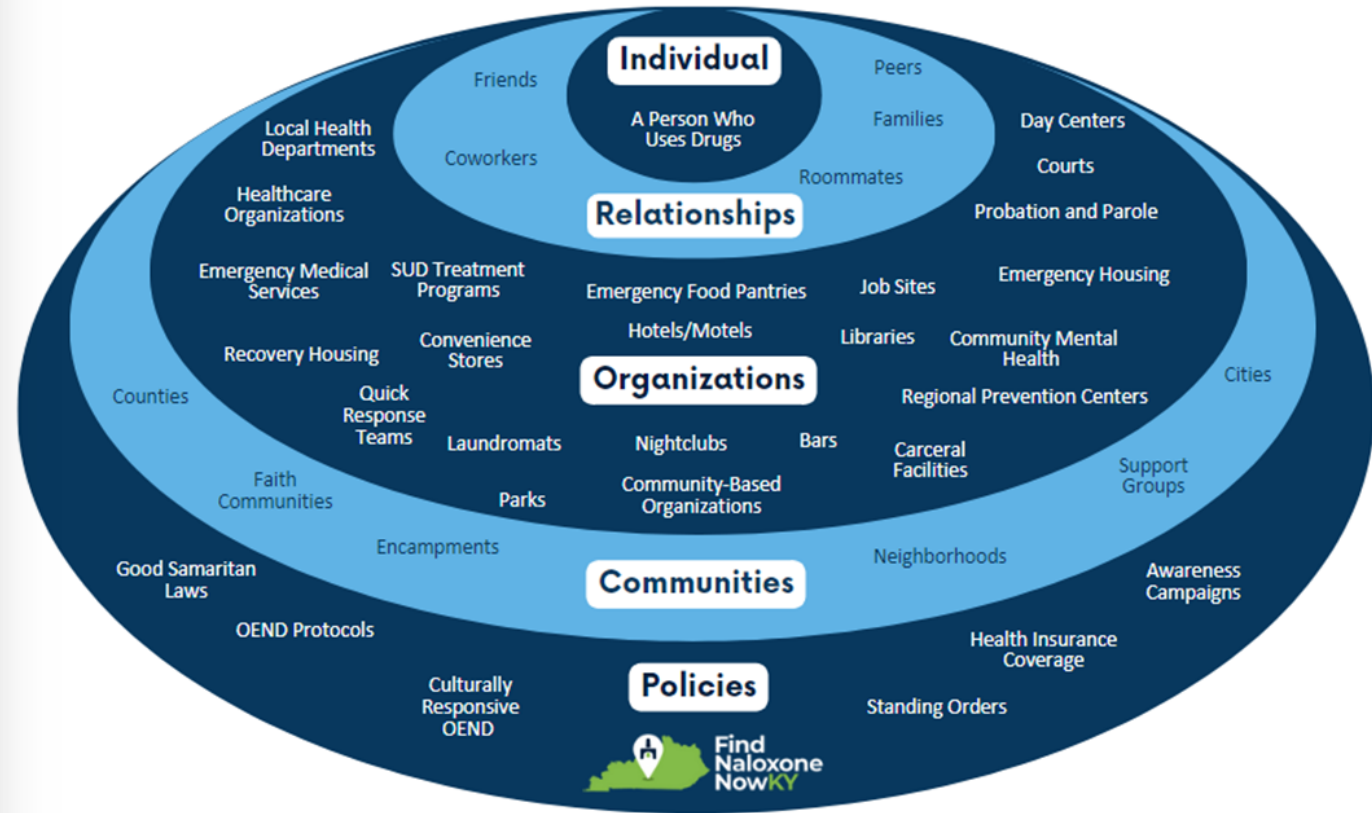
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Secondary naloxone distribution means making sure trusted community members have enough naloxone to pass along to their peers.

For more information Contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health Harm Reduction Program at:  
[HarmReduction@ky.gov](mailto:HarmReduction@ky.gov)

See reverse side for FAQs



# People who get naloxone from your program likely know other people who need it, too.

- **Who is a peer?**
  - *A peer is anyone who knows someone likely to witness an overdose.*
    - » Peers may be people who use drugs, their friends, roommates or family members. These are the people most likely to witness overdose.
  - *A peer is a community member.*
    - » Ensuring that naloxone is available in these communities is crucial to preventing overdose deaths.

# People who use drugs face barriers when accessing support services and naloxone distribution programs:

- transportation
- lack of community representation
- limited hours
- medical mistrust
- fear of being recognized
- fear of law enforcement
- stigma
- fear of surveillance

# Peers overcome these barriers to become Naloxone Champions.

- transportation
- lack of community representation
- limited hours
- medical mistrust
- fear of being recognized
- fear of law enforcement
- stigma
- fear of surveillance



Talk Social Justice

**Programs that provide naloxone can recognize participants who are highly involved and well-connected in their communities.**

## These participants might say things like:

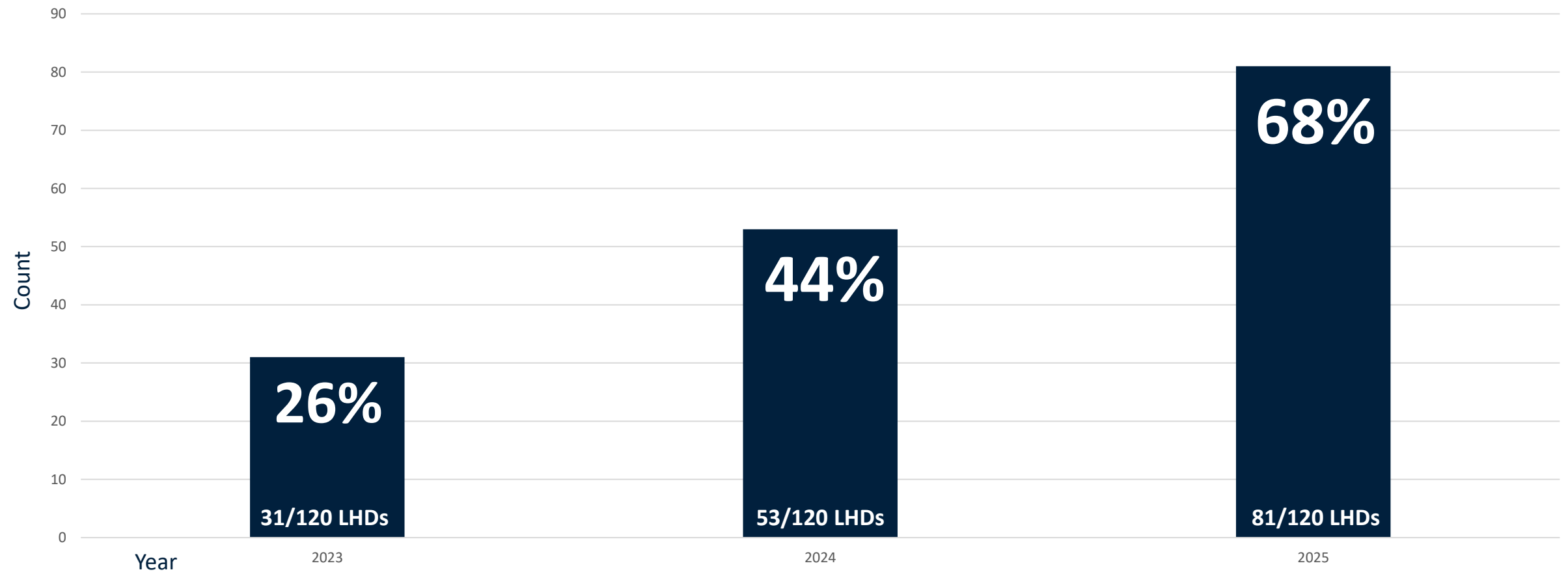
- “Everyone in my building knows I always have it (naloxone).”
- “I don’t use opioids, but I know people who do.”
- “I’m going to take this (naloxone) back to the camp.”
- “A lot of my friends think this place is a setup. Can I bring some (naloxone) to them?”

# Negotiate up!

**When you recognize a peer,  
ask:**

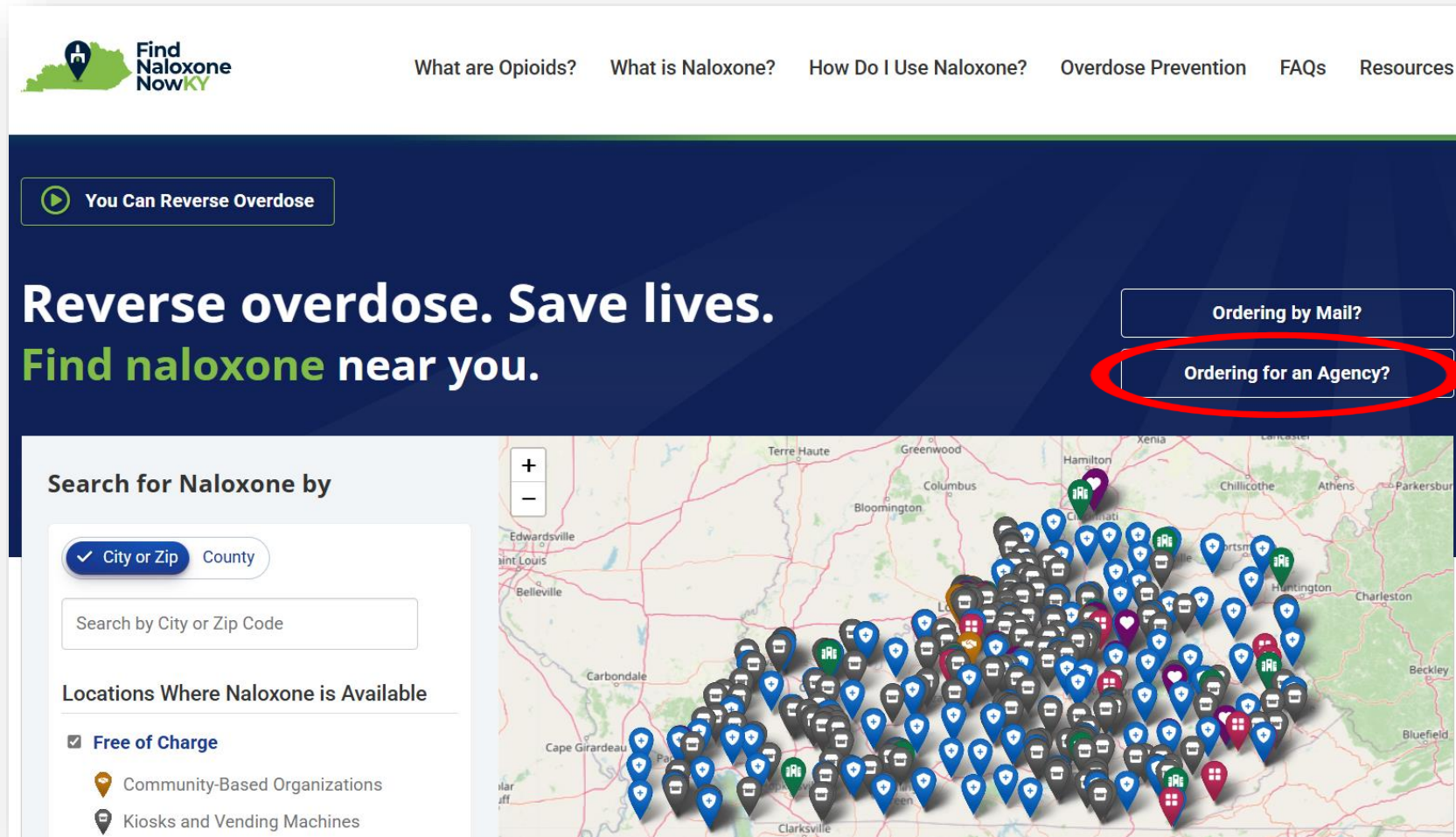
- “How many kits do you need?”
- “Do you know other people who need naloxone?”
- “You can help us make sure everyone has as much naloxone as they need. Can you help distribute a box of 12 kits?”

# Local Health Departments in Kentucky Offering Secondary Naloxone Distribution, 2023-2025



Data Source: Annual KDPH Harm Reduction Needs Assessment

# Find Naloxone Now KY supports secondary distribution.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Find Naloxone Now KY' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: 'What are Opioids?', 'What is Naloxone?', 'How Do I Use Naloxone?', 'Overdose Prevention', 'FAQs', and 'Resources'. Below the navigation bar, a dark blue banner features the text 'Reverse overdose. Save lives. Find naloxone near you.' and a button labeled 'You Can Reverse Overdose'. To the right of the banner, there are two buttons: 'Ordering by Mail?' and 'Ordering for an Agency?'. The 'Ordering for an Agency?' button is circled in red. Below the banner, there is a search section titled 'Search for Naloxone by' with a dropdown menu set to 'City or Zip' and a search input field. To the right of the search section is a map of Kentucky with numerous location pins indicating where naloxone is available. A legend on the left side of the map indicates that pins are color-coded by type: blue for 'Free of Charge', orange for 'Community-Based Organizations', and green for 'Kiosks and Vending Machines'.

Ordering for an Agency?



# Bottom Up

Estill County is the first to receive  
local overdose prevention technical assistance.



- Overdose Task Force
  - Estill County Health Department
    - » Syringe Service Program
  - Mercy Health
    - » Peer Support Specialists
  - ASAP Board
  - EMS
  - Law Enforcement
  - QRT

# Looking forward

## Top Down Naloxone Saturation Bottom Up

Statewide agencies will standardize naloxone distribution to people most likely to witness overdose.

This will increase local acceptance of carrying naloxone and being ready to reverse an overdose.



Local communities will strategically distribute naloxone to people most likely to witness overdose.

Local successes and challenges will further inform our strategic approach to statewide naloxone saturation.

# References and Links (by slide number)

- Slide 27: [Never Use Alone](#)
- Slides 22-26, 27, 28: [Find Naloxone Now KY](#); [Overdose Prevention and Response Printable Information](#)
- Slide 29: [Find Help Now KY](#)
- Slide 42:
  - Barefoot, E. H., Cyr, J. M., Brice, J. H., Bachman, M. W., Williams, J. G., Cabanas, J. G., & Herbert, K. M. (2021). Opportunities for Emergency Medical Services Intervention to Prevent Opioid Overdose Mortality. *Prehospital emergency care*, 25(2), 182–190. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10903127.2020.1740363>
  - Hood, J. E., Aleshin-Guendel, S., Poel, A., Liu, J., Collins, H. N., Sadinle, M., Avoundjian, T., Sayre, M. R., & Rea, T. D. (2023). Overdose and mortality risk following a non-fatal opioid overdose treated by Emergency Medical Services in King County, Washington. *Drug and alcohol dependence*, 253, 111009. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2023.111009>
  - Wichmann S, Nielsen SL, Siersma VD, et al. (2013). Risk factors for 48-hours mortality after prehospital treatment of opioid overdose *Emergency Medicine Journal* 2013;30:223-225. <https://doi.org/10.1136/emmermed-2012-201124>
  - Caudarella, A., Dong, H., Milloy, M. J., Kerr, T., Wood, E., & Hayashi, K. (2016). Non-fatal overdose as a risk factor for subsequent fatal overdose among people who inject drugs. *Drug and alcohol dependence*, 162, 51–55. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2016.02.024>
- Slide 43: [SAMHSA's Overdose Prevention and Response Toolkit](#)
- Slide 47: [Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services \(KBEMS\)](#); [Leave Behind Naloxone Protocol](#)

# Questions?

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[Kentucky Naloxone Saturation Strategic Plan: 2025-2026](#)

