

NALOXONE INITIATIVES

The South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS) and the South Dakota Department of Health (DOH) received grant awards similar to many other states to combat what has been called a nationwide opioid epidemic. As part of South Dakota's targeted response to this epidemic, the DOH in collaboration with DSS established regional training sessions to equip and educate first responders including hospital staff, Emergency Medical Services, and law enforcement agencies statewide.



First responder agencies are on the front lines of the opioid crisis and are challenged with the many dangers of opioids and the result of potent synthetic manufacturing thereof; some synthetics, 100 times more powerful, require special handling for responder safety. During training sessions, DOH educated responders about the opioid crisis, the symptomatology of an opioid overdose, and general treatment and safety recommendations for a patient suffering a suspected opioid overdose. Furthermore, DOH has equipped first responder (EMS, Law enforcement, and schools) agencies with Naloxone, a medication intended to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

NALOXONE NUMBERS, as of 1/10/26

15,665
TOTAL NALOXONE
DISTRIBUTED

STATE AGENCIES

60 Trained
54 Naloxone kit Locations

FIRST RESPONDERS

since October 2017
5,267 Trained
2,910 Distributed to EMS
10,670 Distributed to
Law Enforcement
1,801 Patient Improvement
After Given Naloxone

SCHOOLS

since August 2020
158 Trained
86 Schools Participating
614 Distributed to Schools

TRIBAL

since October 2017
614 Distributed to EMS
912 Distributed to
Law Enforcement
136 Distributed to Schools