

Mo' Heroes

—more heroin—

We need

Mo' Heroes

Program sponsored by:



With opioid overdose deaths increasing across the United States, there has been a strong push to create harm reduction programs that reduce fatal overdose events. To that end, the Mo' Heroes project, funded through Missouri's State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant, establishes overdose education and naloxone distribution (OEND) programs within criminal justice settings. Justice-involved individuals are at particularly high risk of experiencing an opioid overdose post-release. Furthermore, because individuals returning to their communities have a greater chance of witnessing an opioid overdose, the Mo' Heroes project aims to empower people to save *someone else's* life with naloxone.



Why are overdose education and naloxone important?

Providing naloxone to laypersons is an effective strategy for preventing opioid overdose deaths

- National and international health organizations recommend providing naloxone to laypersons who might experience or witness an overdose³
- A national study found more than 80% of overdose reversals were carried out by individuals who also use drugs³
- Providing naloxone to laypersons reduces overdose deaths and provides individuals an opportunity to recovery¹¹
- Levels of substance use do not change when people have access to naloxone⁶

Naloxone is safe and cost-effective.

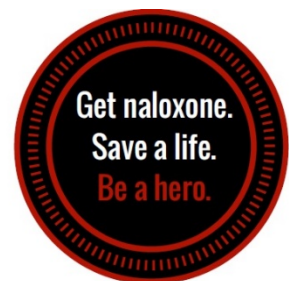
- Naloxone has no risk of abuse and causes no neurological or psychological effects³
- Naloxone will have no effect on individuals who do not have opioids in their system³
- Naloxone distribution reduces overdose deaths¹¹ and opioid-related hospital visits, making it a cost-effective intervention⁴

Criminal justice settings target individuals most at risk of overdose.

- Individuals with lowered tolerance, such as those being released after a period of incarceration, are at high risk of overdose^{2,3,8,9}
- A Massachusetts study reported that individuals recently released from incarceration are 56 times more likely to overdose than the general public⁸
- A national naloxone program in Scotland that provided naloxone at release to inmates in 2011, was associated with a 36% decrease in opioid-related deaths that occurred following the first four weeks^{1,3}
- People coming out of jail or prison are almost twice as likely to use naloxone on someone else than they are to have it used on them¹⁰, which underscores the role of naloxone distribution as a community-level intervention¹²

What does Mo' Heroes offer?

- Free naloxone to distribute to individuals upon release from criminal justice settings (city and county jails or treatment courts)
- Program implementation assistance (integrating overdose education and naloxone distribution into current work flow, establishing protocols,)
- Train-the-Trainer sessions for staff
- Ongoing troubleshooting after initiating OEND programs



For more information, please contact: Lauren Green at Lauren.Green@mimh.edu

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