



# **Press Release**

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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Health Department Distributes Naloxone to Help Prevent Overdose Deaths**

(Nash County) — The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported 267 fatal overdose deaths in Nash County from 2013 to 2023. In an effort to reduce overdose deaths, the Nash County Health Department has naloxone available at both the Nashville and Rocky Mount locations free of charge. Naloxone is a lifesaving medication that can quickly reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and restore normal breathing in a person whose breathing has slowed or stopped. It is safe, easy to use, and does not affect someone who has not taken opioids. Having naloxone available can mean the difference between life and death during an overdose emergency. By increasing access to naloxone, communities can help save lives, reduce the stigma surrounding substance misuse, and connect individuals to the care and recovery resources they need.

The Nash County Health Department encourages residents to learn the signs of an overdose and take action to save lives. Common symptoms of an overdose may include slow or shallow breathing, unresponsiveness, blue or pale skin, and pinpoint pupils. Anyone who suspects an overdose should call 911 immediately. The Health

Department also urges individuals and families affected by substance misuse to seek help and take advantage of local resources and support services.

For questions about the health department's naloxone distribution program, please call 252-459-9819 or visit either of the health department's locations.

For more information on naloxone or overdose, visit

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/department-initiatives/overdose-epidemic/syringe-and-naloxone-access>.