

There's an overdose crisis in Dane County. Here's what we can do.

100% ↑

Opioids are becoming increasingly prevalent for people who use many types of drugs. In 2020, of all the people who died a polydrug death in Dane County, 100% of them had either fentanyl or another opioid in their system. Of those people, 61% had both opioids and a stimulant such as cocaine detected in their system, reflecting the importance of carrying Narcan.

900% ↑

Wisconsin has experienced a [shocking 900% increase in opioid-involved overdose deaths](#) from 1999 to 2020.

263% ↑

Overdose deaths in Dane county have been steadily increasing for decades. In 2020, the overdose rate for [Black residents was the highest in the county](#), three times the overdose rate of the general population.

100% ↑

More recently, between 2016 and 2020, Black individuals experienced overdose [deaths at a higher rate than other racial groups](#), with an increase in fatal overdose rates by 100% over the five-year period.

What are opioids?

Opioids are a class of drugs used for relieving pain. Opioids include substances such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl, and heroin. Opioids may be prescribed by a healthcare provider for pain relief, but many are also available through the illicit market, including synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and organic opioids such as heroin. Pressed, unregulated pills sold on the illicit market or shared among friends may include a combination of different opioids, cutting agents, and other substances.

Common terms referring to opioids include:

lean, percs, dope, blues, black tar, down, China white.

Fentanyl's Contribution to the Overdose Crisis

The synthetic opioid fentanyl includes numerous variants or analogs, some of which are up to 100 [times stronger than heroin](#). Fentanyl has become more common in the illicit drug supply, and is now commonly present in all drugs, including meth and cocaine. In 2020, of all the people who died in Dane County of an overdose involving more than one drug, [100% of them had either fentanyl or another opioid in their system](#). Of those people, 61% had both opioids and a stimulant such as cocaine detected in their system. Given the prevalence of fentanyl-involved overdose deaths, it's important to always carry Narcan if you use drugs.

Narcan will reverse an overdose from an opioid drug in most cases, including fentanyl, even if that opioid has been mixed with other drugs

Fentanyl test strips (FTS)

are legal in Wisconsin and can be obtained at Madison and Dane County Public Health locations:

 2705 E Washington Ave
Madison, WI 53704

 2300 S Park St, Suite 2010
Madison, WI 53713

They can also be obtained through [NEXT Distro](#), the national mail-order service (nextdistro.org):

You can request both Narcan and FTS from NEXT Distro. FTS can help you determine if your drugs contain fentanyl by testing a sample, so that you can take steps to practice safer drug use such as using less, using more slowly, or asking someone with Narcan to stay with you while you use.

SIGNS OF AN OVERDOSE

- Slowed or stopped breathing,
- Cold and clammy hands,
- Unresponsiveness,
- Discolored lips and fingertips,
- Vomiting, and/or gurgling/ snoring sounds.

 For white and lighter skinned people, [discoloration will look bluish purple](#).

 For Black people and other darker-skinned people, [discoloration will appear grayish or ashen](#).

We can take action to prevent overdose.

Naloxone, aka Narcan, is a life-saving medication that reverses opioid overdose. Anyone can learn to administer it and it's legal to use and carry with you, so you are prepared to save a life from overdose. To learn more about Narcan and to get your own, check out the resources below.

Resources



[Rebalanced-Life Wellness Association](#)

rebalanced-life.org
584 Grand Canyon Drive
Madison, WI 53718

Narcan is available for barbershop customers at:
JP Hair Design Barbershop • Resilient Hair Design
Barbershop • B-Right Barbershop • Divine
Transformation Salon



[Perry Family Free Clinic](#)

rebalanced-life.org/perry-family-free-clinic
598 Grand Canyon Dr.
Madison, WI 53719

Residents of Dane County can get Narcan free of charge at the Perry Family Free Clinic on Tuesdays from 11am - 4pm and Thursdays from 1pm - 5pm.

Scan the QR codes below for more information on how to use Narcan and Fentanyl test strips:



What is Narcan and How to Administer It

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03092.pdf>



How to Use Fentanyl Test Strips

<https://www.vitalstrategies.org/resources/how-to-use-fentanyl-test-strips/>

Where can I get treatment for people with substance use disorder?



[Monarch Health Addiction Recovery Clinics](#)

[https://www.monarchrecovery.com/](http://www.monarchrecovery.com/)
521 E. Washington Ave.
Madison, WI 53703

Offers medications for opioid use disorder and additional substance use disorder treatment: Walk-in hours are on Mondays from 8:30am to 12:00pm. You are also able to call 608-729-9388 to schedule an appointment.



Dane County Behavioral Health Resource Center

[https://danebhrc.org/](http://danebhrc.org/)
(608) 267-2244
danebhrc.org

Dane County Behavioral Health Resource Center can quickly link you to services. To locate a health care provider who prescribes medications for opioid use disorder, please visit The Madison Wisconsin Medication Assisted Treatment Directory: [https://www.matsdirectory.com/city/wi-madison.html](http://www.matsdirectory.com/city/wi-madison.html)

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