



Naloxone Administration by Emergency Medical Services (EMS), 2020

Background

Naloxone is a medication used for the emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose. It has no negative side effects if given to a patient who has not taken opioids, so it is sometimes given to rule out opioid overdose.

This report describes all naloxone administrations (regardless of opioid involvement) documented by EMS providers during 2020. The data comes from the Montana EMS incident dataset.¹ Montana statute requires that licensed ground and air transporting EMS agencies submit a patient care report (PCR) to the dataset for each patient they encounter. Non-transporting agencies may also submit data. Therefore, the dataset may contain multiple records (EMS activations) that pertain to the same patient or incident.

This report includes EMS activations with an incident date between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020, where the scene location is in Montana. EMS activations are labelled as opioid-related if they meet the [Montana opioid overdose syndrome criteria](#).²

Data Limitations

- Numbers in this report are provisional and subject to change due to latent record submissions or updates
- Data quality issues
- Does not capture most naloxone administrations by law enforcement or the public

Results

There were **613** EMS activations with a total of **772** naloxone administrations documented during 2020. According to the available data, **1,215 milligrams (mg)** of naloxone were administered – however, this total does not include data from records missing dosage information. Ground transporting agencies provided the greatest amount of naloxone compared to other types of EMS agencies.

EMS Agency Type	Naloxone	
	mg	%
Ground Transporting Agency	1,190	97.9%
Non-Transporting Agency	10	0.8%
Rotor Wing	1	0.1%
Fixed Wing	15	1.2%
All	1,215	100.0%

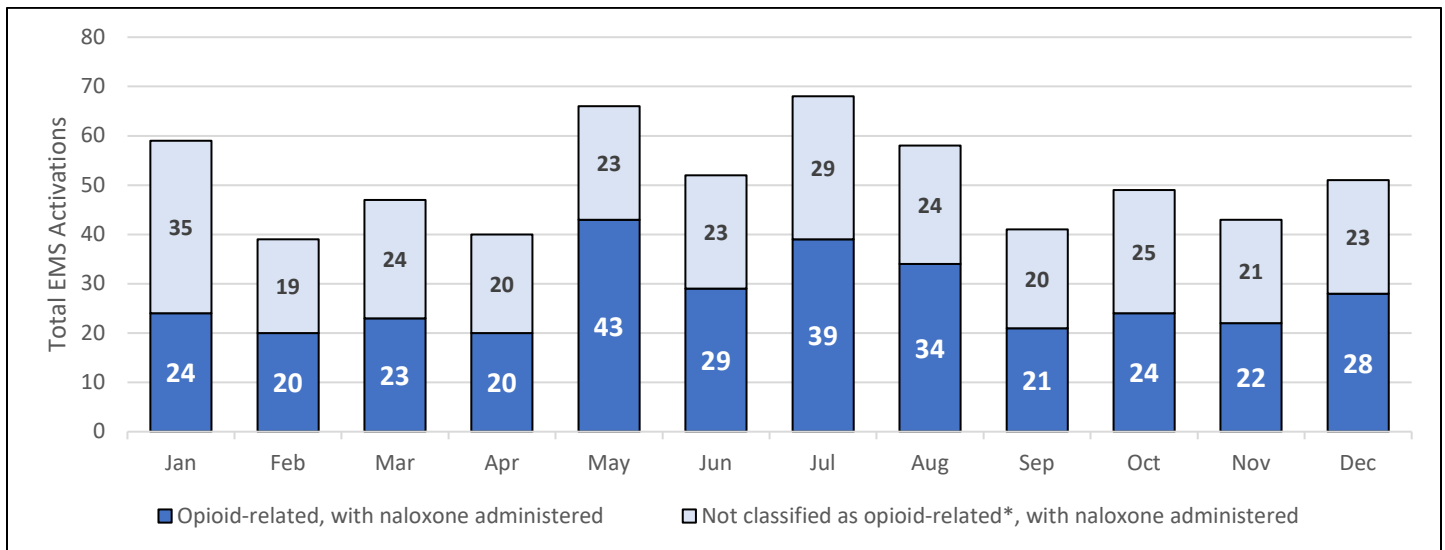
Of 613 EMS activations where naloxone was given, nearly half (**N=286, 46.7%**) were not classified as opioid overdose-related (Figure 1). The most common types of non-opioid patients that received naloxone were cardiac-related (118 activations), altered level of consciousness (57 activations), alcohol or non-opioid drug overdose (47 activations), neurological (16 activations), and mental health or behavioral crises (17 activations).

¹ Montana uses the [NEMSIS v3.4.0 data standard](#)

² Version 10.14.2022



Figure 1. Opioid-related versus non-opioid EMS activations with naloxone administered by month, 2020



How to Access Naloxone

The State of Montana has issued a [standing order](#) that allows Montanans to access naloxone without a prescription. Organizations and facilities may create a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Montana that will allow them to order naloxone directly from a contracted pharmacy without restrictions. These organizations can keep naloxone on hand for staff to administer as needed, and they can distribute free naloxone to individuals, including people at risk of experiencing an opioid overdose, and family, friends, or others who can assist someone experiencing an overdose.

Individual Montanans may access naloxone for free from a participating [organizations](#).

To learn more, contact naloxone@mt.gov or visit [Naloxone \(mt.gov\)](#)

For further information, please visit our website: [Injury Prevention Program](#)

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