



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

## Law Enforcement and Purdue Pharma: Saving Lives February 2018

In November 2015, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) partnered with Purdue Pharma L.P. (Purdue) to provide **free-of-charge** naloxone overdose kits and training to law enforcement agencies across the country. This "rescue drug" can reverse the fatal overdose effects of some opioids, including heroin. To date, NSA has **trained more than 1,000 law enforcement officers** and command staff to administer naloxone. Furthermore, NSA has **distributed 1,743 2-dose kits of naloxone (Narcan) aerosol (3,486 doses)**. Specifically, NSA has **provided naloxone overdose kits to 39 law enforcement agencies covering 21 states**, as outlined below. Finally, and most importantly, data collected in the project's first 18 months document 120 lives saved. Now, 26 months into the project, we estimate that the NSA and Purdue partnership has **saved more than 175 lives!**

Mitigation of drug overdose deaths as a result of this project is occurring in both patrol and correctional settings. Moreover, the number of lives saved is anticipated to escalate dramatically as previously distributed naloxone kits are deployed and as NSA continues to distribute more naloxone and provide more training. Ultimately, when approaching the distressing scene of an opioid overdose, first responders who have participated in NSA's project are equipped to identify an individual who has overdosed and to administer the NSA-provided naloxone with knowledge, confidence, and life-saving success.

The 21 states that have received free-of-charge naloxone overdose kits, in addition to training and technical assistance, are Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Below is a chart of the 39 jurisdictions that have received naloxone from NSA:

Agency	Kits Dispensed
<b>Alabama</b>	
Calhoun County, AL Sheriff's Office	25
Jefferson County, AL Sheriff's Office	40
<b>Arkansas</b>	
Little Rock, AR Police Department	75
<b>Colorado</b>	
Montezuma County, CO Sheriff's Office	25
<b>Florida</b>	
St. Lucie County, FL Sheriff's Office	100

<b>Georgia</b>	
Monroe County, GA Sheriff's Office	50
<b>Kentucky</b>	
Daviess County, KY Sheriff's Office	50
Jefferson County, KY Sheriff's Office	15
<b>Michigan</b>	
Ionia County, MI Sheriff's Office	25
<b>Minnesota</b>	
Hennepin County, MN Sheriff's Office	35
Robbinsdale, MN Police Department	25
St. Anthony, MN Police Department	25
Three Rivers, MN Police Department	25
<b>Montana</b>	
Lewis and Clark County, MT Detention Center	10
<b>Nevada</b>	
Washoe County, NV Sheriff's Office	100
<b>North Carolina</b>	
Wilmington, NC Police Department	100
<b>Ohio</b>	
Cuyahoga County, OH Sheriff's Office	63
Trumbull County, OH Sheriff's Office	50
Wood County, OH Sheriff's Office	150
<b>Oregon</b>	
Baker County, OR Sheriff's Office	25
Inion County, OR Sheriff's Office	25
Malheur County, OR Sheriff's Office	25
Pacific County, OR Sheriff's Office	25
Umatilla County, OR Sheriff's Office	25
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	
Herndon, PA Police Department	25
<b>South Carolina</b>	
Greenville County, SC Sheriff's Office	25
Newberry County, SC Sheriff's Office	25
<b>South Dakota</b>	
Hughes County, SD Sheriff's Office	15
<b>Texas</b>	
Collin County, TX Sheriff's Office	25
Heath, TX Dept. of Public Safety	25
Rockwall County, TX Sheriff's Office	50
<b>Virginia</b>	
Franklin County VA Sheriff's Office	50
Frederick County, VA Sheriff's Office	50
Herndon, VA Police Department	15
Loudoun County, VA Sheriff's Office	150
Surry County, VA Sheriff's Office	25
<b>Washington</b>	
Snohomish County, WA Sheriff's Office	100

<b>Wisconsin</b>	
Marquette County, WI Sheriff's Office	25
<b>Wyoming</b>	
Laramie County, WY Sheriff's Office	25

The project's impact goes beyond the vast distribution of naloxone kits to include technical assistance and the dissemination of informational resources to educate law enforcement officers and command staff about the ever-growing opioid overdose epidemic. For example, NSA routinely provides announcements and information via its Opioid Initiatives webpage at [www.sheriffs.org/Programs/Opioid-Abuse-Initiatives](http://www.sheriffs.org/Programs/Opioid-Abuse-Initiatives). Also found on this website is (1) the "First Responder, Last Chance?" Webinar, (2) Officer Safety Guidelines, (3) a short roll-call video on officer safety when exposed to fentanyl, and (4) various other educational resources. Articles have also been published in two *Sheriff & Deputy* magazine issues, March/April 2017 and January/February 2018, that were specifically dedicated to ensuring NSA's membership of over 20,000 is aware of the effects the rescue drug naloxone has in ameliorating the alarming overdose rates. One particular article, "Opportunities for Greatness," was written by Sheriff Keith Cain and President Bob Bushman of the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition to encourage Congress to tackle America's drug epidemic.

In addition, NSA's membership overwhelmingly approved a resolution in 2016 titled "National Sheriffs' Association Supports Efforts to Improve Access to Abuse-Deterrent Opioids," acknowledging NSA's commitment to combatting opioid overdose deaths. The resolution can be accessed at <https://www.sheriffs.org/sites/default/files/NSA%202016-3%20Resolution-Abuse-Deterrent%20Opioids%20%28final%20-%207-27-16%29.pdf>.

To further raise awareness of the opioid crisis, NSA provided opportunities in February 2016 for Purdue representatives to address its Board of Directors as well as the Drug Enforcement Committee and Outreach Committee. And at NSA's 2017 Annual Education and Technology Expo in Reno, Nevada, Judge Jeanine Pirro hosted an Opioid Epidemic Panel featuring Sheriff Keith Cain and Corporal Michael "Duane" Harmer, both of Daviess County, Kentucky, and Dr. Gail Cawkwell, Purdue Pharma's Chief Medical Officer.

Finally, NSA collaborated with the Office of National Drug Control Policy to advocate for legislation and funding from the White House and Congress to assist in addressing the opioid crisis. In this regard, on February 7, 2017, President Donald Trump invited NSA leadership to the Oval Office to hear firsthand the concerns of sheriffs across the country. Among the most urgent law enforcement concerns raised by the sheriffs was the national opioid abuse/overdose crisis.

In closing, the federal government has not offered funding or support for this pilot program that was launched by Purdue and NSA. The private sector is stepping up to implement solutions to this frightening epidemic. Equipping NSA with the tools to successfully reverse countless overdose deaths is a monumental step in the right direction!

## **Media Coverage**

“Sheriffs Release Report on Naloxone Rescue Drug Pilot Project,” May 9, 2017 [News release](#)

Jonathan Thompson, opinion column, Louisville Courier-Journal, “[Sheriffs' group pushes new ways to fight drug crisis.](#)” May 23, 2017, circulation 131,208

NSA/Purdue Project Acknowledged: “[Deputies save lives with opioid antidote.](#)” The Franklin News-Post, May 15, 2017, circulation 6,421

“[Med Beat: Franklin County deputies using antidote to opioid overdoses, report says.](#)” The Roanoke Times, May 9, 2017, circulation 65,000

Jonathan Thompson, interview, NBC-WYFF TV, Greenville, SC, “[National Sheriffs' Association official on synthetic opioids: 'It's a very, very dangerous situation'; Executive director Jonathan Thompson discusses what should be done about opioids abuse.](#)” May 10, 2017

Jonathan Thompson, opinion column, “[Sheriff leads way in fight against heroin.](#)” Treasure Coast Palm, May 18, 2017, circulation 100,000

“[LCSO: At least 13 lives saved in Loudoun since 2015 by opioid-fighting Naloxone.](#)” Loudoun Times-Mirror, May 19, 2017

Jonathan Thompson, opinion column, “[It's time to re-think how we're fighting heroin.](#)” The Washington Examiner, May 2, 2017, circulation 45,000

Jonathan Thompson, opinion column, “[Sheriffs' group pushes new ways to fight drug crisis.](#)” USA Today, May 23, 2017

Opioid Epidemic Panel at Annual Conference of National Sheriffs' Association in Reno, NV hosted by Judge Jeanine Pirro with Sheriff Keith Cain, Corporal Harmer, and Dr. Gail Cawkwell, Chief Medical Officer, Purdue Pharma

*Stamford Advocate*, “[Purdue, sheriffs association launch next phase of naloxone initiative.](#)” June 29, 2017

Jonathan Thompson, opinion column, “[Sheriff's heroin-fighting project is much-needed.](#)” Bowling Green *Sentinel-Tribune*, June 14, 2017, circulation 10,248

*Owensboro (KY) Messenger-Inquirer*, “Sheriffs' Association, pharmaceutical company partner to distribute Narcan kits to law enforcement agencies,” July 7, 2017

“Wood County sheriff’s office leading the way fighting heroin with innovative pilot program,” Jonathan Thompson, front page, *Perrysburg (OH) Messenger Journal*, circulation 14,000

Jonathan Thompson quoted, *Politico.com*. “Trump says he will declare opioid crisis a ‘national emergency’,” August, 10, 2017

*Cleveland Plain-Dealer*, “[Cuyahoga County Sheriff’s Office receives free naloxone kits, deputy training](#),” August 15, 2017

NBC News, Green Bay, WI, Channel 26: “[Marquette County Sheriff’s Office to train deputies to use narcan](#),” September 25, 2017

*Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, [Little Rock police to get 160 kits to aid overdosed](#), November 14, 2017

*Owensboro (KY) Messenger-Inquirer*, “Sheriff’s Department, OFD, Adding Narcan Kits”

*American Police Beat Magazine*, “How Purdue Pharma and the nation’s sheriffs are saving lives,” Sheriff Keith Cain and Jonathan Thompson, May 2016 issue

WPEC, CBS, West Palm Beach, 12 News, The St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Department is Starting a Pilot Program, Using an Overdose Rescue Drug with Help From Purdue Pharma and National Sheriffs’ Association, August 19, Viewership: 33,356

*The Roanoke (VA) Times*, “[Law enforcement agencies gradually embrace anti-overdose drug](#),” August 15, 2016

WSLS/NBC 10, Roanoke, VA, “[Franklin County deputies save man’s life with new drug that prevents overdosing](#),” August 3, 2016

*Owensboro (KY) Messenger-Inquirer*, “Anti-opioid saving lives locally,” August 9, 2016

Op-Ed: The Hill - [How Purdue Pharma and Sheriffs are Saving Lives](#), May 3, 2016

## Next Steps

The frightening reality is that heroin overdoses are just the beginning of this nightmare. As border enforcement and security are stepped up, supply will drop and prices will rise. Violence and crime will spike as persons with substance use disorders look for ways to support their deadly habits.

Sadly, our national addiction epidemic could soon be followed by a nationwide crime epidemic, its arrival obscured by the all-consuming efforts utilized to fight the battle against heroin that is before us.

We have learned from this pilot project that there are solutions coming from the private sector that, when combined with the professionalism and expertise of our nation's law enforcement officers, can produce real and meaningful results.

We believe there are similar solutions for combatting and preventing heroin use occurring in communities across the country. It is that belief which has led us to push for a lasting national dialogue that brings together everyone who has a stake in this fight.

The private sector is key to solving this problem. Non-governmental entities, law enforcement, the federal government *and* the private sector must act in unison. We need metrics-based initiatives that exploit solutions. Equally important, we can no longer rely solely on federal funding or direction.

Our goals are simple but multi-faceted. We believe in the creation of a national 'policies and a best practices forum' of senior executives from the private sector, NGOs and government. This forum should:

1. Explore short-term strategies to raise awareness about the epidemic and its cost to our nation;
2. Launch a long-term reevaluation of how to positively change perceptions of killer drugs and;
3. Identify and implement solutions that are, at their core focused on education, production and importation, distribution, addiction, treatment during incarceration and long-term recovery, crime, employment and the myriad of other challenges and opportunities.

We need to have a pointed discussion that regularly and openly identifies what works, what doesn't, and where communities can go for solutions. Right now, we need to come



together as a country to figure out what is already working and what we can do to implement these solutions on a national scale.

The National Sheriffs' Association, along with others like Purdue Pharma, are dedicating resources to support this concept, and we are optimistic that federal entities like the Drug Enforcement Administration will help support and broaden existing initiatives and formalize this landmark change in the way we combat the nation's heroin problem.



## Pilot Project Results and Testimonials in the First 18 Months

### WOOD COUNTY, OH



Wood County Sheriff's Office provided with 150, 2-dose Naloxone Kits.

Conducted Local Onsite Trainings or Technical Assistance to 75 Wood County law enforcement deputies and officers.

Naloxone	Lives saved (estimated)
Wood County	3

**Wood County, OH:** "We issued naloxone to all road patrol deputies and support staff who have daily contact with the community in November of 2016. To this date, naloxone has been used by deputies on three separate occasions. The victims in each incident were brought back from the effects of the drug overdose by the administration of naloxone. Without our partnership with NSA and financial assistance with this project we could not provide this life saving service to the victims of drug overdoses in Wood County." – Wood County Sheriff Mark Wasylyshyn

### ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL



St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office provided with 100, 2-dose Naloxone Kits.

Conducted Local Onsite Trainings or Technical Assistance to 35 Deputies of St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office.

Naloxone	Lives saved (estimated)
St. Lucie County	7

**St. Lucie County, FL:** "So far we have had nine uses of which seven were successful. One of the incidents involved two younger adults, 19-year-old female and 18-year-old male. Someone called in two suspicious people sleeping in their car in a parking lot of a local business. When deputies arrived, they found the two in the vehicle unconscious in the front seats of the vehicle. The deputies observed a pill bottle when they entered the



vehicle. The deputies were unable to wake either of the occupants. It was determined that an overdose had likely occurred. The deputies administered naloxone to both occupants. Both came around and were combative, which is a common reaction while saving their lives. Both were secured and transported to a local hospital.” – Lieutenant Mike Sheelar, Professional Standards Division Commander, St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office.

**WILMINGTON CITY, NC**



Wilmington Police Department, NC, provided with 100, 2-dose Naloxone Kits.

Conducted Local Onsite Trainings or Technical Assistance to 269 people from the Wilmington, NC, Police Department.

Naloxone	Lives saved (estimated)
Wilmington City	63

**GREENVILLE COUNTY, SC**



Greenville County Sheriff’s Office, SC, provided with 25, 2-dose Naloxone Kits.

Conducted Local Onsite Trainings or Technical Assistance to approximately 40 Greenville Sheriff’s Office deputies and officers.

Naloxone	Lives saved (estimated)
Greenville County	14

### **LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA**

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, VA, provided with 150, 2-dose Naloxone Kits.



Conducted Local Onsite Trainings or Technical Assistance to Loudoun County Sheriff's Office deputies and officers.

<b>Naloxone</b>	<b>Lives saved (estimated)</b>
Loudoun County	10

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Franklin County Sheriff's Office, VA, provided with 50, 2-dose Naloxone Kits.



Conducted Local Onsite Trainings or Technical Assistance to 100 Deputies of Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

<b>Naloxone</b>	<b>Lives saved (estimated)</b>
Franklin County	10

**Franklin County, VA:** "Within just a couple minutes, the individual was more coherent and coming back, breathing started to increase, and was transported to the hospital for further observation. [This] drug worked the way it's supposed to." - Sheriff Bill Overton.

"The victim was found by his girlfriend when she arrived at his house, and he was showing signs of possible overdose (blue color in the face, snoring sound, rapid heartbeat, unresponsive with eyes open). Sternum rubs were performed and he remained unresponsive. Sgt. Smith then began putting together the naloxone Rescue Kit to administer to the victim. At this point, Captain Jones arrived and agreed naloxone needed to be administered. Sgt. Smith gave the antidote to the paramedic to administer the solution into the nasal passage. Within 5 minutes of application of naloxone, the victim started to talk to squad members and he was transported by rescue for further medical assistance. Had EMS been tied up on another call and not been able to arrive as quickly as they were, Sgt. Smith would have been unable to as greatly assist in

saving this man's life without the access to naloxone. We are thankful to have this tool on our belt." – Franklin County Sheriff's Office Report

**JEFFERSON COUNTY, KY**



Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, KY, provided with 15, 2-dose Naloxone Kits.

Conducted Local Onsite Trainings or Technical Assistance to Jefferson County Sheriff's Office deputies and officers.

<b>Naloxone</b>	<b>Lives saved (estimated)</b>
Jefferson County	2

**Jefferson County, KY:** On Feb. 14, two deputies noticed a [dispatch] run on a person in a vehicle in southwest Jefferson County. Deputies, along with Louisville Metro Police Officers, removed an unconscious and non-responsive male subject from the vehicle and laid him on the ground. They determined he was suffering from an opioid overdose. They administered naloxone, and within 30 seconds, the subject started to breath. A few minutes later, he could speak and answer questions.

The next day, Feb. 15, Sheriff's Office supervisors were notified of a possible overdose at a Jefferson County Judicial Center conference room. A supervisor grabbed the Opioid Overdose Kit and upon arrival, authorities observed a subject lying on the floor, 'completely blue', and not breathing. Through their naloxone training, they determined the subject was suffering from an opioid overdose. The subject was given four doses of naloxone by JCSO deputies and when Louisville Fire and Rescue and Metro Louisville EMS arrived, they gave the male subject a fifth dose of naloxone and provided oxygen. The subject began to awaken, was stabilized and transported to the University of Louisville Hospital for treatment. A check the next day indicated the subject survived the overdose and had been released from the hospital.

In the last year, the Louisville Metro area has had approximately 364 overdose deaths, but there have also been numerous "saves" by law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel with the use of naloxone. Within days of the issuance of the naloxone kits to the JCSO, [thanks to] the grant from the NSA and Diamond Pharmacy, lives were saved and families did not lose their loved ones.

**DAVIESS COUNTY, KY**



Daviess County Sheriff's Office, KY, provided with 50, 2-dose Naloxone Kits.

Conducted Local Onsite Trainings or Technical Assistance to approximately 50 deputies.

Naloxone	Lives saved (estimated)
Daviess County	4

**Daviess County, KY:** Members of the Daviess County Sheriff's Office have administered naloxone on 4 occasions, saving the lives of those who received naloxone. On all four occasions, members of this Agency responded to calls for service regarding either suspected overdoses or individuals who were unresponsive. Deputies administered naloxone to these individuals. All 4 re-gained consciousness and admitted they had overdosed on opioids. The Daviess County Sheriff's Office is a staunch supporter of the naloxone program and its life saving abilities. Without naloxone, all four incidents would have undoubtedly led to the death or serious injuries. Also, members of this Agency were the first emergency responders arriving at the scene, administering the dosage prior to the ambulance arriving.

**FREDERICK COUNTY, VA**



Frederick County Sheriff's Office, VA, provided with 50, 2-dose Naloxone Kits.

Conducted Local Onsite Trainings or Technical Assistance to 35 Deputies of Frederick County Sheriff's Office.

Naloxone	Lives saved (estimated)
Frederick County	9

**Frederick County, VA:** "Naloxone for law enforcement is critical. We don't have anything else other than treatment and therapy [and] those are things that we as a commonwealth have to take care of, but immediately, if somebody has overdosed, this should help them." – Frederick County Sheriff Lenny Millholland