



**Public Health**  
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Mahoning County  
District Board of Health

# NEWS RELEASE



<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b> <b>DATE:</b> September 21, 2015	<b>Contact:</b> Chris Cunningham
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## Mahoning County District Board of Health to Distribute Naloxone to Combat Opioid Overdose

The Mahoning County District Board of Health is now participating in an opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution program called *Project DAWN*. Naloxone (also known as Narcan) is a life-saving drug that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when administered in time.

Individuals who know someone who is at-risk for opioid overdose and individuals who are at-risk of opioid overdose are eligible to participate in the program. At-risk individuals include those who are in recovery for opioid addiction and those who are actively using opioids. *Project DAWN* naloxone kits are distributed by the health department by appointment only. Program participants must first receive education on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose, how to respond to an overdose by calling 911 and giving rescue breaths, and how to administer naloxone as a nasal spray. At the conclusion of the 45 minute education session, participants are given a free kit containing two doses of naloxone..

The opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution program is in response to the heroin epidemic. Naloxone's only purpose is to reverse the effects of opioids on the brain and breathing in order to prevent death. Naloxone has no potential for abuse. An opioid includes both prescription painkillers (Percocet, OxyContin, Oxycodone, Vicodin, Morphine, Fentanyl, etc.) and heroin. Naloxone does not reverse overdoses that are caused by non-opioid drugs, such as cocaine, benzodiazepines (e.g. Xanax, Klonopin and Valium), methamphetamines, or alcohol.

For more information or to schedule an appointment for *Project DAWN*, please call 330-270-2855 ext. 125.



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