



## Naloxone Administration by Emergency Medical Services (EMS), 2024

### 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 naloxone administrations (regardless of opioid involvement) documented by EMS providers in 2024. Data comes from the Montana EMS incident dataset. PLEASE NOTE: This report includes both NEMSIS 3.4 and NEMSIS 3.5 records. Montana began transitioning to NEMSIS 3.5 in Sept 2023. When interpreting this data, please keep in mind that there may be some data quality issues due to the transition.<sup>1</sup> Montana statute requires that licensed ground and air transporting EMS agencies submit a patient care report (PCR) for each patient they encounter. Non-transporting agencies may also submit data. Therefore, the dataset may contain multiple records (EMS activations) pertaining to the same patient or incident.

This report includes EMS activations with an incident date between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, where the scene location is in Montana. EMS activations are labelled as opioid-related if they meet the [Montana opioid overdose syndrome criteria](#).<sup>2</sup>

### Data Limitations

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

### Results

There were **683 EMS activations** with a total of **902 naloxone administrations** documented in 2024. According to the available data, **2,056 milligrams (mg) of naloxone were administered** – however, this total does not include data from records missing dosage information. *There were an additional 736 EMS activations where naloxone was mentioned in the patient care narrative but not documented in the medication fields.* Ground transporting agencies provided the greatest amount of naloxone compared to other types of EMS agencies (Table 1).

**Table 1. Naloxone Administration by Agency Type, Montana, 2024**

EMS Agency Type	Number of Doses		Mg Administered	
	Doses	%	mg	%
Ground Transporting Agency	843	93.5%	1,935	94.1%
Non-Transporting Agency	51	5.7%	112	5.4%
Rotor Wing	7	0.8%	9	0.4%
Fixed Wing	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
All	902	100.0%	2,056	100.0%

Nearly half (**332 of 683 EMS activations, 48.6%**) of EMS activations where naloxone was given were NOT classified as opioid overdose-related (Figure 1). The most common types of non-opioid patients that received naloxone were cardiac-related (124 activations), altered level of consciousness (112 activations), and respiratory-related (24 activations).

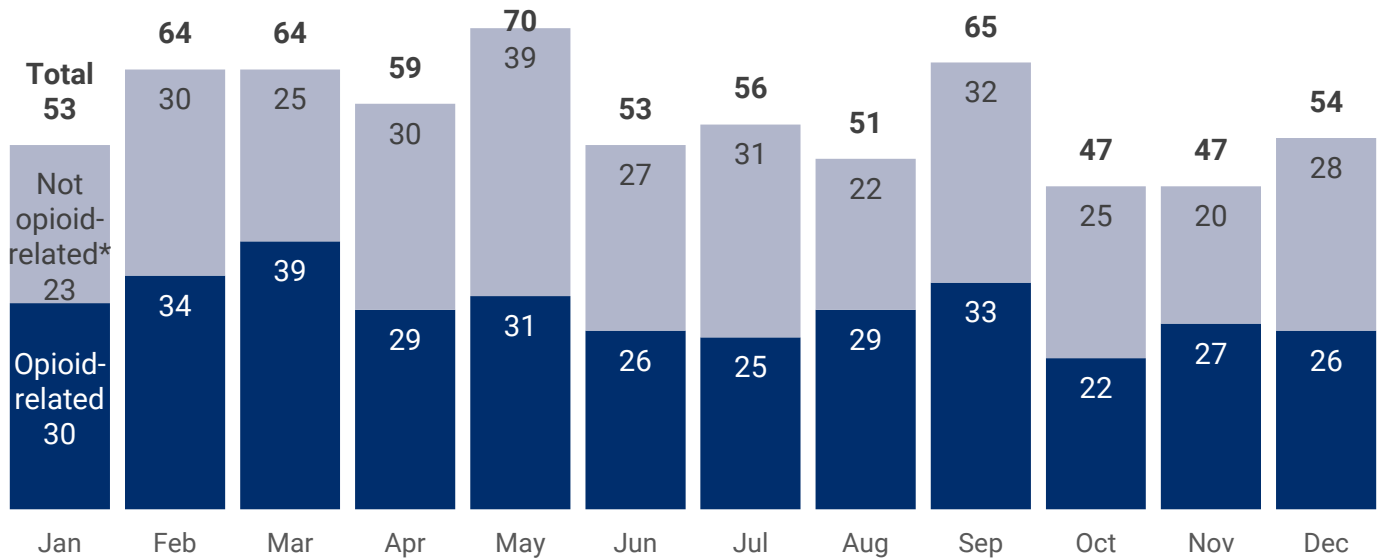
<sup>1</sup> This report includes both [NEMSIS v3.4.0](#) and [NEMSIS v3.5](#) records

<sup>2</sup> Version 10.11.2024





**Figure 1. Opioid-related vs. non-opioid-related EMS activations with naloxone administered, Montana, 2024**



\* See [Montana opioid overdose syndrome criteria](#)

**How to Access Naloxone**

In order to increase timely access to naloxone, an online ordering process for organizations and facilities was adopted in 2022. Organizations may acquire naloxone through the [DPHHS Order Authorization Form](#) and distribute to eligible recipients as defined by Mont. Code Ann. § 50-32-603(5)(a)-(i). Eligible recipients include:

- An individual at risk of an opioid-related overdose
- Family, friends, or other person in proximity to a person at risk of opioid-related overdose
- Others as listed on Montana's [standing order](#)

DPHHS encourages public health departments, the criminal justice system, behavioral health providers, harm reduction organizations, programs that serve veterans, and Montana Tribes to utilize this ordering process to have naloxone on hand for staff and to get naloxone into the hands of the end user. DPHHS and contractors will use information from the order form to track naloxone distribution and to conduct other public health and epidemiological surveillance activities. To learn more, contact [naloxone@mt.gov](mailto:naloxone@mt.gov) or visit [naloxone.mt.gov](http://naloxone.mt.gov)

*The online ordering form is not for individuals. Individuals can obtain naloxone for free from one of the [organizations that have naloxone](#) listed on the DPHHS website. Naloxone is also available over-the-counter. **Note:** As of January 17, 2025, DPHHS naloxone orders are currently on hold.*

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