

# Increasing Awareness of Opioid Overdose Risk & Treatment Resources



Monday

February 26, 2024

2p.m.

 GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

# Agenda

- Message from ABCA Director
- Overview of opioid-related deaths
- Good Samaritan protections
- Enforcement misnomers
- Available trainings and resources
- Destigmatizing addiction
- What resources do licensees need?
- Q&A

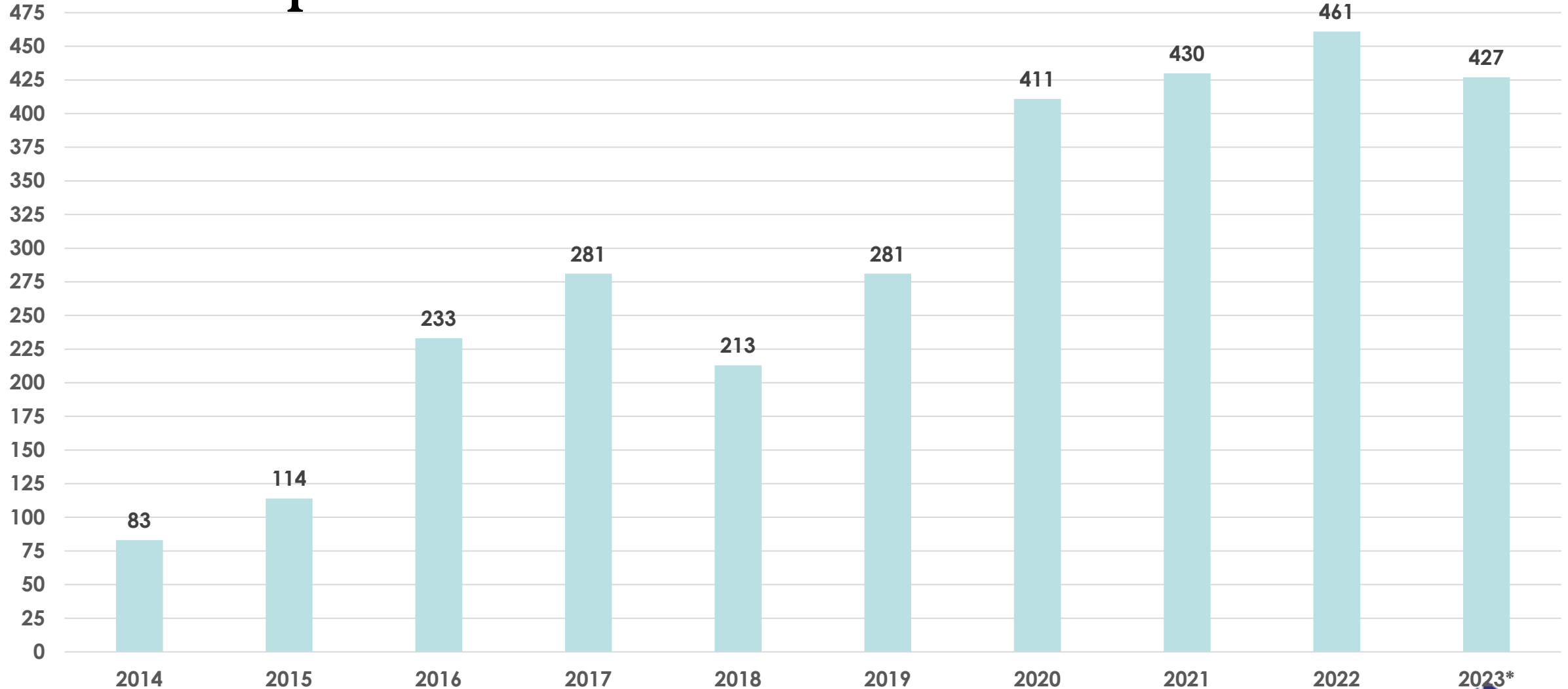


# Message from ABCA Director

- ABCA supports alcohol licensed nightlife businesses and staff to become trained in opioid overdose prevention
- In the case of overdoses, ABCA supports the administration of Narcan
- Businesses won't be penalized and alcohol licenses will not be revoked



# DC opioid overdose fatalities 2014-2023



Source: [Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Jan 1 2014-Oct 31 2023](#)



# The role of fentanyl in overdose death

- Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is present in the local street opioid supply, and is occasionally present in other drugs
- Fentanyl is a chemical cousin of heroin, but about 50x stronger
- Fentanyl and fentanyl analogs were a factor in 98% of opioid overdose deaths in 2023\*
- Naloxone (brand-name NARCAN) works to reverse overdoses caused by all opioids, but not other types of drugs



\*Source: [DC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner](#)

# What is naloxone?

- Naloxone (brand-name Narcan) is a medication that quickly restores breathing during an opioid overdose
- In a nasal spray form, and can be administered by a layperson (e.g. not a doctor, nurse or EMT)
- No side effects if given when not needed

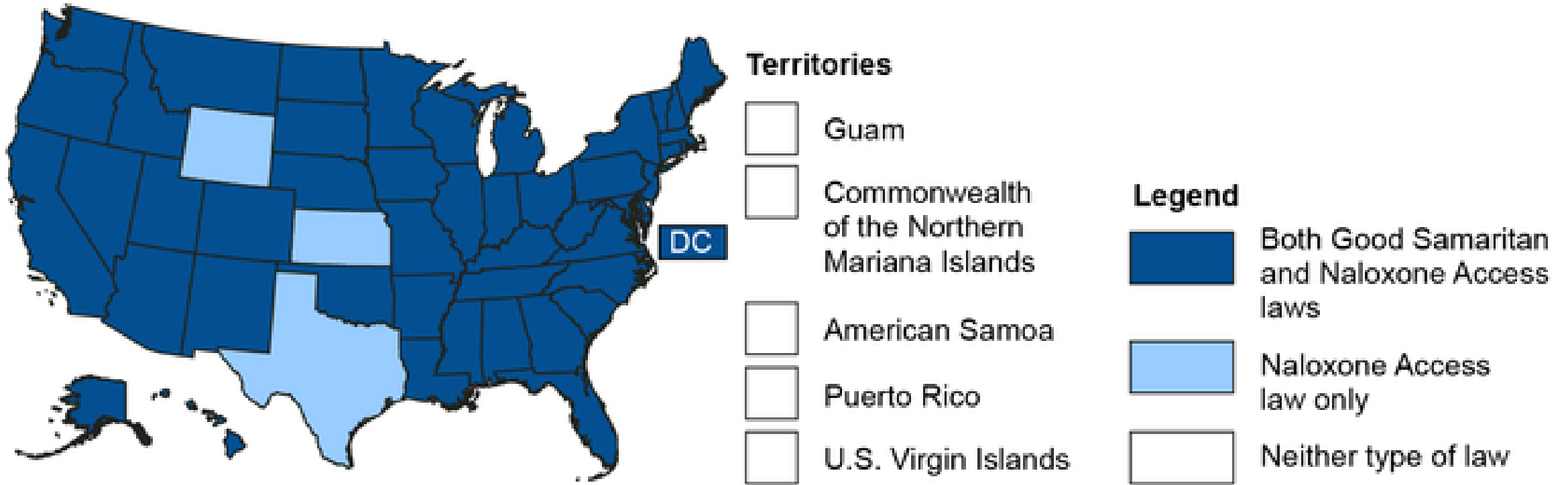


# Myths and Stigma

- If you give someone naloxone, they'll come up swinging because you took away their high
- If someone is overdosing, you should put ice on them or give them milk
- You can overdose on fentanyl by touching it or being in the same room as it
- If FEMS responds to too many overdose calls at your establishment, this means your establishment endorses drug use on the premises and ABCA will revoke your license



# Good Samaritan Laws



Source: GAO analysis of jurisdiction laws. | GAO-21-248





# Protections for drug possession and drug paraphernalia at the scene of an overdose

Code of the District of Columbia § 7–403. Seeking health care for an overdose victim.

- No one will be charged for drug possession if drugs are found at the scene when seeking healthcare for an overdose
  - Protects both the person overdosing and any bystanders
  - Some protections for providing alcohol to minors
  - Does not provide protections against other types of crime

Opioid Overdose Treatment and Prevention Omnibus Amendment Act of 2020

- Drug paraphernalia is decriminalized in DC
  - Not just when found at the scene of an overdose



# Laypersons can carry and administer naloxone

Code of the District of Columbia § 7–403. Seeking health care for an overdose victim.

- It is legal for a lay person to carry and administer naloxone to someone they believe is experiencing an overdose
  - Even if they have not been trained on how to use naloxone!

Substance Abuse and Opioid Overdose Prevention Amendment Act of 2016

- The layperson will not be held civilly or criminally responsible so long as they are acting in good faith to provide health care, even if the person overdosing is injured or does not survive
  - Also applies to medical situations other than overdoses



# Summary and Application of GS Laws

- Staff can be trained in naloxone administration
- Establishments can keep naloxone and staff can use it in the event of a suspected overdose
- No one will face legal trouble for drug/drug paraphernalia possession, or in the case of an overdose fatality
- ABCA will not revoke licenses if an overdose occurs on the premises of your establishment
- Staff cannot distribute naloxone to patrons
- Naloxone cannot be left unattended in bathrooms or out on the counter for patrons to grab
- Establishments may refuse entry to patrons who possess drugs or drug paraphernalia



# Resources

NYC Office of Nightlife | ELEVATE Initiative

## NARCAN<sup>®</sup> BEHIND EVERY BAR

Bringing life-saving opioid overdose prevention tools and resources to the nightlife and hospitality community

To learn more, visit: [nyc.gov/nightlife](https://nyc.gov/nightlife)

**NYC** Health | **NYC** Office of Nightlife | Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment



## Alexandria supplying Narcan in restaurants

By David Kaplan | Published May 24, 2023 | Alexandria | FOX 5 DC |



Alexandria supplying Narcan in restaurants

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup>**

NAR is dedicated to serving the community.

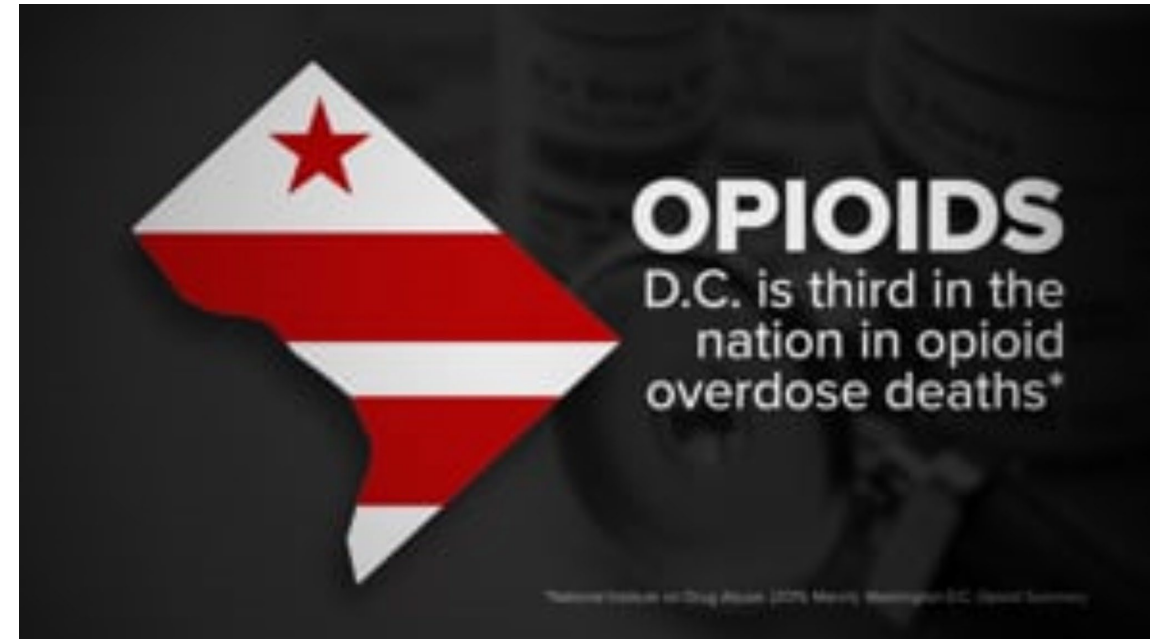
[Learn more](#)

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# Naloxone Training Resources

- Training is ~45-60 minutes and always free!
  - DBH Training Institute:  
<https://dbhtraininginstitute.networfcare4elearning.org/OnlineCourseDetail.aspx?pId=190670>
  - Group training with an instructor (virtual or in-person): email [naloxone@dc.gov](mailto:naloxone@dc.gov) to request a training
- 8-minute overview video:  
<https://vimeo.com/507662143/a8b92f38a6>



# Where can I get naloxone for free?

30 Partner pharmacies in all 8 Wards

- No cost, no identification, no prescription
  - Participating pharmacies:  
<https://dbh.dc.gov/page/where-can-i-get-naloxone-dc>
- Other pharmacies stock naloxone but may require a prescription and/or fee

DC government partners with >100 organizations to distribute naloxone

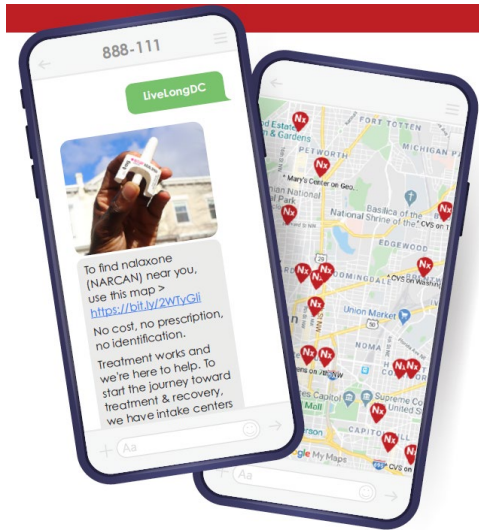
- Syringe service programs
- Drug treatment providers
- Peer operated centers
- Homeless outreach
- Faith-based organizations
- ...And more!



# Can't come to us? We deliver!\*

Order via text: send  
“LiveLongDC” to 888-811

- Someone will contact you within one business day to schedule delivery



\*DC addresses only

Order via mail:

<https://www.healthsupportnow.org/order-naloxone>

- Discreet package
- Arrives in 3-5 business days





# Free signage available for businesses

All deliveries sent via mail; order here: <https://form.jotform.com/210477033758054>

**LIVE  
LONG DC**

Is the District's effort to  
prevent overdose deaths.

There are two important  
laws that make it safe  
for you to call 9-1-1 if  
you, a friend, or a family  
member is overdosing.  
These laws protect you  
from being arrested:



#### THE "GOOD SAMARITAN"

**LAW** means MPD officers  
**WILL NOT arrest you**  
for any drugs or alcohol  
on the scene when you've  
sought health care or  
administered naloxone  
to help someone who  
has overdosed.



#### THE OPIOID OVERDOSE

**LAW** means that **having a  
kit** (needles, spoons, pipes,  
or other paraphernalia)  
**is NO LONGER illegal.**  
You will not get in trouble  
when MPD officers arrive  
to help someone who  
has overdosed.

**FENTANYL  
DRUGS**

IS IN YOUR  
meth  
cocaine  
pills  
heroin

Text **LiveLongDC** to **888-811**  
to find naloxone and fentanyl  
test strips near you.

**BE  
READY**

LIVE LONG DC Saving lives from the opioid epidemic. DBH DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR





# Mental Health Resources

- Most people don't remember overdosing and may be scared, overwhelmed or ill after being given naloxone
- Overdoses can be stressful for everyone involved—mental health, peer support and drug treatment resources are available
  - 24/7 DBH AccessHelpline: 1-888-7WEHELP (1-888-793-4357)
  - National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988
  - MyRecoveryDC: [www.myrecoverydc.org/](http://www.myrecoverydc.org/)
- **You are always doing the right thing by saving a life!!**



# Q&A



# Contact Information

## DBH

- Sari Frankel, Harm Reduction Supervisor
- Katie Montgomery, Harm Reduction Coordinator
- [naloxone@dc.gov](mailto:naloxone@dc.gov)

## ABCA

- Fred Moosally, Director  
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