



**2025 - 05**

**THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS OPIOID REVERSAL  
MEDICATION AWARENESS AND EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, opioid overdose fatalities have become a critical public health issue affecting communities nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC reports between 2002 and 2022, the rate of drug overdose deaths nearly quadrupled with synthetic opioids like fentanyl responsible for over 75% of the 107,941 drug overdose deaths that occurred in the United States in 2022<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, drug overdose deaths decreased in 2023, over 105,000 still suffered a fatality from a drug overdose<sup>2</sup> and CDC data from a study on adolescents ages 10-19 shows that two thirds of decedents had one or more potential bystanders present, but most provided no overdose response<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Sheriffs' Offices play a vital role in ensuring the safety and well-being of their communities, including responding to emergencies such as opioid overdoses; and

**WHEREAS**, opioid reversal medications have been proven to be effective in saving lives by rapidly reversing the effects of opioid overdoses; and

**WHEREAS**, ensuring widespread availability and training on opioid reversal medications aligns with our commitment to public safety and community health; and

**WHEREAS**, an education and awareness program specific to opioid reversal medications for Sheriffs' Offices across the United States would contribute significantly to reducing the impact of opioid overdoses on individuals and communities;

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<sup>1</sup> Spencer MR, Garnett MF, Miniño AM. Drug overdose deaths in the United States, 2002–2022. NCHS Data Brief, no 491. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2024. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc/135849>

<sup>2</sup> Garnett MF, Miniño AM. Drug overdose deaths in the United States, 2003–2023. NCHS Data Brief, no 522. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2024. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc/170565>

<sup>3</sup> Tanz LJ, Dinwiddie AT, Mattson CL, O'Donnell J, Davis NL. Drug Overdose Deaths Among Persons Aged 10–19 Years — United States, July 2019–December 2021. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2022;71:1576–1582. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7150a2>

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) recognizes all FDA-approved opioid overdose reversal agents to restore lives;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the NSA will collaborate with relevant stakeholders including opioid reversal medication manufacturers, healthcare professionals, and community organizations to help facilitate training sessions and educational programs that ensure proper administration of opioid reversal medications and awareness of related protocols for their law enforcement personnel and for their communities.