

COLLEGE

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DRUGS & PREVENTION

College, for many young adults, is a time to explore and experiment, often leading them to partake in risky behaviors such as binge drinking, prescription drug misuse, and recreational drug use, all prevalent issues on college grounds.

Students spend significant time in schools, so educational institutions have a unique role in working with parents, guardians, and the community. School districts are in a good position to educate students and families about fentanyl, synthetic drugs, and emerging substances. You may consider launching a fentanyl awareness campaign and incorporating opioid and fentanyl prevention modules and even an overdose emergency response plan into the school's health education program.

Does your school have these important Campus Tools for safety?

Prevention Education

Over the past decade, Fentanyl, an extremely potent opioid, has surged across the nation, leaving devastation in its wake. Approximately 50 times more powerful than heroin, this drug has triggered a rise in overdose and poisoning fatalities, particularly in urban areas. Dubbed the "fentanyl epidemic," this crisis has mercilessly claimed thousands of lives, cutting across diverse segments of American society. Given the heightened vulnerability of college students to substance misuse, comprehending the magnitude of this crisis and its associated risk factors is imperative for steering clear of potentially catastrophic consequences and making resources available for students to learn how to recognize and prevent opioid overdose and poisoning is crucial to saving lives.

Naloxone Safety and Accessibility

As the number of college students grappling with opiate use, overdoses, and fatalities continues to surge, despite advancements in prevention messaging and the proliferation of recovery programs on campuses, it's evident that further measures are urgently needed. Among these is the availability of Naloxone on college grounds. Having Naloxone stashed away in a nurse's office or stocked in a health center cabinet isn't ideal, as the window to respond to and reverse an overdose is incredibly brief—mere minutes. Naloxone must be directly accessible to those most likely to encounter an overdose: roommates, family members, or friends. Placing Naloxone in dorms or easy-find locations around campus is the best way to act quickly in a crisis.

Good Samaritans Policy

A Good Samaritan Policy is designed to save lives by encouraging students to act promptly during medical emergencies related to alcohol or drugs. Students often hesitate to seek help during such emergencies due to concerns about facing severe disciplinary actions for alcohol and drug violations. This hesitation can be life-threatening but can be avoided. The Good Samaritan Policy offers amnesty and shields students from disciplinary measures in medical emergencies to encourage swift responses.

