



County of Bucks

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FACT SHEET

BUCKS COUNTY NALOXONE PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE A Partnership of Law Enforcement, Government and Community

Background: On November 29, 2014, Act 139 went into effect to allow Naloxone, a life-saving opioid overdose reversal medicine, to be prescribed by a third party such as a friend or family member or to be administered by law enforcement and firefighters. Bucks County, through a partnership of government/law enforcement funding and the non-profit Steps to Recovery, recently purchased over 200 Naloxone kits for use by stakeholders. The purchase of additional kits has been budgeted, as well.

Early Adopters: Today Lower Makefield Police Chief Ken Coluzzi announced that members of his department have completed training and have the capability to use the nasal-administered kits in the field. As a key member of the Bucks County Police Chiefs' Association, Chief Coluzzi is coordinating the distribution of Naloxone for law enforcement. Delaware County police officers have saved 14 potential overdose victims over the last several months, leading Bucks County to believe that similar success can be achieved in the local community.

Training: All officers who administer the rescue kits will have received online certification through the website, www.getnaloxonenow.org. Get Naloxone Now is an online resource to train people to respond effectively to an opioid-associated overdose emergency. Get Naloxone Now advocates for widespread access to overdose education and training in how to administer Naloxone, the life-saving antidote for opioid-associated overdose.

Other Drug Prevention Outreach: The addition of Naloxone for law enforcement officers is one strategy within the Bucks County approach to addiction. The Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc. provides funding of the county-wide Overdose Prevention and Education Committee. Training on Overdose Prevention and the use of Rescue Medications is provided to the community at large. In addition, Bucks County maintains a very successful Medication Take Back Program that offers semi-annual events at dozens of locations throughout the county. There are also permanent drop-off boxes at multiple sites, including the Bucks County Administration Building.

Tip Lines: The Bucks County District Attorney's office maintains multiple tip lines – including the text option TIP411 (use the text line "BucksDrugTips"), the telephone tip line 215-345-DRUG (3784) and the e-mail account, drugtips@co.bucks.pa.us.