



**Joint Legislative Oversight Committee  
on Health and Human Services  
April 12, 2016**

**Department of Health and Human Services  
Statewide Standing Order For Naloxone**



# Authorization of a Statewide Standing Order for Naloxone (1)

*Authorize direct dispensing of naloxone at pharmacies in North Carolina by a state health official issuing a medical standing order for naloxone dispensing.*

**Under state law a pharmacy can't dispense naloxone without a prescription or a physician's standing order.**

- **The county EMS Medical Director fills this role for law enforcement and first responders**
- **A mechanism isn't available for the general public's access to naloxone**



## Authorization of a Statewide Standing Order for Naloxone (2)

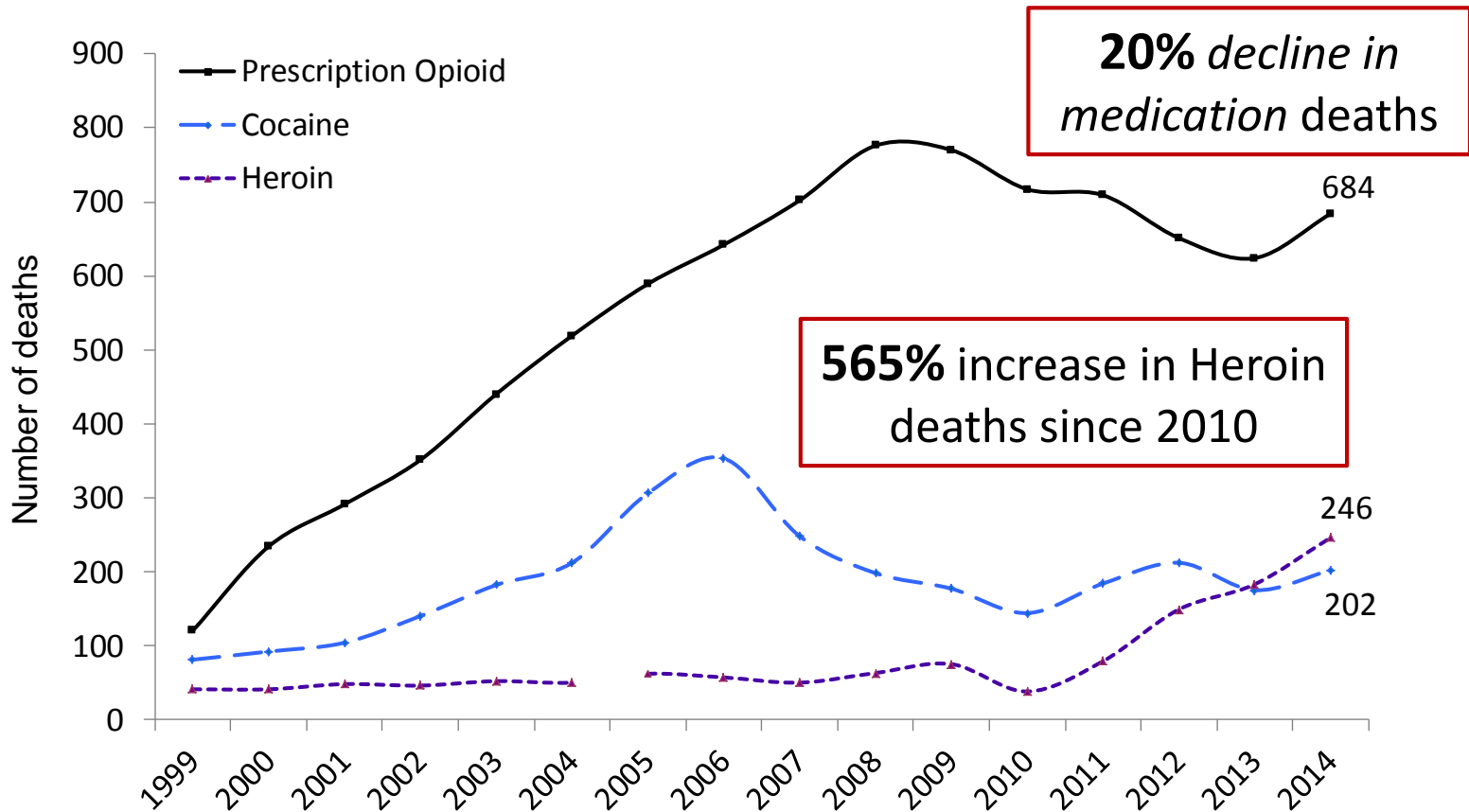
*Authorize direct dispensing of naloxone at pharmacies in North Carolina by a state health official issuing a medical standing order for naloxone dispensing.*

- **This change will enable pharmacists who recognize the hazard posed by a patients opioid prescriptions to directly dispense naloxone as a safety measure**
- **Family members will be able to acquire naloxone if they fear a family member is at risk for an overdose**
- **There is wide support for this action among the Pharmacy, Public Health, Medical and other health professionals who see this as a life-saving step in the face of the opioid epidemic**



# Substances Contributing to Medication or Drug Overdose Deaths

North Carolina Residents, 1999-2014

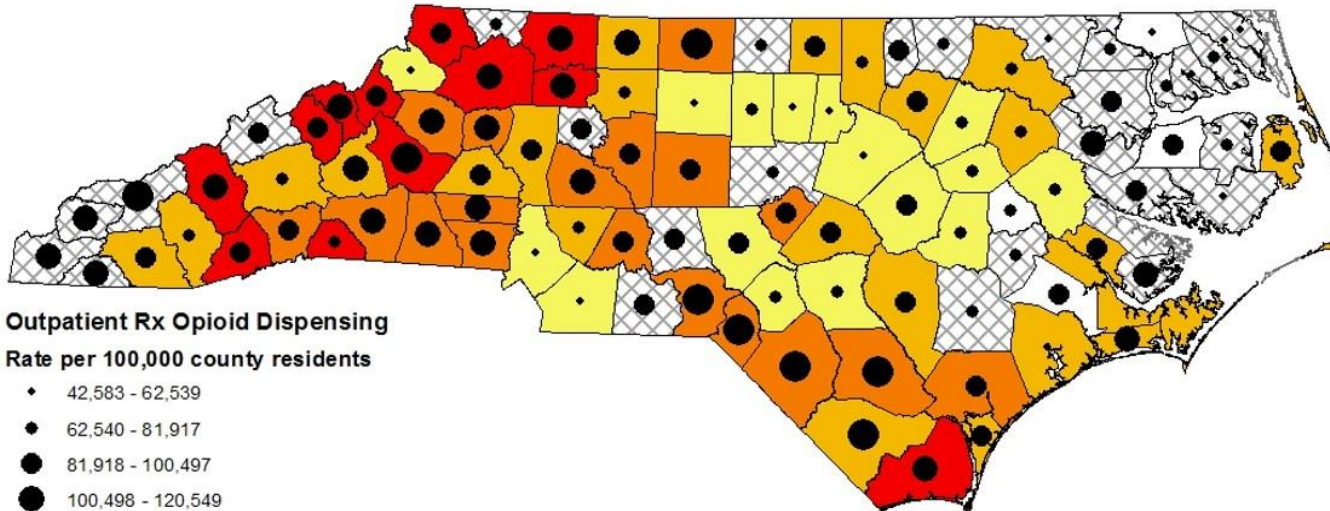


Source: N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics-Deaths, 1999-2014  
Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit



# Prescription Opioid Overdose Deaths Rates + Outpatient Prescriptions Dispensed for Opioids Rate

*North Carolina Residents, 2012-2013*



**Outpatient Rx Opioid Dispensing**  
Rate per 100,000 county residents

- ◆ 42,583 - 62,539
- 62,540 - 81,917
- 81,918 - 100,497
- 100,498 - 120,549
- 120,550 - 153,510

**Unintentional/Undetermined Rx Opioid Deaths**

Rate per 100,000 county residents

- 0.0
- 1.9 - 5.2
- 5.2 - 7.8
- 7.9 - 12.0
- 12.1 - 21.7
- ▨ <5 deaths; rate suppressed

**Average death rate:** 5.8 deaths per 100,000 residents

**Average dispensing rate:** 77,621 prescriptions per 100,000 residents

Data Source: N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics, 2012-2013;  
N.C. Controlled Substance Reporting System, 2012-2013  
Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit



# Naloxone (1)

*A life saving antigen to an Opioid overdose*

- **Naloxone is a medication that reverses the effects of opioid medication.**
  - **Safe, very effective, and harmless - even if administered to someone not experiencing an opioid overdose.**
- **Naloxone is a first aid tool to combat the current Opioid Epidemic.**
  - **Families and friends of an opioid user are trained in the use of naloxone to rescue their loved one in the event of an overdose.**
  - **Similar to CPR, EPI Pens and AED defibrillators, render first aid and prevent death.**
  - **Naloxone has proven to be very popular in the 2+ years of use in North Carolina.**



# Naloxone (2)

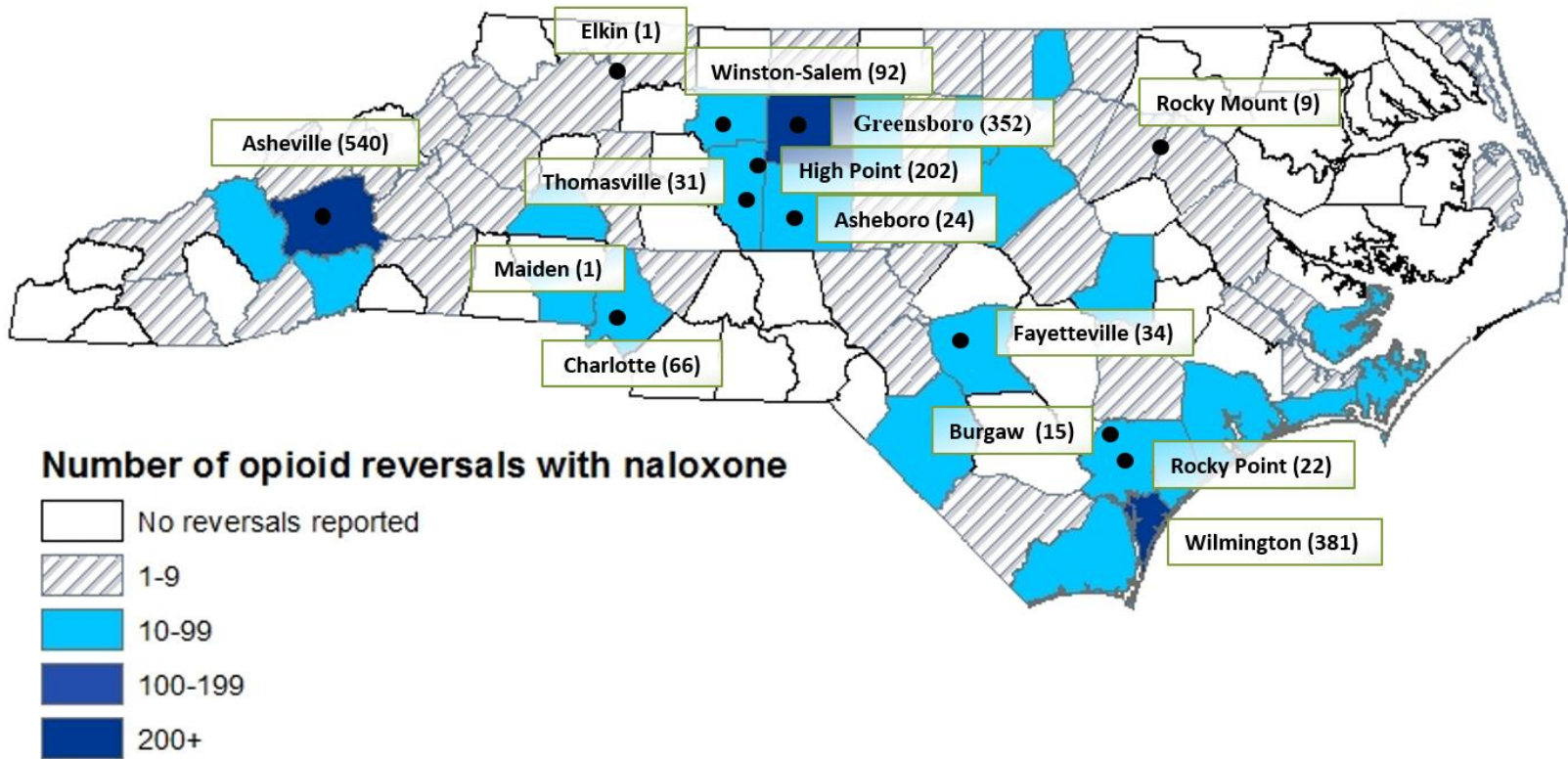
*A life saving antigen to an Opioid overdose*

- **By federal regulation, Naloxone is classified as a prescription medication.**
  - **It's legal to prescribe naloxone, dispensing the drug by medical professionals is subject to rules that vary by jurisdiction.**
- **In 2013, North Carolina enacted the Good Samaritan/Naloxone Access Law.**
  - **Cleared the way for law enforcement, fire departments to carry and use.**
  - **Enabled prescriptions to family members and friends of individuals at risk for overdose.**
  - **Limited community distribution started under this law.**
  - **Wide availability is seen as the next step.**



# Opioid Overdose Reversals with Naloxone (1)

*Reported to NC Harm Reduction Coalition 8/1/2013 to 2/1/2016*





# Opioid Overdose Reversals with Naloxone (2)

*The Good Samaritan/Naloxone Law in NC is Popular and Effective*

- **56 Law Enforcement Agencies across NC now carry naloxone**
- **41 have reported using to reverse an overdose**
- **Wide availability of Naloxone can reduce overdose deaths**



# Impact of North Carolina's 2013

*Good Samaritan/Naloxone Access Law*

## Since August 1, 2013

- **23,000 overdose rescue kits distributed**
  - **12,366 in 2015 alone**
- **2,296 confirmed overdose reversals**

## 2015

- **1,064 confirmed overdose reversals**



# Impact of North Carolina's 2013

## *Good Samaritan/Naloxone Access Law*

- **North Carolina Reached a Tipping Point in 2015:**
- **More overdose reversals than overdose deaths**



# Questions?