

NASCIO 2017 State IT Recognition Awards

Title: Stop Overdoses Location Application
Category: Digital Government - Government to Citizen
State: Kentucky
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Kentucky.gov

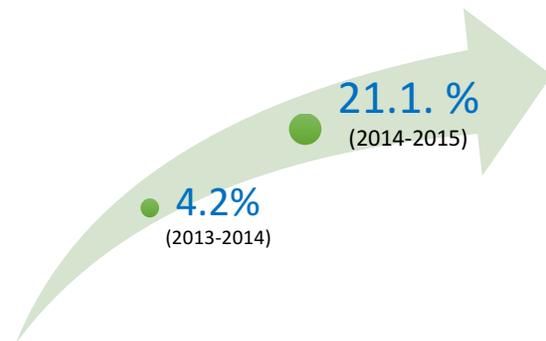


Kentucky.gov

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Substance abuse is one of the most critical public health and safety issues facing Kentucky. Deaths due to overdose exact a devastating toll on families, communities, social services and economic stability and growth.

Kentucky overdose fatalities increased from 1,071 deaths in 2014 to 1,248 deaths in 2015. The graphic represents the increase in percentages of deaths that occurred due to overdose from the years 2013-2014 and the years 2014 -2015. As shown, there was a drastic increase in overdose deaths in the year 2015.



In an effort to reverse the trend, the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) engaged with NIC subsidiary, Kentucky Interactive to help implement an online service that allows the citizens of the Commonwealth information on increased access to Naloxone (also referred to as Narcan), medication used to reverse an opioid overdose.

Find a location near by
Search by City, Zip or County.

The online service (<http://odcp.ky.gov/Stop-Overdoses/Pages/Locations.aspx>) is a location-based web based service that enables users to search for pharmacies and health departments by city, county, or zip code. Based on the geographic input the search engine receives, the application generates a pin-drop map of locations that offer Naloxone over-the-counter.

This online service plays a crucial role in helping reduce the number of deaths from opioid drug overdoses. By providing an easily accessible interface that updates in real-time, the Commonwealth has ensured unlimited access to local resources and aided in the decrease of opioid-related deaths.

CONCEPT

Fatal drug overdose is an epidemic that claims the lives of over 1,000 Kentuckians every year. Kentucky has the fourth highest age-adjusted drug overdose death rate in the country and the majority of these deaths are caused by opioids (heroin and prescription drugs). Tragically, most of these deaths are preventable.

There is a medication called Naloxone that is able to reverse an overdose, if administered in enough time. Opioids effect the body by depressing respiration. Naloxone works in reversing an overdose by blocking the effects of opioids on brain and entering the person into immediate withdrawal, restoring a normal pattern of breathing.

To reverse the increase in preventable overdose deaths, Kentucky has amended their laws to increase access to emergency care and treatment for overdose victims, including the administration of Naloxone.

As Naloxone has become more accessible to the Commonwealth, the Office of Drug Control and Policy (ODCP) recognized that constituents had limited access to information on where Naloxone was available, specifically within their region of residence.

To overcome this barrier, the ODCP enlisted the help of Kentucky Interactive with a project implementing an online service that allows Kentuckians to locate the medicine

Using agile methodology and an enterprise content management system, Kentucky Interactive developed a mobile-ready online website and service (<http://odcp.ky.gov/Stop-Overdoses/Pages/Locations.aspx>), at no cost to the Commonwealth under the public-private partnership, Kentucky.gov. The website and online service integrates with Google Maps to pinpoint locations of pharmacies and health departments that offer needle exchange and Naloxone without a prescription.

The online service allows you to search by city, county, or zip code for the nearest locations. The red pin-drop indicates a location that sells Naloxone, while the green pin-drop indicates locations that offer needle exchange. The content management system allows the ODCP to update, edit and administer data and information to all applicable locations.



SIGNIFICANCE

Access to Naloxone has previously been limited by laws making it difficult for those likely to be in an overdose situation to access the medication. State laws typically prohibit prescribing drugs to someone other than the person to whom they will be administered to or to a person the physician has not physically examined. Additionally, many prescribers had been wary of prescribing Naloxone because of liability concerns. Likewise, even where Naloxone is available, bystanders to a drug overdose had been afraid to administer it because of liability concerns.

A PERSON ACTING IN GOOD FAITH WHO ADMINISTERS NALOXONE RECEIVED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE IMMUNE FROM CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LIABILITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION (KRS 217.186)

Kentucky realized the danger of complacency and revised the law under KRS 217.186 authorizing health care providers to prescribe the medication directly to an individual and allows for limited third-party administration of Naloxone if “the prescribing instructions indicate the need for the third party administering the drug to immediately notify a local public safety answering point of the situation necessitating the administration.”

This law allows pharmacists the ability to distribute Naloxone over-the-counter without fear of being prosecuted, and it allows citizens the ability to administer the medication, when necessary, without fear of being prosecuted.

The online service, although able to stand alone, is part of a larger initiative. The scope of this project aligns with gubernatorial priorities of reducing substance abuse in the state of Kentucky. It also aligns with other state mandates such as KRS 218A.133 (also known as the Good Samaritan Law) which protects people from prosecution when they report a drug overdose. This law is an important aspect of the project because it directly effects people’s use of Naloxone and the implications related to it.

A PERSON SHALL NOT BE CHARGED WITH OR PROSECUTED FOR A CRIMINAL OFFENSE PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE OR THE POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA IF, IN GOOD FAITH, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE WITH A DRUG OVERDOSE IS SOUGHT FROM A PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, OR A HEALTH PRACTITIONER BECAUSE THE PERSON (KRS 218A.133)

The project adds value to Kentucky’s ongoing fight against substance abuse and supports the current policy.

IMPACT

The goal of the project was to provide a new online resource to the public, while increasing awareness, in hopes that the website and online service will reduce the growing number of drug overdoses by educating people on where they can access Naloxone.

While tracking the data of Naloxone disbursement and usage is challenging, local government agencies in Kentucky have reported increases of more than 50% year-over-year in Naloxone doses. Analytics from the new website and service show a steady increase in users visiting the site and viewing the data.

With thousands of page views each month, the website has seen views double and triple since the launch of the service. Website metrics also indicate users are able to gain information quickly and have great success in data acquisition with minimal page abandonment.

The creation and implementation of this project and online service is unique in that it offers a mobile-ready solution to finding critical health data in a timely manner. It leads to substantial and measureable change. With the drug overdose rate at its peak, providing a resource for Kentuckians to access Naloxone benefits various aspects of the community. Not only does this application make state government better, it makes the state of Kentucky better.