



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Greene County Public Health

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Greene County Public Health Provides Naloxone Kits to Xenia, Fairborn Police Departments

XENIA, OH— Ohio is in the grips of a drug overdose epidemic. From 1999 to 2011, Ohio's death rate due to drug overdose increased 440 percent. Based on preliminary data from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), 2,482 deaths occurred from unintentional drug overdoses in Ohio in 2014, with Greene County seeing a total of 40 of those deaths. For 2013, there were 21 deaths in Greene County; this 2014 preliminary data shows that the annual number deaths has nearly doubled. From 2009 to 2014, Greene County has lost 154 lives to drug overdoses. The increase in these deaths has been driven largely by opioids such as prescription pain relievers and heroin.

To address the growing problem of heroin and opiate abuse in our county, Greene County Public Health, by way of the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), has recently secured an allotment of up to 75 Project DAWN (**D**eath **A**voided **w**ith **N**aloxone) kits to dispense to Xenia and Fairborn Police Departments. These Project DAWN kits consist of two nasal atomizers, two naloxone syringes, and two face shields.

What is Project DAWN?

Project DAWN is a community-based overdose education and naloxone distribution program. Project DAWN recipients receive training on:

- Recognizing the signs and symptoms of overdose
- Distinguishing between different types of overdose
- Performing rescue breathing
- Calling emergency medical services
- Administering intranasal Naloxone

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What is Naloxone?

Naloxone (also known as Narcan) is a medication that can reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug (heroin or prescription pain medications). When administered during an overdose, naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and quickly restores breathing. It has been used safely by emergency medical professionals for more than 40 years and has only this one critical function: to reverse the effects of opioids in order to prevent overdose death. Naloxone has no potential for abuse.

For individuals interested in getting a kit, TCN Behavioral Health Services is offering a free training event for ages 18 years and older on Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 6:00 – 7:30pm at TCN Behavioral Health Services located at 600 E. Dayton-Yellow Springs Road in Fairborn. This training is limited to 20 people.

Reservations for the training are required by calling 937-376-8700. Project DAWN training and kits are FREE of charge to the public. Visit www.healthy.ohio.gov/vipp/drug/ProjectDAWN.aspx for more info on Project DAWN.

About Greene County Public Health

Our mission is to prevent disease, protect our environment, and promote healthy communities and wellness in Greene County. Our employees accomplish this through integrated community efforts and assessment, health education, collaboration and assurance of quality services, disease prevention and control, and emergency preparedness. Our vision is to be the recognized leader that addresses health outcomes, reduces health disparities, upholds standards of public health practice, and improves service to the community.

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