



Public Health Alliance for  
Safety Access

***Naloxone access and/or  
911 Good Samaritan Law  
is supported by the  
following local, state,  
and national  
organizations:***

American Medical Association

American Public Health Association

National Office on Drug Control  
Policy

National Association of State  
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors

National Association of Boards of  
Pharmacy

National Association of Drug Court  
Professionals

Northern Nevada HOPES

Northern Nevada Outreach Team  
(NNOT)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administrations

United States Department of Justice

U.S. Conference of Mayors

*The Public Health Alliance for Safety Access (PHASA) was formed in 2011. Our mission is to create policy, system and environmental changes that promote the health and well being of all Nevadans.*

## The Issue

Drug overdose deaths are a major public health and safety issue in Nevada and the U.S. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2012), Nevada is in the highest quartile of overdose death rates in the U.S. In 2013, there were 507 drug-related deaths in Nevada according to data from the National Vital Statistics Database. The rate of drug related deaths in Nevada doubled from 8.9 per 100,000 in 1999 to 17.5 per 100,000 in 2013.

In the U.S., deaths from overdose now exceed the annual rate of deaths caused by homicide and vehicle collisions. The majority of drug overdose deaths in the U.S. involve prescription or illicit opioids. In the U.S., the rate of prescription opioid related deaths quadrupled from 1999 to 2011.

The majority of drug overdoses occur in the presence of others, which means that properly trained bystanders can help prevent the overdose from progressing to death. Opioid overdoses typically occur over 1-3 hours, leaving time for bystanders to call 911 for medical help, provide rescue breathing and naloxone. Naloxone is a prescription medication that blocks the opioid receptors and stops the effects of overdose. Naloxone does not have potential for abuse and side effects are rare. As of 2010, more than 50,000 people have been trained to use naloxone and have reported over 10,000 overdose reversals using the medication. Data from MA, NC, and CA show that overdose death rates can be lowered when naloxone is available to people at risk and other community members.

## Barriers

Currently, Nevadans are not immune to civil, criminal and professional liability to prescribe, possess, and/or administer naloxone to reverse potentially fatal opioid overdoses. Additionally, Nevada does not have a 911 Drug Overdose Good Samaritan law that encourages citizens to call 911 and seek help when witnessing an overdose.

## Solutions

An opioid overdose prevention law in Nevada would expand access to Naloxone, a life saving medication and will expand the ability of physicians and pharmacists to prescribe and dispense the medication to people at risk, their friends, family members, and other people in a position to assist. That, coupled with the 911 Good Samaritan law, would encourage people to seek medical help in the event of an overdose by providing protection from prosecution for drug related crimes when they call 911 "in good faith" to help someone who is suffering from a drug overdose.

This can be done by supporting Senate Bill 459, which establishes an opioid overdose prevention policy for Nevada, sponsored by the Committee on Health and Human Services by direction of Governor Sandoval.



PHASA

Public Health Alliance for  
Safety Access

Our organization agrees to: *(please check all that apply)*

- Become a member of the Public Health Alliance for Safety Access (PHASA)
- Adopt a position of SUPPORT for Senate Bill 459
- Adopt a NEUTRAL position *not to oppose* Senate Bill 459
- Allow our organization's name to be included in PHASA materials
- Testify in support of Senate Bill 459 during the 2015 Nevada State Legislative Session

---

(Name of Organization)

---

(Signature of Representative)

---

(Name of Representative)

---

(Position in Organization)

**Please return this completed and signed form to:**

Public Health Alliance for Safety Access  
Ad Hoc Policy Committee  
c/o Robert Harding  
EMAIL: [Robert@nnhopes.org](mailto:Robert@nnhopes.org)