

# EXPANSION OF NALOXONE FOR PREVENTION OF OPIOID OVERDOSE AMONG HOMELESS POPULATIONS

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## PROBLEM STATEMENT

Access to naloxone is limited for the homeless and other populations most at risk of opioid overdose.

## GOAL STATEMENT

Naloxone is available to all members of the community for the prevention of opioid overdose.

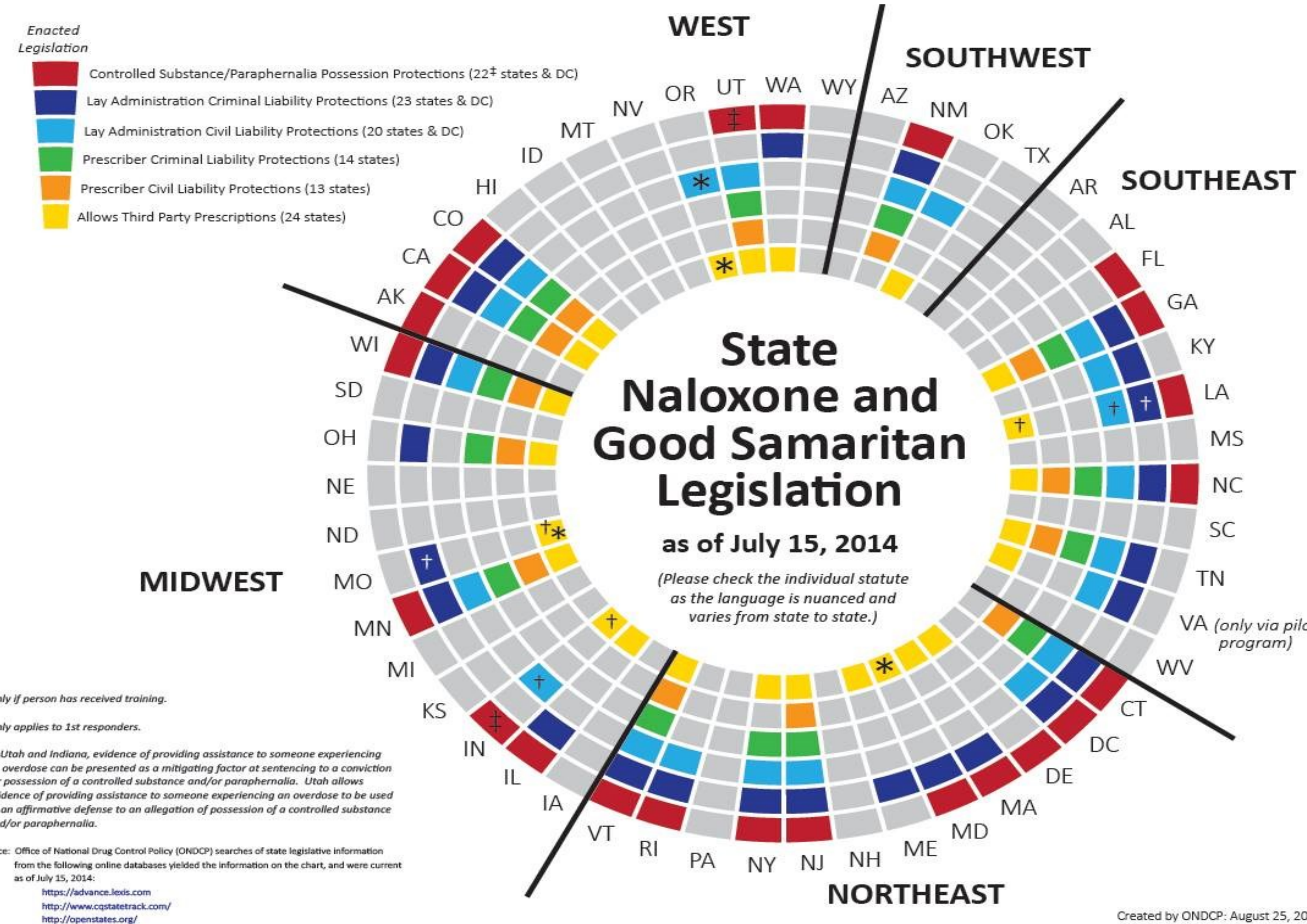
## RESEARCH RESULTS

Opioid abuse and overdose has seen a dramatic increase in the United States over the past decade. In 2015 the number of individuals who died of opioid overdose surpassed traffic fatalities related to alcohol for the first time in history. Fortunately, fatal overdose from opioids is not instantaneous and, if administered within a 1-3 hour window, pharmaceutical interventions such as nasal naloxone can reverse the overdose and save a life.

Although naloxone is commonly made available to first responders and opioid users who access traditional healthcare resources, individuals from homeless and other vulnerable communities often fail to gain access to this life saving medication. Therefore, there exists significant need for social workers and homeless outreach providers to provide training, support, and access to naloxone in the field. By providing this simple intervention, homeless opioid users can build new relationships and receive referrals into evidence-based medication-assisted treatment programs.

## NEEDS STATEMENT

Homeless opioid users need increased access to naloxone in order to prevent opioid overdose and improve access to effective medication-assisted treatment options.



## TRAINING OBJECTIVES

This brief training is designed to achieve three main outcomes:

- 1) Provide opioid users and other community members with the knowledge to reduce the risk of opioid overdose;
- 2) Provide opioid users and other community members with the knowledge to recognize the signs & symptoms of opioid overdose;
- 3) Train opioid users and other community members on the safe and effective use of naloxone for the prevention and reversal of opioid overdose.

## THE "911 GOOD SAMARITAN LAW"

### Washington State (RCW 69.50.315)

A person acting in good faith may receive a naloxone prescription, possess naloxone, and administer naloxone to an individual suffering from an apparent opiate-related overdose.

The law provides legal immunity from drug possession charges to a person who:

- Experiences a drug-related overdose and is in need of medical assistance.
- Makes a good faith effort to seek medical assistance for someone who is experiencing a drug-related overdose

Immunity DOES NOT extend to:

- Outstanding warrants
- Probation or parole violations
- Drug delivery or manufacture (i.e. baggies, scales, cash, etc.)
- Controlled substances homicide

## PROJECTED OUTCOMES

### Outcome 1:

Increased knowledge of overdose prevention among homeless and vulnerable populations.

### Outcome 2:

Increased knowledge of and referral to effective medication-assisted treatment options.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

### Indicator 1a:

Express knowledge of overdose prevention.

### Indicator 1b:

Knows the signs & symptoms of opioid overdose.

### Indicator 2a:

Requests referral to medication-assisted treatment program.

### Indicator 2b:

Knows where to seek out appropriate care.



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