

# **Our Community Health: Updates from Louisville Metro Public Health & Wellness Department**

## **Fatal overdoses continue to decline in Jefferson County**

For the second year in a row, Jefferson County has seen a historic decline in fatal overdoses—dropping faster than both state and national trends.

According to the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy's 2025 Overdose Fatality Report, 237 Jefferson County residents died from overdose in 2025, a 32% decrease from the 351 deaths in 2024. This follows a 30% reduction between 2023 and 2024.

Across Kentucky, fatal overdoses declined by 23% in 2025 and 29% in 2024. Current rates have returned to pre-pandemic levels and are the lowest in a decade.

Investments in prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and basic needs like housing and social services are saving lives.

## **Strategic Investment in Prevention and Recovery**

- Nearly \$20 million in opioid settlement funds invested in 2024–2025.
- Services reached 20,000+ people, including treatment, mental health care, case management, transportation, legal aid, youth prevention, housing support, and employment and education services.
- \$1.6 million dedicated to school based primary prevention programs launching later this year.

## **Expanded Naloxone Access**

- Several Louisville Metro Government agencies and community partners have intentionally focused on overdose prevention training and the distribution of free naloxone throughout the community. There has been a 200% increase in naloxone kits distributed since 2022.
- Free naloxone is available across Jefferson County—find locations at [findnaloxone.ky.gov](https://findnaloxone.ky.gov).

## **Rapid Response After Overdose**

- Louisville Metro's Quick Response Team (QRT) connects people to care within 72 hours of an overdose.
- Since QRT launched in 2021, the team has

- Received 9,829 referrals of people who experienced overdose
- Connected with 2,411 patients and their families
- Distributed 3,974 naloxone kits
- Connected 455 people to treatment for substance use disorder
- Connected 519 people to community social services such as housing and food

### **Harm Reduction Saves Lives**

- [Evidence-based clinical harm reduction services](#) are offered six days a week at eight community sites. Services include HIV and hepatitis C testing, wound care, treatment referrals, naloxone distribution, overdose prevention education, safe syringe disposal, and connections to medical, mental health, and other community services.

### **What can physicians do?**

- [Offer naloxone](#) to all patients prescribed opioids, particularly to patients who are at an increased risk for opioid overdose.
- Share information about [harm reduction services](#) with patients.
- Review the resources at [prescribetoprevent.org](http://prescribetoprevent.org)



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REVERSE OVERDOSE. SAVE LIVES.  
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