



NEW JERSEY

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150 West State Street, Trenton NJ 08608

Phone (609) 989-1100

QuickTakes!

Study Shows Naloxone, Quick Response, Saved Lives of Opioid Overdose Victims

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A large majority of opioid overdose victims in Atlantic County who received naloxone from an emergency responder survived the overdose, according to a study by Stockton University.

The study also showed that a majority of overdose victims during the study timeframe were male (71%) and white (73%).

In early 2018, Stockton collaborated with the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office to analyze information on 311 overdose victims to garner a better understanding of the county's opioid overdose statistics.

The data was extracted from information collected during 2015-2017 using the N.J. Attorney General's Heroin & Opiates Task Force Naloxone Administration Reporting Form for Atlantic County.

Of the 311 victims, 266 were administered naloxone. The data showed that 265 of the victims survived, while 17 did not, a 94% survival rate. Missing data was noted on 29 reports. In most cases, the victims who received naloxone were revived in five minutes or less.

"The data showed that quick response to opioid overdoses and prompt administration of the drug naloxone can save lives," the authors said in the report.

The data also showed:

- ◆ More than half (52%) of victims were under 35 years old, though overdoses were spread across all age groups.
- ◆ While the victims' residential addresses were widespread, the majority of overdose incidents were reported from Atlantic City (169 or 54%) followed by Somers Point (9%), Pleasantville (8%), Galloway (6%), Ventnor (6%), and Hammonton (5%).

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- ◆ About 40% of the overdoses happened between October and December.

The study also suggested a need for statewide resources to conduct more rigorous research in this area as “it will be critical to examine this problem with the intersection of race, age, and gender so appropriate policies can be drawn that suit specific population groups.”

The report was produced in collaboration with Captain Bruce DeShields, an investigator in the Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office, and authored by Executive Director of the Stockton Center for Community Engagement Merydawilda Colon, Professor of Public Health Tara Crowell, Distinguished Professor of Physical Therapy Mary Lou Galantino, Associate Provost Carra Lea Hood, and Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Manish Madan.

Ms. Galantino said the study is just one of Stockton’s initiatives to compile data and research strategies that address opioid abuse, addiction and recovery in South Jersey. Faculty are also completing a study on integrating yoga for women in recovery.

A recent report by the Center for Disease Control suggested that an increase in naloxone prescriptions could be one reason overdose deaths have stopped rising for the first time in nearly three decades.

Stockton University

Stockton University is ranked among the top public universities in the Northeast with more than 160 undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as continuing education opportunities. The University, one hour from Philadelphia and two hours from New York City, offers unique living and learning environments throughout southern New Jersey, including the 1,600-acre Galloway campus in the Pinelands National Reserve and Stockton University Atlantic City, located on the Boardwalk, just steps away from the beach. Additional locations include Hammonton, Manahawkin and Woodbine. Founded in 1969, Stockton held its first classes in 1971 and is planning its 50th anniversary. Learn more about the many reasons to choose Stockton at www.stockton.edu.