

# Drug Free Adams County

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**Drug Free**

**Adams County**  
Rays of Hope for a Better Tomorrow

## Overdose Deaths Are Preventable

More than 93,000 people in the United States died from a drug overdose in 2020, an increase of almost 30% from the previous year. Opioid-related overdose deaths reached 69,710 last year (up from 50,963 in 2019). Many overdoses involved fentanyl. In many cases, people are not aware that the substances they use are laced with fentanyl.

### Opioids and Overdoses

Opioids are natural or synthetic drugs that are derived from – or related to – the opium poppy that attach to receptors in the central nervous system, reducing pain signals to the brain. Commonly used opioids include oxycodone, morphine, codeine, heroin, fentanyl, and methadone. When people overdose, they can stop breathing and may die or sustain brain damage. Watch for these signs of possible overdose:

- No response to stimuli
- Shallow/slowed breathing
- Can't be woken up
- Unusual snoring/gurgling sounds
- Blue/grey lips or fingertips
- Floppy arms and legs

Action taken as soon as possible could save a life. Do not assume the person is asleep, *call an ambulance immediately.*

### Free Naloxone is Available

Naloxone, also known as Narcan, is a medication approved to prevent overdose by opioids. Naloxone is given when a person is showing signs of opioid overdose to block the toxic effects of the overdose and is often the difference between life and death. The State of Indiana is funding a \$1.3 million distribution of naloxone to ensure the medication reaches Hoosiers who are at risk of drug overdose. Overdose Lifeline, Inc. will distribute 35,000 doses of naloxone to first responders, families, friends, and others who are likely to be the first on the scene if someone overdoses. Those who would like to receive a supply of naloxone can register online at [overdoselifeline.org](https://overdoselifeline.org).

