

OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

In Ventura County, 269 people lost their lives to an accidental overdose in 2021. The extremely powerful and deadly synthetic opioid fentanyl continues to plague our community by claiming 164 lives in 2021. Unfortunately, those numbers continue to rise. The Ventura County Overdose Prevention Program partners with organizations throughout the county who serve our communities most vulnerable, by providing overdose prevention education and lifesaving rescue kits to high-risk community members and their households, by equipping staff and volunteers to respond to an overdose, and by providing educational awareness. Through our partnerships lives are saved and improved!

THE VENTURA COUNTY OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAM OFFERS THREE DIFFERENT PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Overdose Prevention Education and Rescue Kit Distribution Partnership

Every day more lives are being claimed by overdose, and families are feeling hopeless. Lives can be saved, and families can have hope through overdose prevention education and rescue kits. However, not every family is being reached. This is where our distribution partnerships help us reach every family dealing the difficult struggle of the opioid crisis. Our great county is full of amazing organizations that serve our most vulnerable community members. These organizations have built trusted relationships with those they serve by providing them much needed resources. The Overdose Prevention Program can help equip them to serve those dealing with opioid use or misuse.

Distribution partners become overdose prevention educators through a two-hour training course. The Overdose Prevention Program supplies the partner with an inventory of rescue kits, education resources, and inventory tracking tools. Our distribution partners are then equipped through their trained educators to provide overdose prevention education and rescue kits to individuals they serve.

Together with our partners, the Ventura County Overdose Prevention program had a reported 491 lives saved in 2021. We currently have over 20 distribution partners with over 55 Overdose Prevention Distribution sites throughout the county.

Institutional Overdose Prevention Response Partnership

Overdoses are becoming more and more common especially because of the growing fentanyl crisis. Many organizations where high-risk community members are served are experiencing overdoses happening at their institutions or are concerned that an overdose might occur at their institution. The Overdose Prevention Program equips those organizations/ institutions to be able to respond and save a life by offering a 45-minute overdose rescue response training to staff and volunteers along with supplying a life-saving rescue kit, at no charge to the organization. We currently have over 34 institutional partners that include various sober living homes, shelters, schools, recovery programs, peer support groups, Gold Coast Transit, medical offices, etc.

Awareness Outreach Partnership

Our main goal is to save and improve lives in Ventura County. We believe prevention education and awareness is the key to do just that. Through collaboration and partnership, we develop and promote opioid prevention awareness campaigns. We have partnered with agencies like Gold Coast Transit and others to develop our "Safe Choices" campaign, and we have partnered with Public Health and Ventura County Libraries on fentanyl awareness campaigns.

If you are interested in partnering with the Ventura County Overdose Prevention Program, please contact Ashley Nettles at anettles@giveanhour.org.

