



Fast Facts: Arizona First Responders Initiative

END THE EPIDEMIC

In the midst of statewide and national opioid public health emergencies, the Arizona Center for Rural Health (AzCRH), the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and others collaborate on a four-year (2018-2021), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) initiative to train first responders to recognize the symptoms of opioid abuse and to administer naloxone, a drug used to counter the effects of opioid overdose and save lives and learn to screen, briefly intervene and refer for treatment (SBIRT).

PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS

■ Distribute Naloxone to First Responders in Arizona

AzCRH collaborates with ADHS Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System (BEMSTS) to supply naloxone (Narcan®) nasal spray to first responders at no cost.

■ Provide Opioid Recognition & Response Training for First Responders

ADHS, Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (AZPOST), UA Arizona Emergency Medicine Research Center (AEMRC), and AzCRH provide trainings.

■ Roadmap for First Responder Encounters of Patients with Substance Use Disorders

The newly developed 'Roadmap' is a brief introduction to the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) approach. A [free, pre-recorded online presentation](#) is designed to train First Responders to recognize signs of substance use disorders and provide resources for treatment.

To Schedule a Training or Request Naloxone

e-mail: EndTheEpidemic@email.arizona.edu

For FREE Online EMS Provider Training, visit:

www.VLH.com/naloxone

crh.arizona.edu/samhsa-first-responders-initiative

"The training program funded by this grant has the potential to save hundreds of lives in Arizona..."

– UA President Robert C. Robbins

"Arizona is doing everything it can to advance statewide solutions that prevent opioid overdoses, and this partnership between the ADHS and UA will enhance our ability to save even more lives..."

– AZ Governor Doug Ducey

"The Center for Rural Health is eager to work with ADHS, BEMSTS and others on this important initiative."

– Dan Derksen, MD, Principal Investigator & Director, AzCRH

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