

"We have an American dying every five minutes, around the clock...because of opioids like fentanyl. The fact that that is happening means that enough [Naloxone] is not getting into the community. If we had enough Naloxone available, we could save tens of thousands of lives, right now – that's been a big important priority for the President and for me."

Dr. Rahul Gupta, Director of The White House's National Drug Control Policy

The Overdose Crisis in Minnesota

In 2021:

- There were 8,579 emergency room visits for drug overdose in Minnesota
- There were 1,286 drug overdose deaths, over 75% of these involved opioids
- Despite similar rates of substance use across demographic groups, Black Minnesotans face 3x the risk of fatal overdose and Indigenous Minnesotans face 10x the risk of drug overdose than white Minnesotans

Steve Rummler HOPE Network

The Steve Rummler HOPE Network (SRHN) has an established reputation in the state of Minnesota as leaders in naloxone distribution, education, and awareness. Since their inception in 2011, SRHN has become a trusted partner of statewide health care systems like HealthPartners, M Health Fairview, and Allina, to County Public Health Departments, Schools and Universities, Law Enforcement and EMS Departments, Treatment and Care Facilities, etc.

Impact

- Passed Steve's Law in 2014 (MN's Good Samaritan and Naloxone Legislation), which allows all first responders and laypeople to carry and administer naloxone to save a life
- Distributed over 90,000 life-saving naloxone kits
- Distributed 30,000 fentanyl test strip kits (that's 120,000 strips total)
- Trained over 20,000 individuals to recognize and reverse an opioid overdose with naloxone
- Established 100 (and counting!) Naloxone Access Points, to act as publicly accessible pick up sites for naloxone and fentanyl test strips all across the state of Minnesota
- Passed the Opioid Epidemic Response Law in 2019, which creates sustainable funding to fight the opioid epidemic through treatment, recovery, and community support services across the state

Ka Joog

Established in 2007 by a group of young Somali adults, Ka Joog is a Minneapolis-based organization focused on enriching the lives of Somali-American youth. The East African community has been uniquely impacted by the opioid crisis. Ka Joog's Opioid and Addiction program, Project Care, has worked to reduce opioid overdose-related deaths among East African individuals by:

- Increasing the number of East African leaders, community members, and community-based organizations trained to administer and distribute naloxone
- Facilitating awareness campaigns targeting Mosques, schools, and other public and private sectors where a need for prevention education is identified
- Providing wraparound services that include, but are not limited to: housing, treatment service referrals, mental health services, family engagement, and others
- And more!

Impact

Ka Joog has received several local and national awards for their accomplishments, including, but not limited to:

- Somali-American Community Appreciation Award
- The Youth Leadership of the Year Award by the City of Minneapolis
- The U.S. Congressional Records award in honor of "... contributions to the Somali community of Minnesota through art, education, and political action."