

Know the Difference: Opioid vs. Stimulant Overdose



Naloxone: A Life-Saving Medication for Opioid Overdose. Naloxone quickly reverses opioid overdoses by restoring normal breathing. If someone's breathing has slowed or stopped due to opioids, this medication can help—but only for opioid overdoses! **It does NOT work on stimulant overdoses from drugs like methamphetamine, crack cocaine, or other non-opioids.** Knowing the difference can save lives.

WHAT ARE OPIOIDS?

Opioids are drugs that come from—or mimic—natural substances in the opium poppy plant. They affect the brain by reducing pain and producing euphoria ("high"), but they can also lead to dependence, addiction (Opioid Use Disorder - OUD), and overdose.

Examples of Opioids: Morphine, Dilaudid, Fentanyl, Oxycodone, Heroin, Methadone, Codeine (T1, T2, T3's).

WHAT ARE STIMULANTS?

Stimulants speed up brain activity, increasing energy, alertness, and heart rate. **They do NOT respond to Naloxone.**

Examples of Stimulants: Methamphetamine (Crystal Meth, powder, crack) Cocaine (powder, crack), Pseudoephedrine (e.g. Sudafed), Adderall, Ritalin.

SIGNS OF AN OPIOID OVERDOSE

Opioids affect how your brain controls breathing. If too many are taken, symptoms of overdose may appear:



Slow, weak, or no breathing



Blue lips or nails



Dizziness and confusion



Unconsciousness / Cannot be woken up



Choking, gurgling, or snoring sounds



Drowsiness or difficulty staying awake

STIMULANT OVERDOSE TREATMENT

Unlike opioid overdose, stimulant overdose has NO immediate antidote like Naloxone. Medical professionals treat symptoms by:

- ✓ Slowing the heart rate
- ✓ Reducing anxiety
- ✓ Providing IV fluids to rehydrate the body

Check out the websites below for a review of what to do in case of overdose and how to administer naloxone.

Injectable Naloxone - [Towards the Heart - Naloxone training for everyone](https://www.naloxonetraining.com/training/save-me-steps) -

<https://www.naloxonetraining.com/training/save-me-steps>

Nasal Spray - [How to administer Nasal Spray](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLAWvNU7tjY) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLAWvNU7tjY>