



# CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORT CARD REVIEW BY ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL

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## TOPIC

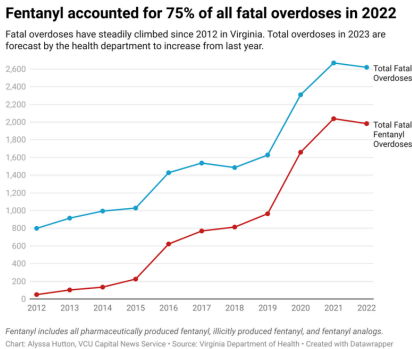
Teacher Narcan Training & Accessibility

## TOPIC DESCRIPTION

According to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Drug overdoses have been reported as the leading cause of unnatural death in Virginia since 2013, far surpassing gun and motor vehicle related incidents. Although Narcan training is already voluntary, and narcan is available upon request at our school’s teen wellness center, we believe due to the easy accessability of Narcan, and the simplicity of training teachers to use it is necessary.

## RESULT

Our project seeks to make 100% of teachers feel confident and trained in using Narcan and have enough at their disposal in the case of an emergency.



## SIGNIFICANCE

The opioid crisis is no longer an issue we see on the news, but an issue happening inside our schools. In virginia, thousands of lives are being lost each year, with the introduction of fentanyl driving the spike in overdoses. The fact that students are being carried out of the bathroom is no longer shocking, it’ becoming expected. This project is significant because it addresses the urgent need to protect students in real time, not just through education or prevention, but through immidiate life-saving action. Equipping teachers with Narcan gives them the ability to reach in seconds before EMS arrives, before it’s too late.

## CYCP GOAL AND STRATEGIC AREA

### CYCP Goal

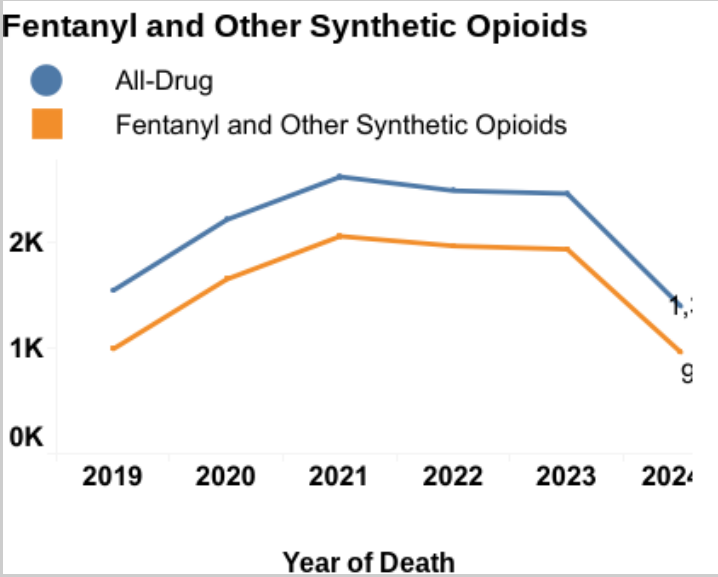
All Children, Youth, and Families will be Physically Safe and Healthy

### Strategic Area

Prevention

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

The state of Virginia continues to face a severe opioid crisis. In 2023, the Virginia Health Department reported 2,463 drug overdose deaths, with 79% being fentanyl related. The crisis has continued to escalate around Northern Virginia, with 2 cases in January of 2024 being reported in the same week by ABC news. These incidents have brought headlines to our own classroom and now more than ever we need to assure our staff and faculty are prepared in the case of an emergency



## IMPLEMENTATION

Making Narcan training mandatory for teachers would be simpler than it sounds, and would be an effective step towards decreasing the rising number of opioid overdoses. The training itself is only about 30 minutes and since classes are already voluntary and many teachers are already trained to use narcan, a switch from voluntary to mandatory would be simple yet effective. With Narcan already readily available in ACHS, equipping teachers with medication and giving them the confidence to use it would be an cost effective highly impactful change to make our schools safe.

## PARTNERSHIPS



## PERFORMANCE EFFORT

Alexandria has already taken steps to reduce the amount of opioid deaths, especially after multiple students have overdosed at ACHS.

Narcan is readily available at the student help desk and upon request teachers can have narcan and narcan training. Our group argues that while some educators have taken the initiative to learn how to administer narcan, the inconsistency of a voluntary program will leave gaps in emergency response times. By making this training mandatory we can keep up with the rising severity of the fentanyl crisis and keep our school aware to the situation, ensuring each teacher is trained and ready to save a life.

## PERFORMANCE EFFECT

The barriers are extremely minimal.

A course on narcan training is already an optional and nearly every teacher has already done it. The biggest hurdle would be simply setting aside 30 minutes of teacher's time- something that can easily be worked into existing professional development sessions.

When you compare that small amount of time to the potential to save someones life however, it's clear that the benefit outweighs the inconvenience. Theres no need for major funding or new equipment, just formal commitment to making sure out school has the tools and confidence to respond in an emergency

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to strengthen school safety and better respond to the oopioid crisis, our group reccomends that ACHS adopts a policy that makes narcan training mandatory for all staff. This policy would formalize what many teachers are already doing voluntarily and ensure 100% preparedness across our two campuses. With us being one of the biggest highschoools in nova, we have always been at great risk, however we believe that our staff and faculty could save lives if this policy was implemented. The training is brief, low cost and easily can be integrated into our school. The small change in policy could be the key to preventing mothers from grief and students from losing friends they care about.

## ONLINE

Centers for Disease Control ad Prevention -  
[www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/nalaxone/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/nalaxone/index.html)

ACHS Substance Abuse Prevention Page -  
[www.acps.k12.va.us/programs-services/substance-abuse-prevention-educational-intervention/prevention](http://www.acps.k12.va.us/programs-services/substance-abuse-prevention-educational-intervention/prevention)

## CITATIONS

WJLA. (2024, January 16th).  
*Second student suffers drug overdose at Alexandria City High School's King Street Campus.*  
WJLA.

NBC Washington. (2023, October 2). *Alexandria city high school training students to use Narcan.*  
NBC Washington

WUSA9. (2023, March 3).  
*Alexandria school board to vote on proposal to make nalaxone avaiable for emergencies.*  
WUSA9.

## IN PERSON

ACHS Teen Wellness Center -  
Located inside ACHS Campus, offers confidential support, prevention services and access to Narcan.  
Neighborhood Health -  
1200 N. Howard Street, Alexandria VA,  
free or low-cost healthcare services including substance use counseling, naloxone education and community health outreach