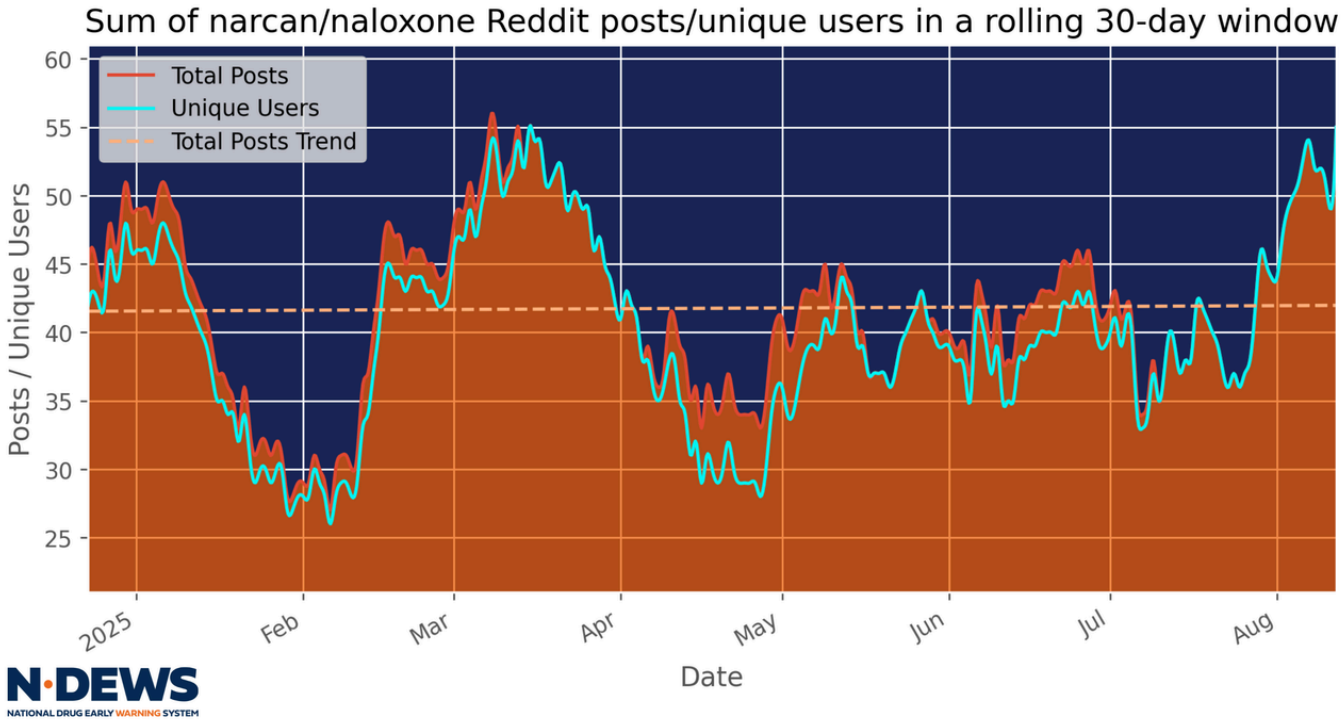
N·DEWS | NATIONAL DRUG EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Alert from the NDEWS Web Monitoring Team
Reddit mentions of Naloxone



Why Are We Reporting On This? This week centers on overdose awareness and prevention in recognition of the upcoming International Overdose Awareness Day. This report is based on online community discussions about naloxone access, administration experiences, and overdose prevention.

What Was Found? Narcan/naloxone is most frequently discussed in the context of emergency overdose reversals and debates about access and availability. Posts indicate widespread awareness of naloxone, with numerous accounts of successful overdose reversal. The discussion varies from week to week without a clear overall increasing or decreasing trend.

Public Health Relevance: Multiple posts describe successful naloxone administrations that reversed potentially fatal overdoses, including detailed accounts of revival from fentanyl. Discussants often share practical guidance about recognizing overdose symptoms and proper naloxone administration techniques. The presence of contaminated drug supplies, particularly nitazenes in stimulants and fentanyl in various substances, is often cited as a reason for carrying naloxone.

NDEWS is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse to the University of Florida (MPI: Cottler (contact), Co-Is: Goldberger, Nixon, Striley), NYU Langone Health (MPI: Palamar), and Florida Atlantic University (Co-I: Barenholtz). (2025). Alert from the NDEWS Web Monitoring Team Reddit mentions of Naloxone (August 29, 2025). Retrieved from ndews.org.

How Is It Being Discussed? Reddit users frequently share overdose experiences, with multiple accounts describing the loss of consciousness and subsequent revival via naloxone. Several discussants report over 10 overdoses and naloxone revivals within a three month period. There is considerable discussion disseminating naloxone administration techniques and similar overdose mitigation techniques such as rescue breathing, and staggered use when consuming in a group. Access remains a central topic, with discussants sharing multiple free naloxone sources and expressing frustration about geographic disparities. The NEXT Distro program and the Never Use Alone hotline receives frequent mentions and recommendations in naloxone discussion. Technical discussions about naloxone's limitations appear frequently, with Reddit discussants clarifying it only reverses opioid overdoses and won't help with stimulant or other overdoses.

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