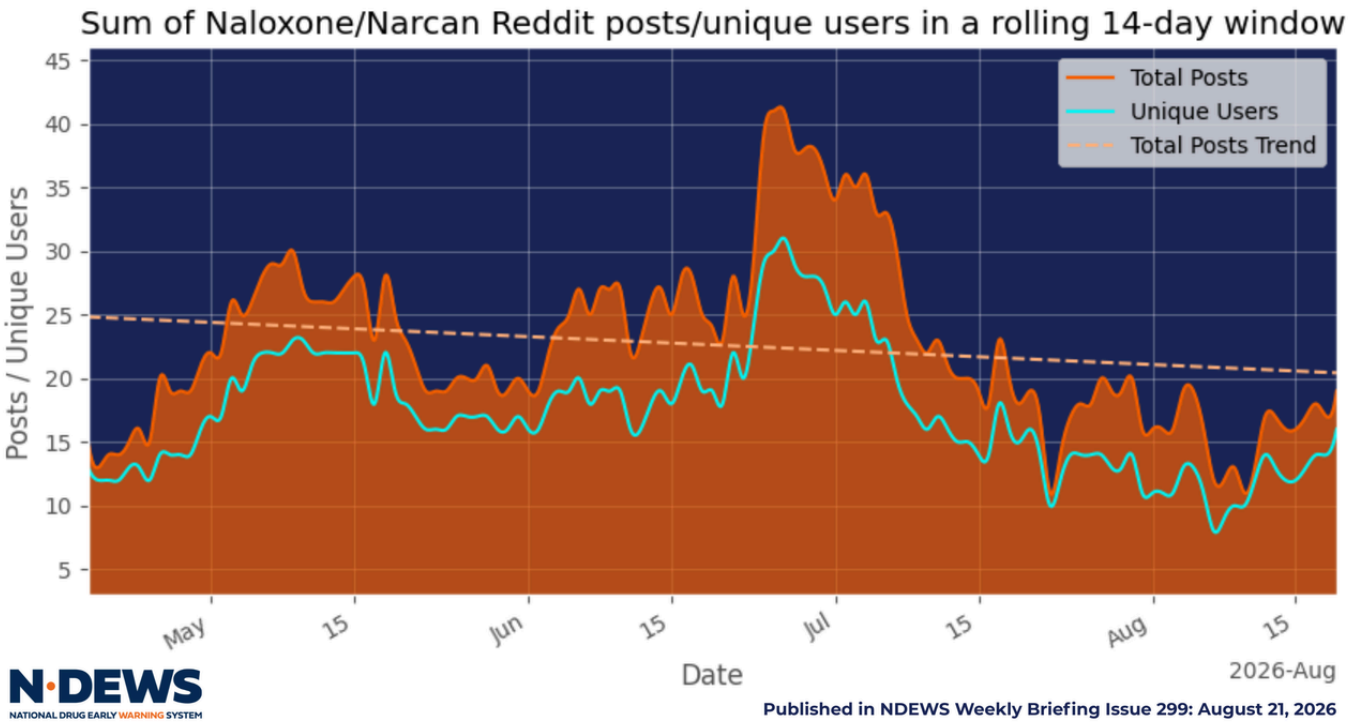
N·DEWS | NATIONAL DRUG EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Alert from the NDEWS Web Monitoring Team
Reddit mentions of Naloxone/NARCAN®



Why are we reporting on this? This week centers on overdose awareness and prevention in recognition of the upcoming International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31st. This report is based on online community discussions about naloxone access, administration experiences, and overdose prevention. Reddit discussions reveal essential risk mitigation dialogue alongside notable public health concerns, including misconceptions regarding naloxone utility for non-opioids, adverse symptoms associated with acute reversal, and barriers related to retail pricing and acquisition.

What is Naloxone/NARCAN®? Naloxone is an opioid receptor antagonist available in intranasal spray, injectable, and combination pharmaceutical formulations. It is designed to rapidly reverse opioid-induced central nervous system and respiratory depression by competitively displacing opioid agonists from receptor sites.

Previous Web Monitoring Reports:
- 08/29/2025 - 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). (2026). Alert from the NDEWS Web Monitoring Team Reddit mentions of Benzimidazol-2-one/"Orphines" (July 10, 2026). Retrieved from ndews.org.

Public Health Impacts: Reddit discussants report physical and psychological distress following naloxone administration, including gastrointestinal symptoms, restlessness, shivering, and anxiety associated with precipitated withdrawal. Some commenters also describe physical soreness and emotional distress following resuscitation events. Discussants additionally report barriers to obtaining over-the-counter naloxone due to its retail cost, particularly for individuals seeking emergency supplies outside of public health programs.

How is it being discussed? Reddit commenters widely advocate carrying naloxone as a core risk mitigation measure, consistently recommending it for events, nightlife settings, and situations involving potential exposure to adulterants. Discussants frequently exchange guidance on locating free supplies through community clinics, syringe service programs, and distribution initiatives. Conversations also highlight misconceptions regarding drug interactions, with commenters inquiring whether naloxone can reverse intoxications involving benzodiazepines, stimulants, dissociatives, or cannabis. Furthermore, discussants actively look at pharmaceutical combinations of naloxone with agonists such as buprenorphine, oxycodone, and tilidine, debating bioavailability across routes of administration, abuse-deterrent properties, and the mechanics of avoiding precipitated withdrawal during medical induction.

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