NDEWS Special Report

Naloxone administered by EMS in encounters for suspected nonfatal overdoses involving opioids January 1, 2026 - August 31, 2026

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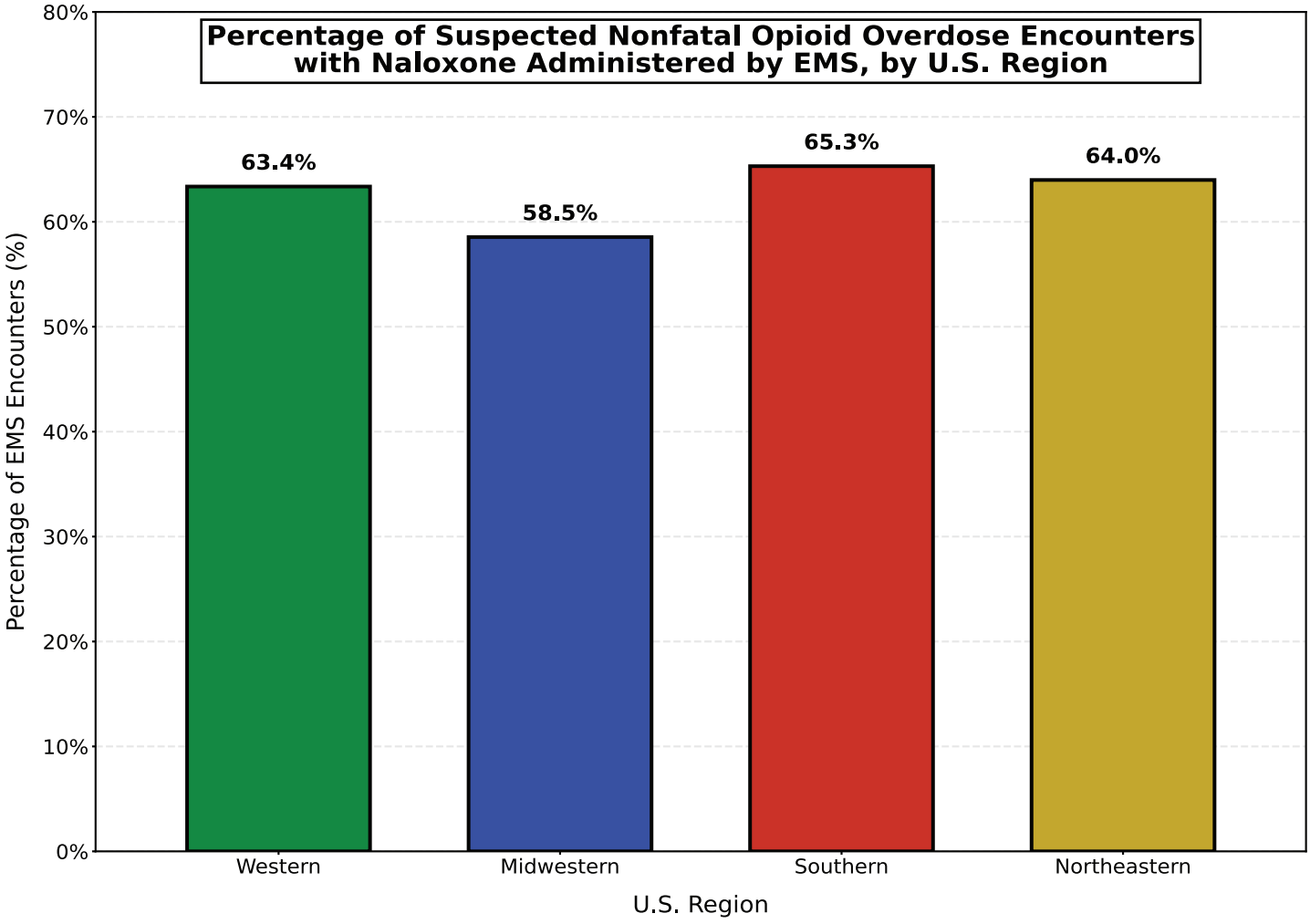
Nationally, there were 97,102 EMS encounters of suspected nonfatal opioid overdoses from January 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026. Of these 97,102 encounters, 61,689 involved documentation of naloxone administration by EMS. Regional trends in suspected nonfatal opioid overdose encounters involving documented naloxone administration by EMS are presented below. For comparison, please reference the accompanying 2026 Rapid Street Reporting Survey summary which presents responses to naloxone-related questions.



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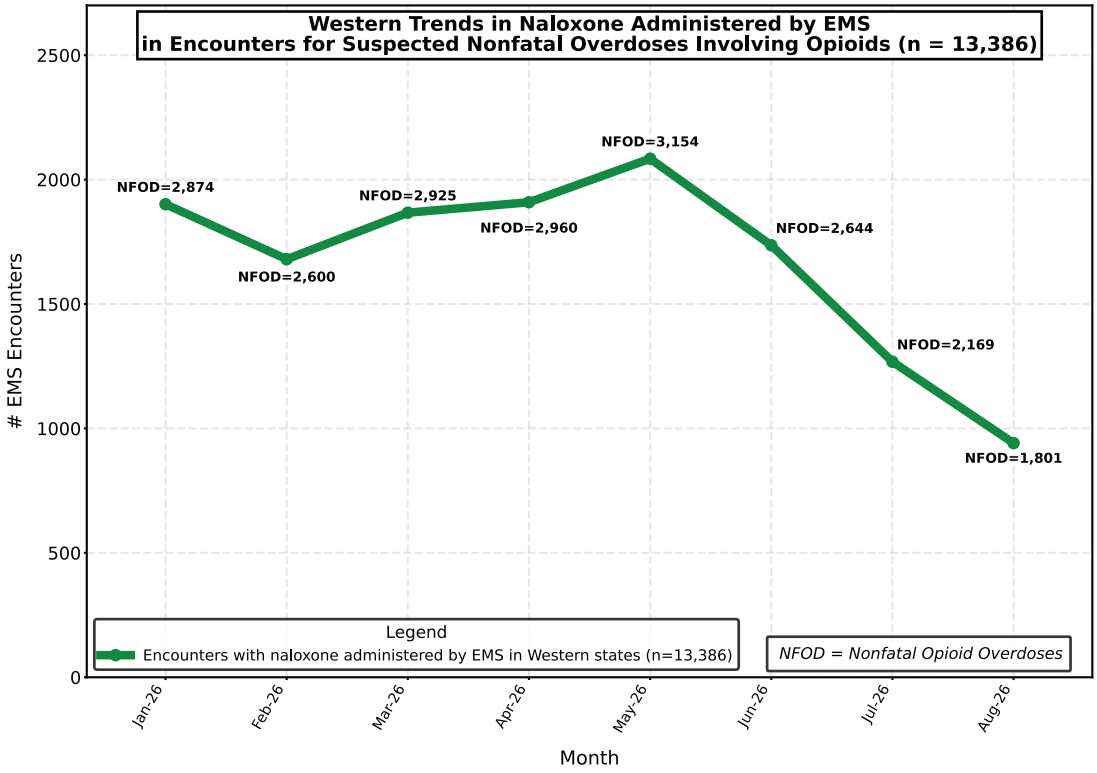
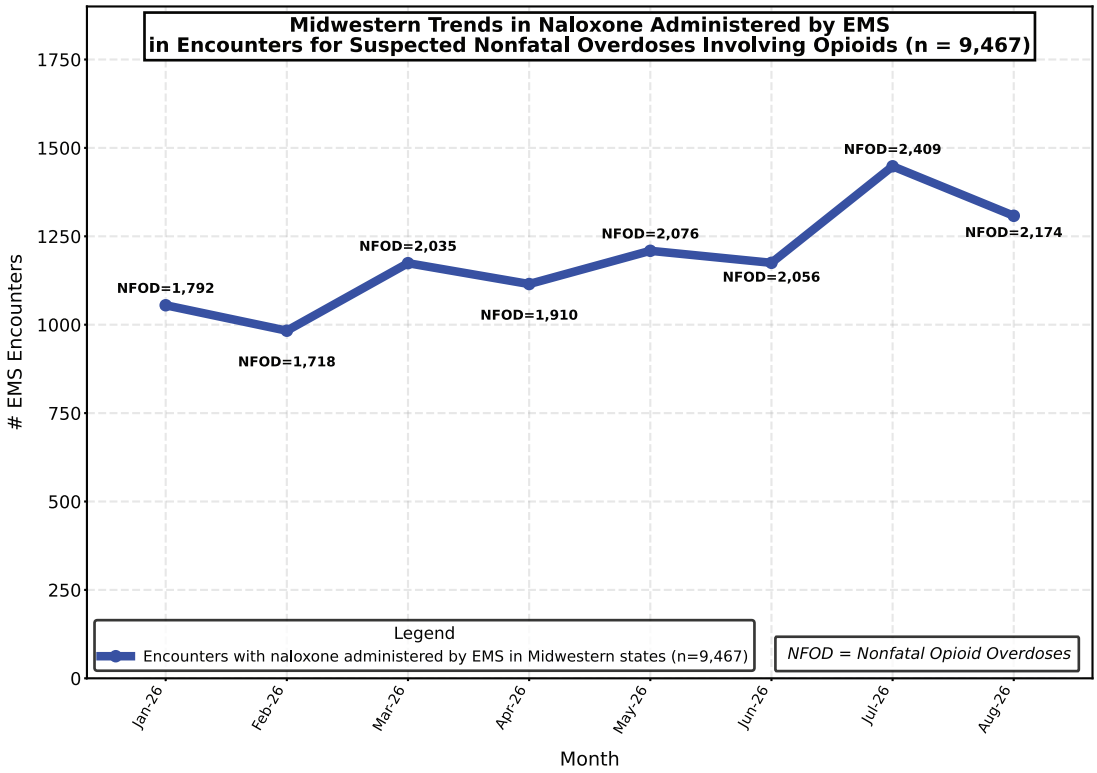
Western

In the Western region, there were 21,127 EMS encounters of suspected nonfatal opioid overdoses from January 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026. Of these 21,127 encounters, 13,386 involved documented naloxone administration by EMS.



Midwestern

In the Midwestern region, there were 16,170 EMS encounters of suspected nonfatal opioid overdoses from January 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026. Of these 16,170 encounters, 9,467 involved documented naloxone administration by EMS.



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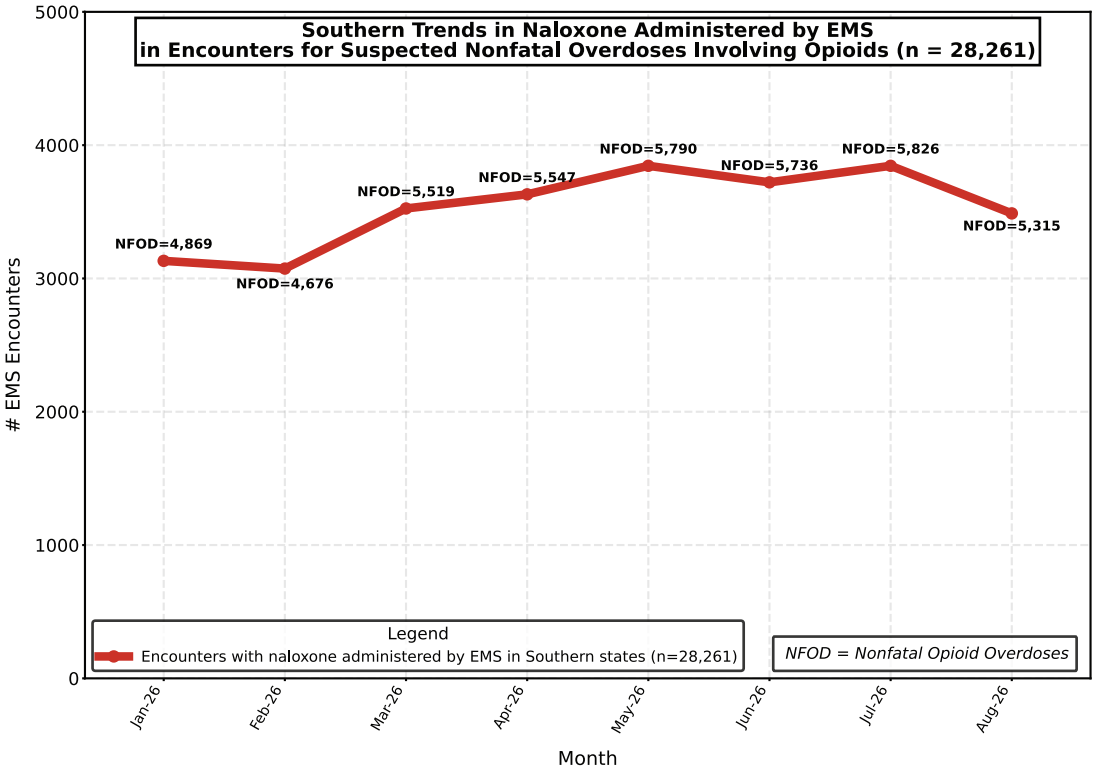
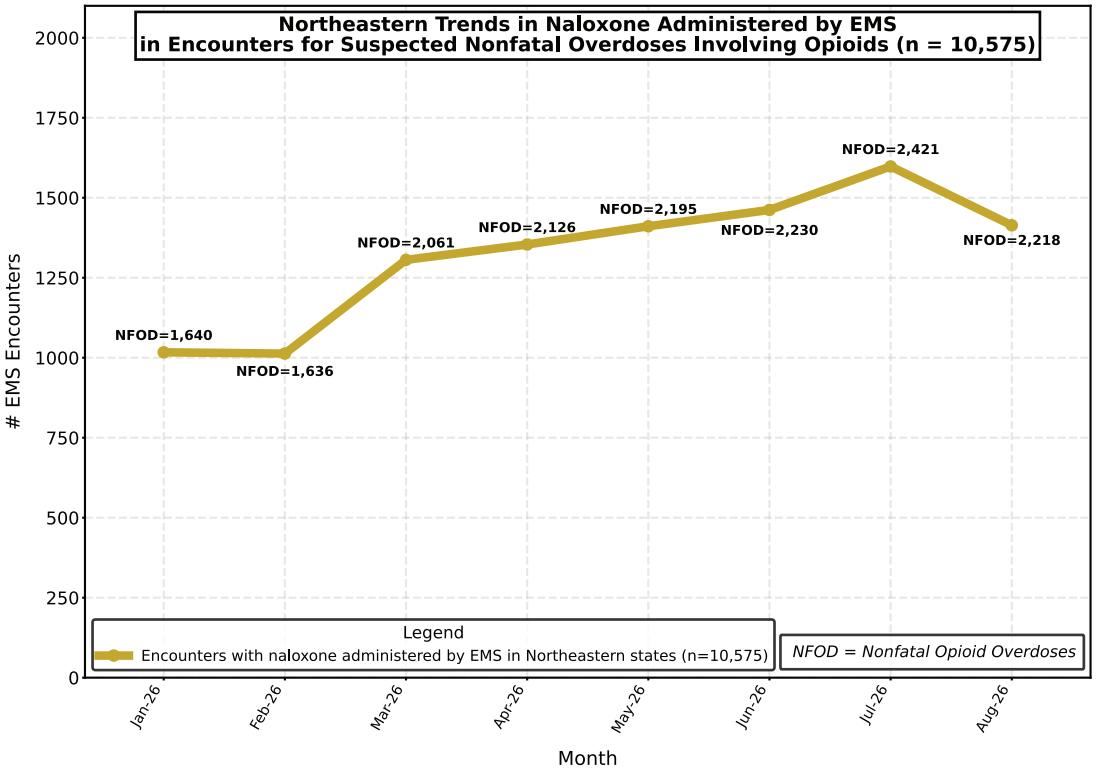
Southern

In the Southern region, there were 43,278 EMS encounters of suspected nonfatal opioid overdoses from January 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026. Of these 43,278 encounters, 28,261 involved documented naloxone administration by EMS.



Northeastern

In the Northeastern region, there were 16,527 EMS encounters of suspected nonfatal opioid overdoses from January 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026. Of these 16,527 encounters, 10,575 involved documented naloxone administration by EMS.



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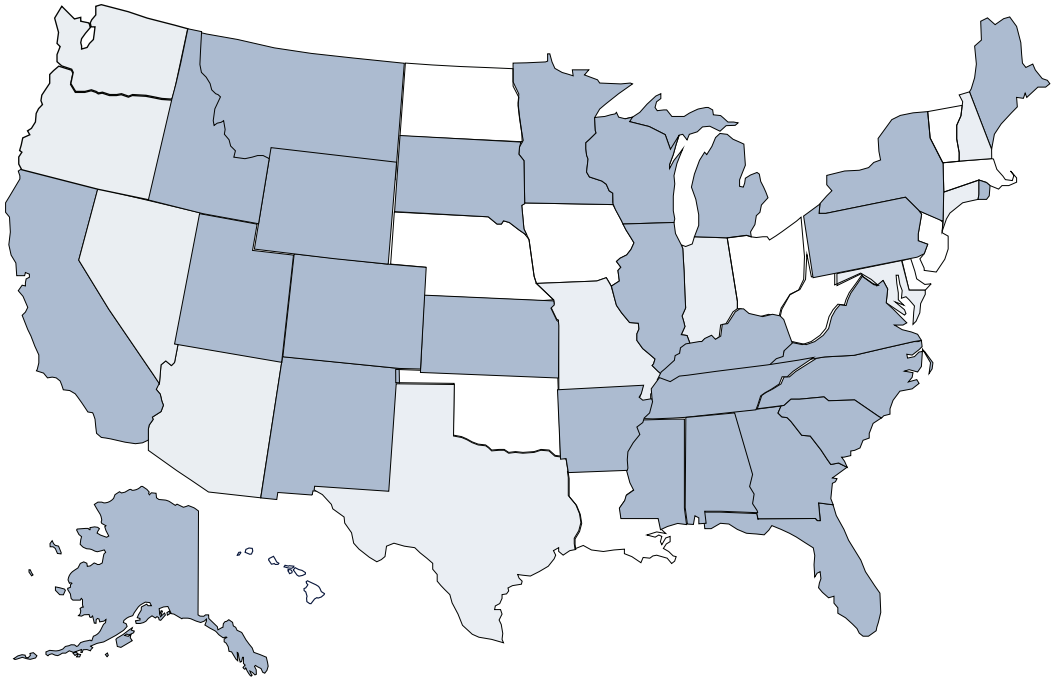
Map of National Underlying Event Coverage



Underlying Event Coverage Legend No Coverage | 1%-33% | 34%-66% | 67%-99%

Methodology: EMS encounters involving suspected nonfatal opioid overdoses and naloxone administration were grouped by US Census Bureau region. Monthly naloxone encounters were plotted and annotated with the corresponding total number of suspected nonfatal opioid overdose encounters to illustrate the relationship between monthly naloxone encounters and total suspected encounters. For each region, the proportion of suspected nonfatal opioid overdose encounters involving naloxone administration was calculated to assess regional variation in EMS overdose treatment.

EMS encounters of suspected nonfatal opioid overdoses involving naloxone were included if the encounter contained a documented mention of naloxone administration by EMS. Eligible EMS encounters were identified using the Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance (ESOOS) criteria established by the state of Florida. Only encounters involving emergency response services in which patient contact was made were included. The analysis included nonfatal EMS encounters meeting the suspected opioid overdose criteria.

All dispatch types above follow the guidelines set by the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS).

Limitations: biospatial.io data reflect pre-hospital EMS encounters and do not include hospital outcomes or toxicological confirmation. Much of the classification relies on clinical impressions, self-report, or bystander accounts. Additionally, EMS encounters involving suspected overdoses may be underreported, overreported, or misclassified. Underlying event coverage varies by state, with incomplete reporting in some states. States with less than 60% coverage are AZ, CT, DE, IA, IN, LA, MA, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NV, OH, OK, OR, TX, VT, WA, and WV.