



Yakima Health District

Media Release

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Potential Opioid Cluster Detected in Yakima County

YAKIMA, WA- The Washington Department of Health- Rapid Health Information Network (RHINO) has detected potential opioid clusters through data that is routinely collected from Yakima County hospitals. The data showed an increase of emergency department visits related to opioid overdoses both in January 2021 and early February 2021. In the data collected, hospital staff recorded mentions of Percocet, “Blue Percocet 30”, oxycodone, and fentanyl. The overdoses were observed among patients between 20-50 years and a mix of reported race/ethnicities.

Additional resources such as prevention, treatment and support can be found online at the [WA State Department of Health](#) and the Washington Recovery Help Line 1-866-789-7511.

Quotes

“We’d like to take the opportunity to remind everyone that the Washington State Secretary of Health has signed a statewide standing order authorizing pharmacists to dispense opioid overdose reversal medication, such as Naloxone/NARCAN, to any person at risk or any person or entity in a position to assist a person experiencing an opioid-related overdose.”- Melissa Sixberry, Director of Disease Control, Yakima Health District

“The Yakima County Coroner’s Office would like to offer our condolences to the families and friends who have unfortunately been effected by this opioid epidemic. Currently we have fourteen suspected and/or confirmed overdose deaths. The majority of these we believe are the result of Fentanyl from counterfeit “perc 30’s.” I would like to stress that there are no demographic boundaries, the loss of life is needless and tragic.” - Jim Curtice, Yakima County Coroner

Additional Information

[Local Syringe Exchange Program](#)

[DOH Media Release: Overdose deaths show alarming trend in 2020; fentanyl partly to blame](#)

[Washington Recovery Help Line](#)

[DOH Opioid Overdose Prevention](#)