



# GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO

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## **Governor Shapiro, Secretary Davis-Jones, and Secretary Bogen Hold Roundtable to Highlight Work to Bring Fatal Overdoses to Lowest in Ten Years, Support Families Struggling with Substance Use Disorder**

*Organizations reported over 11,400 overdose reversals in the last year linked to naloxone from the Shapiro Administration's Overdose Prevention Program.*

*Last year, the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs' initiative distributed more than 824,000 doses of naloxone and 922,000 fentanyl and xylazine test strips.*

*Early estimates [indicate](#) that in 2025, Pennsylvania saw the fewest overdose deaths in more than a decade.*

*Watch the roundtable discussion [here](#).*

**Tunkhannock, PA** – Yesterday, Governor Josh Shapiro, alongside Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) Secretary Dr. Latika Davis-Jones and Health (DOH) Secretary Dr. Debra Bogen, visited the Wyoming County Emergency Management Agency to lead a roundtable discussion on efforts to save lives, prevent fatal overdoses, and support families struggling with substance use disorder. The visit followed the release of the **Shapiro Administration's [Overdose Prevention Program Annual Report](#)**, which details significant progress in reducing overdose deaths across Pennsylvania.

**Between October 2024 and September 2025**, frontline organizations reported over **11,400 overdose reversals** linked to naloxone distributed through the Administration's initiative — representing thousands of lives saved through timely intervention. Early estimates [show](#) that in 2025, **Pennsylvania saw the fewest overdose deaths in more than a decade**.

"Every life saved is a reminder that a smart, compassionate, multidisciplinary response to the opioid crisis works," said **Governor Shapiro**. "Since day one, my Administration has invested in proven, life-saving tools — getting naloxone into communities, expanding access to treatment, and meeting people where they are. The results are clear: overdose deaths are down, thousands of Pennsylvanians are alive today, and more families have hope. We will keep doing this work until every Pennsylvanian — no matter their zip code — has access to the care and support they deserve."

In Wyoming County and surrounding Northeastern Pennsylvania counties, 233 overdose reversals were reported last year, and over 35,000 naloxone doses were distributed locally.

During the roundtable, the Governor heard from local participants, including **Wyoming County District Attorney Joe Peters**, **EMS of Northeastern Pennsylvania Executive Director Robert Carpenter**, **Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program Administrator Michael Gagliardi**, **Prevention Education Supervisor Cammie Anderson**, **Wyoming County Opioid Settlement Committee Member Amanda Moyer**, and **Ashley Bunnell**, a person in recovery working in substance use treatment.

**Watch the roundtable discussion [here](#).**

"Under Governor Shapiro's leadership, we're seeing progress because he is investing in proven lifesaving strategies; his unwavering commitment to Pennsylvanians struggling with substance use disorder is what public health leadership looks like," said **Secretary Davis-Jones**. "As part of his Administration, we are working every day to ensure Pennsylvanians in all zip codes have access to treatment, prevention, and recovery supports and no one is left behind simply because of where they live—we must continue to meet people where they are."

According to [data from the Department of Health](#), overall overdose deaths are falling in Pennsylvania, including Wyoming County. However, overdose death rates among communities of color continue to remain higher than among white and non-Hispanic individuals. In 2024, Black Pennsylvanians died from an overdose at a rate that was two times higher than white Pennsylvanians.

"While we are encouraged to see the fewest deaths from overdose in over a decade, we know our work is far from over," said **Secretary Dr. Bogen**. "The Department of Health is a critical partner in the state's fight to reduce overdose deaths, providing the [standing order for naloxone](#) and the [real-time data](#) needed to stay ahead of an ever-changing

drug supply. We will continue to provide education about the importance of naloxone, offer provider education to increase stigma-free care, training for first responders, and provide data for evidence-based interventions.”

### **How the Overdose Prevention Program Work**

The [Overdose Prevention Program](#) is a statewide initiative led by DDAP to expand access to naloxone and drug checking tools to prevent fatal overdoses and strengthen overdose response.

Through nearly **100 statewide partners**, DDAP distributed more than **824,000 doses of naloxone and 922,000 fentanyl and xylazine test strips** from October 2024 to September 2025. Partners reached individuals in clinical settings, recovery programs, libraries, churches, campuses, drop-boxes, mail-based distribution, mobile outreach, and other places. The supplies were provided directly to the people most likely to witness or experience an overdose, including individuals who use drugs, family members, peers, and service providers.

In Wyoming County, 720 naloxone doses and 2,700 fentanyl/xylazine test strips were distributed to EMS, recovery programs, and community organizations, ensuring tools reached the people most likely to witness or experience an overdose over the same period

The program operates through a hub-and-spoke model, reaching both urban, suburban, and rural communities efficiently, with targeted support for those at highest risk.

All overdose prevention partners can be located through [DDAP's website](#).

### **Investing in Overdose Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery**

Since the start of the **Shapiro Administration**, DDAP [has invested more than \\$85 million](#) in overdose prevention, treatment, and recovery. Initiatives include \$40 million for the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Loan Repayment Program, which has helped **nearly 675 recipients statewide**, as well as telehealth-only licenses for providers, mobile treatment units like Driving Recovery for PA, and opening a State Health Center in Wyoming County in 2025 to expand rural health access.

In addition to the Overdose Prevention Program, the Shapiro Administration has worked since day one to implement successful initiatives, including:

- [Establishing exceptions to licensing regulations that allow for telehealth-only SUD services](#) to expand treatment accessibility statewide
- [Licensing mobile opioid treatment programs](#) to pave the way for increased access to medication-assisted treatment

- [Launching a workforce development pilot program](#) with Carlow and Waynesburg universities to accelerate the training of new substance use treatment professionals

Many of the organizations the Shapiro Administration is supporting are receiving grant funding from the \$2 billion in opioid settlement funds secured by **Governor Shapiro** when he was Pennsylvania's Attorney General.

## **24/7 Help**

Individuals seeking substance use treatment or recovery supports can be connected to local SUD resources by calling the toll-free PA Get Help Now helpline at 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or by using [Treatment Atlas](#), a free, online or smart phone locator tool to help Pennsylvanians confidentially find SUD treatment that meets their needs.

In addition, local treatment programs are administered through county drug and alcohol offices called [Single County Authorities](#). These programs can help with treatment funding, assess the need for treatment or other services, and make referrals to match treatment and/or service needs.

Learn more about the Shapiro Administration's efforts in combating the overdose crisis at [ddap.pa.gov](#).

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