

Addiction and STIGMA

How does stigma affect people who use opioids?

- Major impact on the quality of life of people who use drug, people who are in recovery, and their friends and families.
- Creates barriers to accessing health and social services for substance use.
- Makes people feel ashamed of their drug use preventing them from receiving help if they need or want it.
- Sadly, this often leads people to use drugs alone, which can in turn lead to overdosing and dying alone.

Q: Will providing naloxone send the message that we condone drug use?

A: Providing naloxone will send the message that you value the person and care whether they live or die. This can be powerful and affirming, and can build a relationship of trust that can lead to other positive changes.

Q: Will the police arrest me for giving naloxone and calling for help? This scares me.

A: The [Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act](#) provides some legal protection for people who experience or witness an overdose and call 911 or their local emergency number for help.

Q: I thought THN was only for people who misuse opioids?

A: Naloxone should be considered for “**risky drugs**” and not just “**risky people**”. Anyone who consumes opioids (prescribed or not) is at risk of having an adverse reaction like slowed breathing and overdose. Being prepared is key.