



# MRC In Touch

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

September 2016

[www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov)

## Featured Article

### Naloxone Training Saves Lives: MRC Addressing Heroin Overdoses in Portage County, Ohio

Deaths caused by heroin overdoses are on the rise in Portage County, OH. Since 2011, data from the coroner's office indicate that 59 of 216 drug-related, accidental deaths were caused by heroin. Compared to the other 88 counties in Ohio, Portage County ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in number of deaths by heroin — the number even exceeded fatalities caused by car accidents. These statistics reflect a state-wide trend. Of the 10,574 heroin overdoses that occurred in the United States in 2014, 1,177 deaths were in Ohio.



#### Naloxone Kit, Portage County Services Pocket Guide, and training CD

The Portage County Health Department and the local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) collaborated with the Portage County Police Chief Association, the University Hospital Portage Medical Center, and the Portage County Fire Chief Association to address the crisis. From these conversations, the Portage MRC launched the Portage County Heroin Education Program to combat heroin overdoses by training first responders in using naloxone, also known as Narcan<sup>TM</sup>. Narcan is an opiate antidote that can be administered to a patient quickly to reverse an overdose. With money from NACCHO's MRC Challenge Awards, the Portage County Health Department created 100 kits for first responders to have on-hand that contained two doses of Narcan and literature on drug rehabilitation and medical and food resources in the county. MRC volunteers helped assemble the Narcan kits and promoted the program.

Before the project formally began, Ohio passed HB 170, a House Bill allowing police officers and all EMTs to use Narcan, which helped improve the reach of the project. By January 2016, the Portage County Heroin Education Program had trained more than 300 people on how to use Narcan. This included all fire department and county EMTs as well as most of the police departments. Since trainings concluded, seven lives have been saved by the Narcan kits. Additional grant money, the state health department, and the Portage County Mental Health and Recovery Board provided funding to replenish the contents of the Narcan kits in the future.

#### Community Partnership

The Portage County Heroin Education Program occurred alongside [Project Deaths Avoided with Naloxone Program \(Project DAWN\)](#) in the community. The Portage Heroin Education Program developed kits for Project DAWN that contained the same materials, with the addition of a CD that reviewed the Narcan administration training. This collaboration with Project DAWN helped the project reach both civilians and first responders. The two projects also reinforced their shared mission and helped increase community awareness of the issue.

In summary, the Portage County Heroin Education Program was successful because there was clear evidence of the need to address heroin overdoses as well as commitment from the community. With financial support to continue to resupply Narcan, The Portage MRC hope to see a decrease in the number of opioid-related fatalities.

Learn more about NACCHO's MRC Challenge Awards at [NACCHO MRC Challenge Awards](#).

## MRC/NACCHO Connections

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### New Advocacy Video - Roadmap to the Federal Budget

NACCHO has released a new advocacy resource, [Road Map to the Federal Budget](#), a video to help local health departments navigate the annual federal budget process from the creation and release of the President's budget through final passage of Congressional appropriations bills.

If you have questions or feedback on the video, please contact [Ian Goldstein](#), NACCHO Government Affairs Specialist.

## Announcements

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### Mission Ready Packages - Overview for MRC Units Webinar

Not sure what a Mission Ready Package (MRP) is? Join us on Thursday, September 29th from 1:30 - 2:30 PM ET for an overview of MRPs and how MRC units can take advantage of this resource tool.

The webinar is geared for MRC Unit Leaders and will provide an overview of what Mission Ready Packages are and the tool used to identify and package resources for a response mission. It will also show how MRC units & volunteers can use the MRP template to identify, train, and demonstrate their capability to be a resource for emergency responses.

Join us for a look at MRPs and learn more about how MRC units can use them to illustrate their capability and the value in developing MRPs for your missions.

Webinar link: <http://naccho.adobeconnect.com/mrc/>

### Webinar: How to Successfully Submit Your 2016-17 MRC Challenge Awards Application

NACCHO Webinar - How to successfully submit your 2016-17 MRC Challenge Awards Application

Join us on October 6, 2016 from 2:00 - 3:00 PM EST for a webinar to help you successfully submit your Challenge Award Application. Learn tips on how to successfully convey the merits of your project, navigating the application process, and an example of a well written Challenge Award application.

We will also highlight successful projects from this past year.

Webinar Link: <http://naccho.adobeconnect.com/mrc/>

## Upcoming Opportunities

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### Preparedness Summit 2017 - Open for Abstract Submission

As public health professionals look towards the next two decades, one thing is certain, the world will not look the same as it does today. Our changing environment, technological innovation, and increasing population density in urban areas are just some of the driving forces that will test our ability to take actions to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Share your health department's or partner agency's latest preparedness-related research or model practice by **submitting an abstract** to present at the **2017 Preparedness Summit**, taking place **April 25-28, in Atlanta, Georgia**. The theme and focus for the 2017 Preparedness Summit, "*Forces of Change: Capabilities, Innovation, and Partnerships*," will explore the following topics:

- Factors driving change in our world;
- Analysis of how these factors will impact the future of public health preparedness; and
- Opportunities we have *today* to drive action toward meeting our future needs.

Join the distinguished list of Preparedness Summit presenters by submitting an abstract today. **Abstracts will be accepted throughout the month of September.** The Preparedness Summit is the first and longest running national conference on public health preparedness, annually organized by NACCHO. Convening partners from across the field, the Summit delivers cross-disciplinary opportunities to connect with colleagues, share new research, and learn how to implement model practices to enhance capabilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Each year, attendance at the Summit has continued to grow, and in 2016, the Summit brought 1,800 attendees to Dallas from nearly every state and several countries.

Visit the [Preparedness Summit website](#) to start an abstract today, and stay up to date on all of the conference details.

## September is National Preparedness Month

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### Week Three Prepare Locally: Leveraging the Medical Reserve Corps as a Local Response Resource

In commemoration of National Preparedness Month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is highlighting five themes for each week of September, emphasizing the various aspects of effective preparedness. Each week, the NACCHO Preparedness team is authoring a blog to promote the theme and provide local health departments and other partner agencies with context and resources to share with the communities they serve. This week's theme is "[Prepare Locally.](#)" Make sure to also read our first two posts highlighting the themes of "[Prepare to Respond,](#)" and "[Prepare Globally.](#)"

Loudoun County, Virginia is home to one of the many successful partnerships involving an MRC Unit and the local health department for Zika response. The [Loudoun MRC](#) with support from the [Loudoun Department of Health](#), recently received an [MRC Challenge Award](#) focused on combating Zika through a Community Ambassador Project.



Loudoun County's MRC volunteers are crucial in supporting this project by leading efforts of partnering with local and regional entities to disseminate critical safety and testing information, removing mosquito breeding grounds (e.g. standing water) from common property, and establishing communication networks focusing on the local high risk and hard to reach populations as additional public health threats arise. To date over 84 MRC volunteers have been deployed to assist in Zika prevention efforts.

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Local health officials, MRC Unit volunteers, and other partner stakeholders are highly encouraged to share all of their preparedness efforts, resources, and community engagement events throughout National Preparedness Month. Both LHDs and MRC Units are invited to take the [NACCHO Preparedness Pledge](#), participate in our [National Preparedness Month Photo Contest](#), and [submit an abstract](#) for our upcoming 2017 Preparedness Summit.

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# NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

[www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org)



The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice with local health departments.

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Please contact Alyson Jordan, NACCHO's MRC Communications Specialist, with any questions or suggestions for the newsletter at 202-783-5528 or at [ajordan@naccho.org](mailto:ajordan@naccho.org).