



Naloxone Distribution and Training Data Report, Connecticut Department of Correction (DOC), January-December 2023

To reduce fatal opioid overdoses among recently incarcerated individuals, the Connecticut Department of Correction (DOC) provides naloxone (Narcan) and the accompanying training at various touchpoints post-incarceration. The Addiction Treatment Unit staff at the DOC distribute naloxone and provide training on naloxone administration to the following: inmates upon release or discharge, offenders on community supervision, sponsors of inmates preparing for discharge, and sponsors of offenders currently on parole. Over time, the number of participating DOC facilities, halfway houses and parole offices has expanded; as of January 2022, 100% of DOC facilities and parole offices are participating in naloxone distribution and training. In addition, the DOC trains every staff member on signs of an opioid overdose and how to respond with naloxone. This lifesaving medication is also strategically placed throughout all correctional facilities so that overdoses can be treated with naloxone by any staff person.

Highlights, January-December 2023
By month, an average of 69% of all naloxone kits offered to discharging inmates or offenders on parole were accepted and distributed in 2023. This represents an increase in the distribution rate compared to 58% in 2022.
The number of inmates and offenders on parole who were trained in naloxone administration trended higher over the second half of 2023 (1023 monthly average) than the first half (793 monthly average).

Overview, January-December 2023			
Measure	DOC Facilities	Parole Offices and/or Halfway Houses	Total
Number of direct facility exits from the DOC	15,495	N/A	15,495
Number of naloxone kits distributed to inmates upon release by the DOC or to offenders by parole offices or halfway houses ^a	2,267	229	2,496
Number of naloxone kit refusals at DOC facilities, parole offices and halfway houses	1,318	23 ^b	1,341
Number of inmates and offenders on parole trained in naloxone administration	10,893	N/A	10,893
Number of DOC and parole office staff trained in naloxone administration ^c	3,453	433	3,886

Notes:

During this time period, 259 naloxone kits were distributed to sponsors of inmates or offenders on parole.

^a One naloxone kit is offered to each inmate upon release and to offenders on parole. Naloxone kits are offered regardless of whether the individual has an opioid use disorder. Some individuals may receive more than one kit, if requested.

^b Data missing for Jan-Aug 2023.

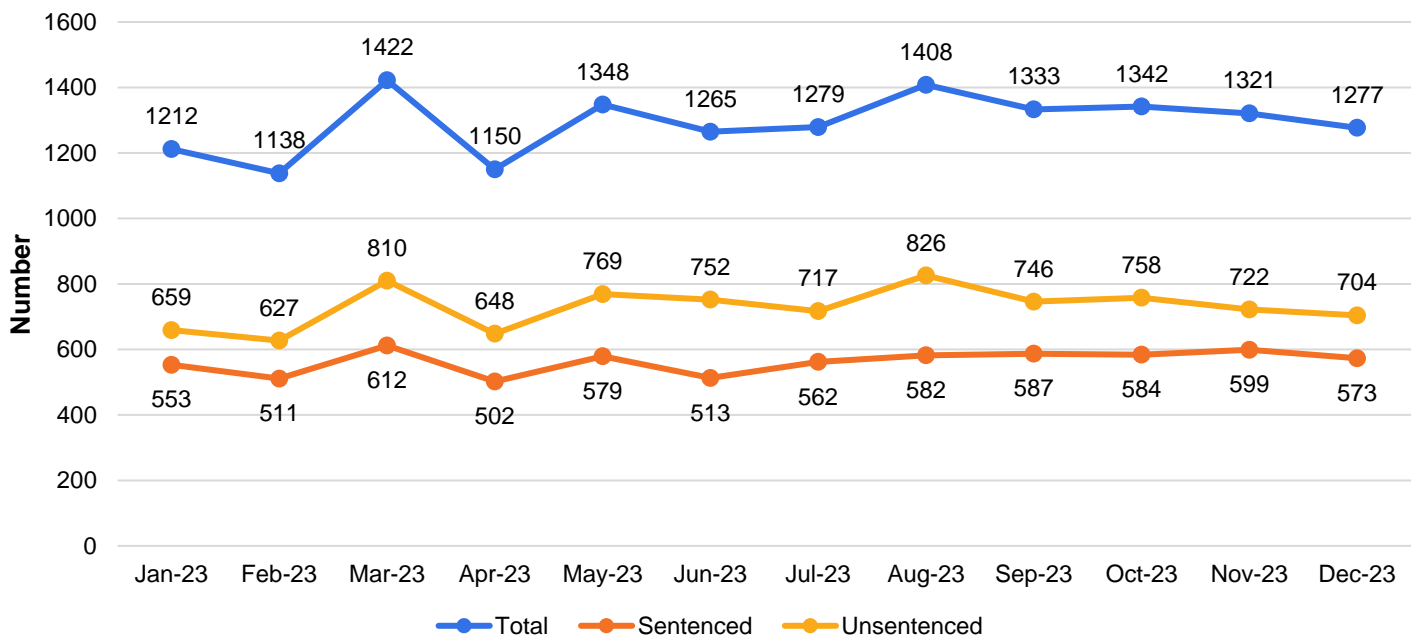
^c Some staff may be trained more than once.

Inmate Releases and Discharges

The chart below depicts the number of direct facility exits from the DOC by month from January to December 2023. Total direct facility exits were the lowest in February and April 2023 and peaked in March and August 2023. There was a downward trend in the number of direct facility exits between August and December 2023.

The number of inmates leaving a DOC facility is also tracked by whether the offender is unsentenced vs. sentenced. Throughout 2023, the number of unsentenced facility exits outnumbered the sentenced facility exits each month and represented more than half of all facility exits. Currently, the unsentenced inmate population presents a challenge because addiction staff are unavailable when a discharge occurs after hours, or addiction staff are not made aware that an individual is being bonded out of jail and are therefore unable to distribute naloxone.

Number of direct facility exits from the DOC, by month, January-December 2023



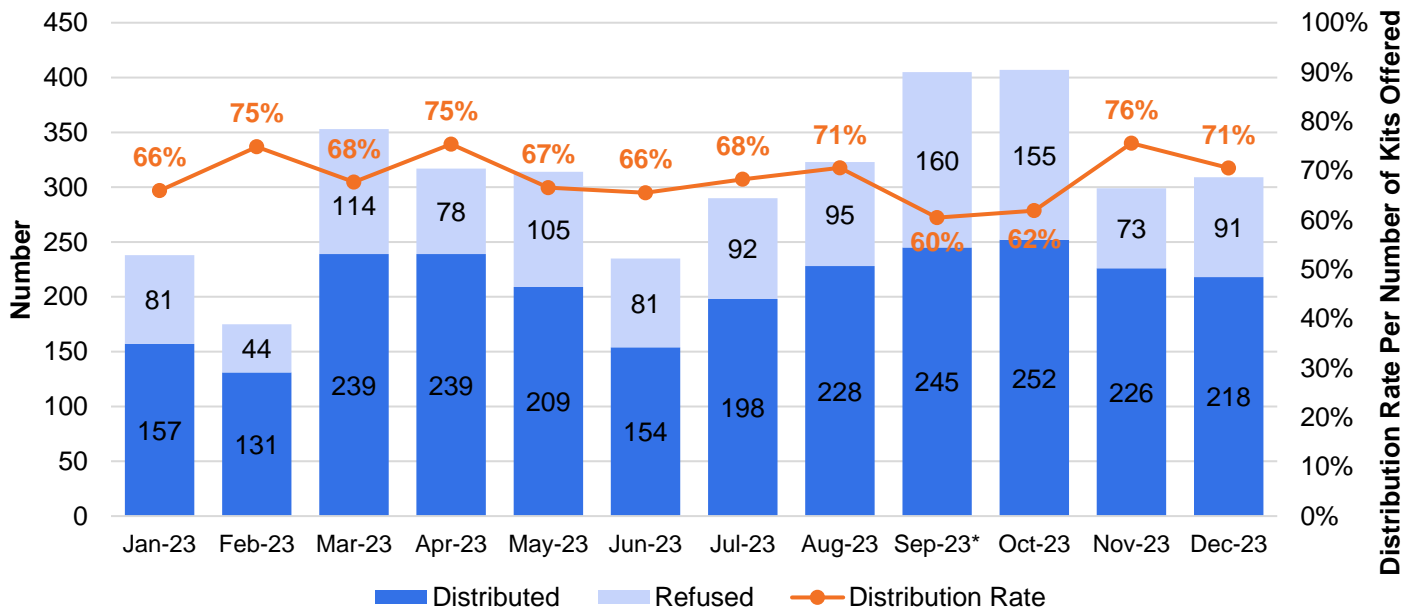
Note: Sentenced facility exits include both sentenced releases when an offender goes to community supervision or parole and sentenced discharges when an offender completes his or her sentence. Unsentenced facility exits occur when an offender leaves the facility as an accused person, being discharged by the court judge, or releasing on bond.

Naloxone Distribution

The chart below depicts the number of naloxone kits distributed to or refused by inmates upon release by DOC facilities or offenders by parole offices and halfway houses and the distribution rate per number of kits offered by month from January to December 2023. Overall, 60% or more of all naloxone kits offered were accepted and distributed each month in 2023.

Distributing naloxone to unsentenced individuals continues to present a challenge; however, efforts are actively underway to implement policies for the distribution of naloxone to individuals who bond out or are released from custody at court. As of March 2021, additional screenings to offer naloxone kits and provide training have occurred, resulting in increased refusals at some of the sentenced facilities. Naloxone kits are also offered to all inmates upon release or discharge, regardless of whether the inmate has an opioid use disorder or not, which also contributes to the number of refusals.

Number of naloxone kits distributed to or refused by inmates upon release by DOC facilities or offenders by parole offices and halfway houses and the distribution rate per number of kits offered, by month, January-December 2023



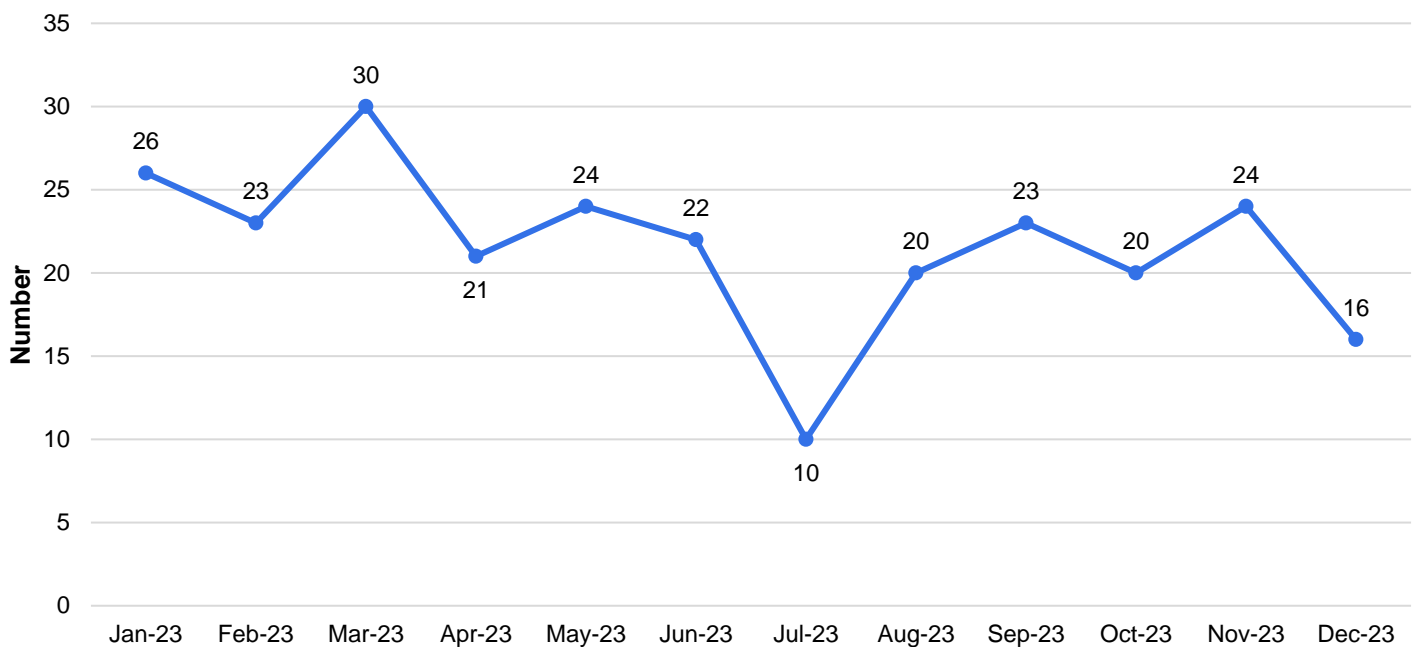
Note: One naloxone kit is offered to each inmate upon release and to offenders on parole. Naloxone kits are offered regardless of whether the individual has an opioid use disorder. Some individuals may receive more than one kit, if requested.

*Data were excluded for one facility in September 2023 due to a data collection error.

The chart below depicts the number of naloxone kits distributed to inmate sponsors or sponsors of offenders on parole by the DOC or parole offices by month from January to December 2023. Previously, there was no mechanism in place for providing naloxone to sponsors of inmates or offenders on parole. Beginning in March 2021, a new initiative was launched to distribute naloxone kits to the sponsors of inmates or offenders on parole. DOC staff responsible for screening potential sponsors ask the question, “Are you interested in a free overdose awareness kit?” and provide naloxone kits as needed.

In October 2022, a Linkage to Care Coordinator was hired at the DOC to provide outreach to sponsors of discharging inmates to offer naloxone kits and additional overdose prevention resources.

Number of naloxone kits distributed to sponsors of inmates or offenders on parole by the DOC or parole offices, January-December 2023



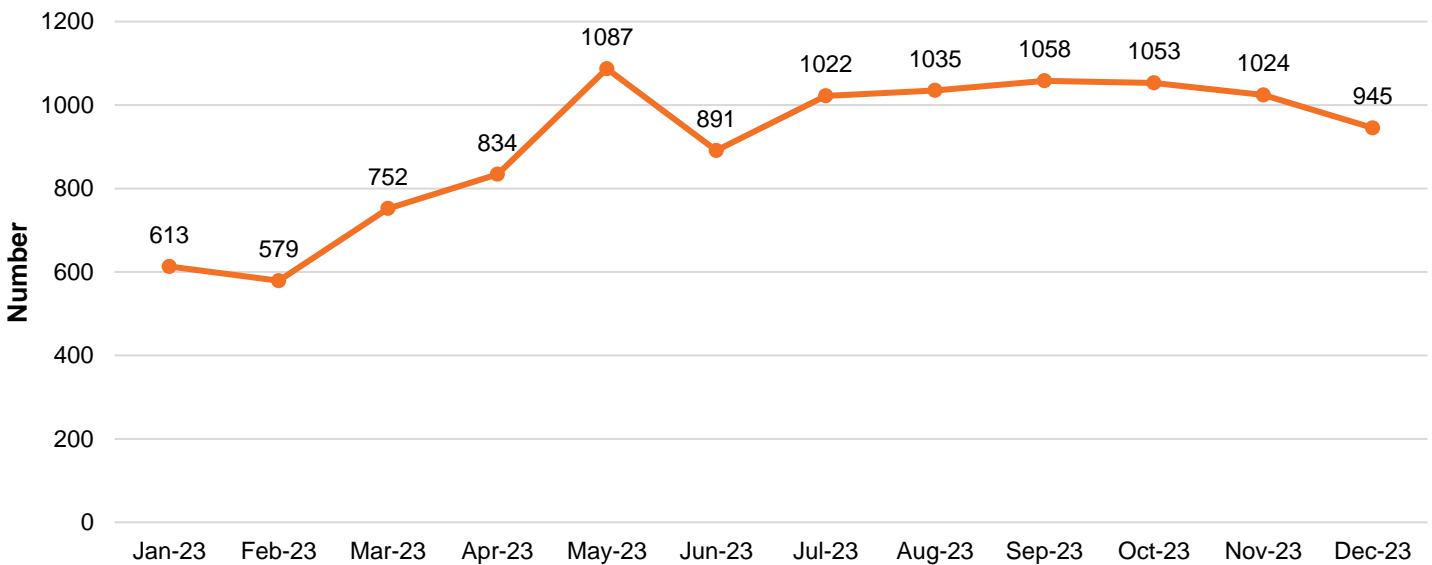
Note: A sponsor is a person approved by the DOC and is allowed to have the discharging offender in their home after incarceration. A sponsor may be a family member of the inmate or offender on parole, but this is not always the case.

Naloxone Trainings

The chart below depicts the number of inmates and offenders on parole who were trained in naloxone administration by the DOC or parole offices and halfway house by month from January to December 2023. From February (n=579) to May (n=1,087) 2023, there was a steep upward trend in the number of inmates and offenders on parole trained in administering naloxone. Overall, there were more inmates and offenders on parole who were trained in naloxone administration in the second half of 2023 compared to the first half. However, these increases also corresponded with a concurrent increase in the number of facility intakes.

Following COVID-19, several DOC facilities began incorporating naloxone administration training into their facility intake orientations for all inmates. The sentenced facilities continued to incorporate naloxone administration training in their treatment programs. In addition to naloxone administration, DOC facilities also trained inmates on what an overdose looks like, how to respond to an overdose emergency and where to obtain naloxone in the community.

Number of inmates trained in naloxone administration by the DOC, January-December 2023

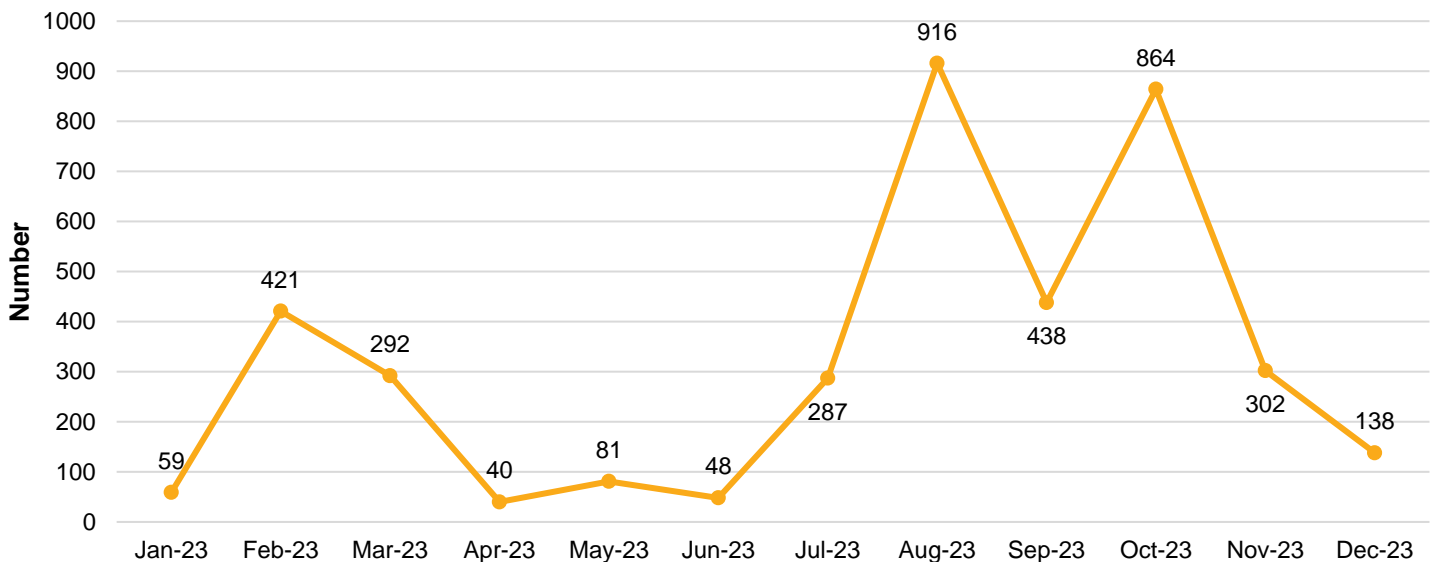




The chart below depicts the number of DOC and parole office staff who were trained in naloxone administration by month from January to December 2023. During 2023, the number of DOC and parole office staff trained in how to administer naloxone fluctuated from month to month. Monthly counts are dependent on when class trainings are held and can be expected to vary throughout the year. Training on naloxone administration is also now a part of the CPR trainings required by DOC staff every two years.

Between January and April 2021 (data not shown), all new DOC staff were trained on how to administer naloxone in an overdose emergency as well as fentanyl safety for first responders. Existing DOC staff were also retrained in these courses as part of ongoing staff development.

Number of DOC and parole office staff trained in naloxone administration, January-December 2023



Note: Some staff may be trained more than once.

**Addiction Treatment Unit
Connecticut Department of Correction**

**Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit
Connecticut Department of Public Health
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