

Naloxone Distribution and Training Data Report, Connecticut Department of Correction (CT DOC), June 2020 to April 2022

To reduce fatal opioid overdoses among recently incarcerated individuals, the Connecticut Department of Correction (CT DOC) provides naloxone (NARCAN) and the accompanying training at various touchpoints post-incarceration. The Addiction Treatment Unit staff at CT 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 CT DOC facilities, halfway houses and parole offices has expanded; as of January 2022, 100% of CT DOC facilities and parole offices are participating in naloxone distribution and training. In addition, the CT 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, June 2020 to April 2022
COVID-19 restrictions in 2020 and early 2021 impacted the processes for naloxone kit distribution and naloxone administration trainings. As restrictions eased, both naloxone distribution and trainings increased.
The number of naloxone kits distributed monthly to inmates or offenders on parole increased 278% from June 2020 (45 kits) to April 2022 (170 kits).
In March 2021, an initiative was launched to distribute naloxone kits to inmates' family members or the sponsors of inmates or offenders on parole.

Overview, June 2020 to April 2022			
Measure	CT DOC Facilities	Parole Offices and/or Halfway Houses	Total
Number of facility exits from the CT DOC	26,528	N/A	26,528
Number of naloxone kits distributed to inmates upon release by the CT DOC or to offenders by parole offices and halfway houses*	1,718	366	2,084
Number of naloxone kit refusals at CT DOC facilities, parole offices and halfway houses	1,218	46	1,264
Number of inmates and offenders on parole trained in naloxone administration	10,869	412	11,281
Number of CT DOC and parole office staff trained in naloxone administration**	5,738	902	6,640

Note:

During this time period, 211 naloxone kits were distributed to sponsors of inmates or offenders on parole.

*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.

**Some staff may be trained more than once.

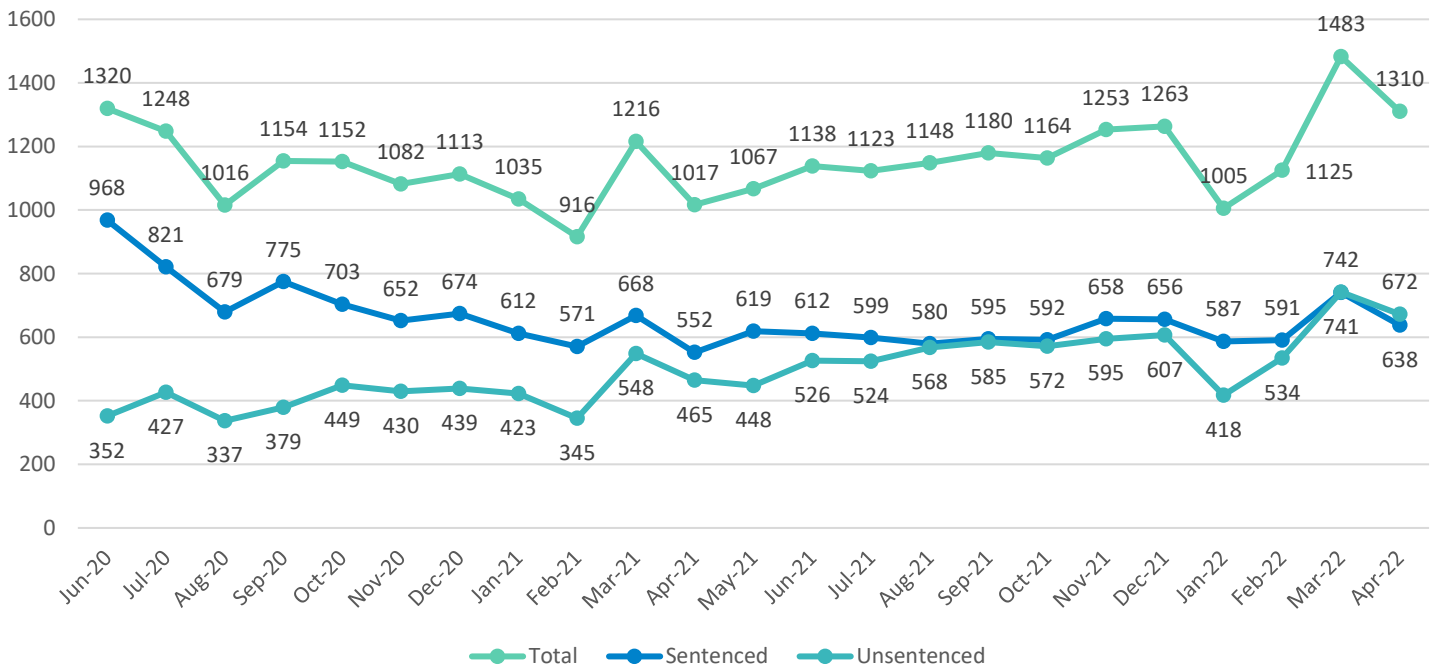


Inmate Releases and Discharges

The chart below depicts the number of facility exits from the CT DOC by month from June 2020 to April 2022. Due to COVID-19, the number of facility exits increased in the early months of the pandemic in March through May 2020 (data not shown). Facility exits then followed a downward trend during the second half of 2020 before trending upward through 2021 and 2022, reaching a peak in March 2022. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in late 2020 and early 2021, the court system was not fully open, and inmates were not being sentenced as frequently as usual. When courts started to reopen around mid-2021, the number of facility exits from the CT DOC began to rise.

The number of inmates leaving a CT DOC facility is also tracked by whether the offender is unsentenced vs. sentenced. Sentenced facility exits comprise both releases (when an offender goes to community supervision or parole) and discharges (when an offender completes his or her sentence). Unsented exits are discharges from a facility by an accused offender who is discharged by a judge or released on bond. In June 2020, the number of sentenced facility exits outnumbered the unsentenced facility exits 2.75 to 1. However, over the next year, the gap between the sentenced facility exits and unsentenced facility exits quickly narrowed. By August 2021, the number of unsentenced facility exits represented nearly half of all facility exits, a trend that continued through April 2022. 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 Facility Exits from the CT DOC, by month, June 2020 - April 2022



Note: Sentenced releases from a facility occur when an offender goes to parole. Sentenced discharges from a facility occur when an offender completes his or her sentence. Unsented discharges from a facility occur when an offender leaves the facility as an accused person, being discharged by the court judge, or releasing on bond.

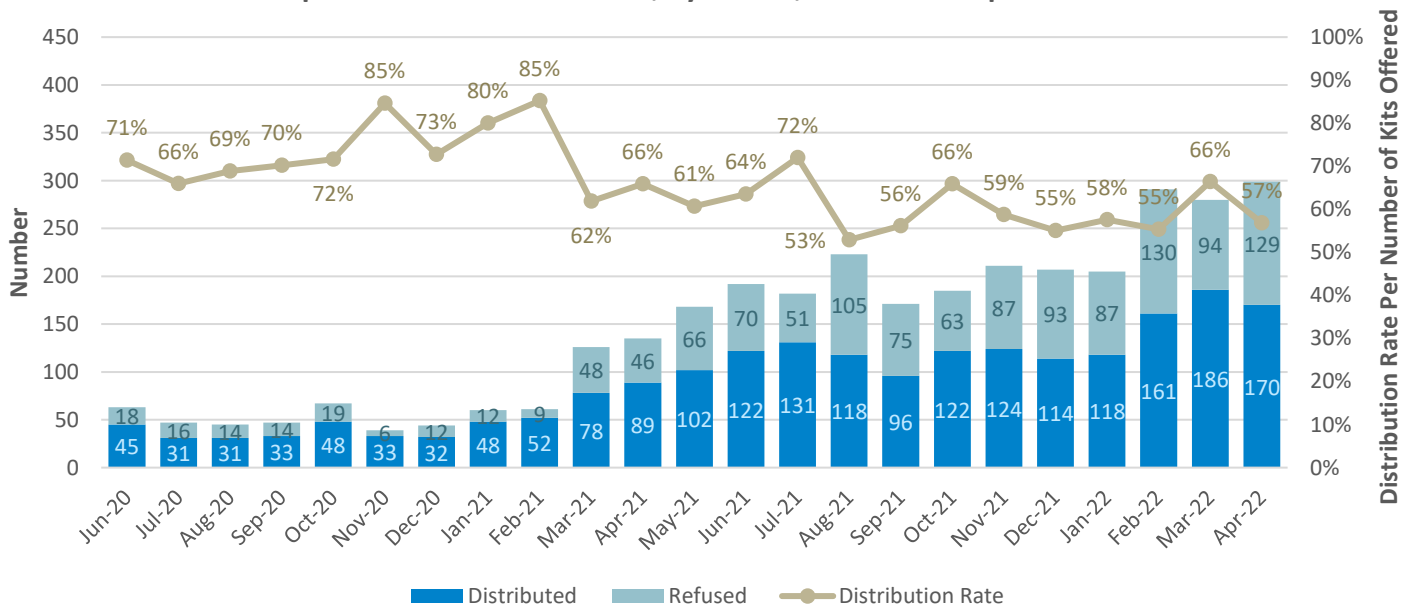


Naloxone Distribution

The chart below depicts the number of naloxone kits distributed to or refused by inmates upon release by CT DOC facilities or offenders by parole offices and halfway houses and the distribution rate per number of kits offered by month from June 2020 to April 2022. Both the number of naloxone kits distributed and refused rose steadily throughout 2021. The distribution rate showed an upward trend from June 2020 to February 2021, but subsequently showed a downward trend through April 2022. Throughout the entire period, however, more than half of all naloxone kits offered were accepted and distributed.

During the timeframe of June 2020 to April 2022, additional CT DOC facilities, halfway houses and parole offices began distributing naloxone, contributing to some of the observed increases. 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. Beginning in March 2021, additional screenings to offer naloxone kits and provide training 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 CT DOC facilities or offenders by parole offices and halfway houses and the distribution rate per number of kits offered, by month, June 2020 - April 2022

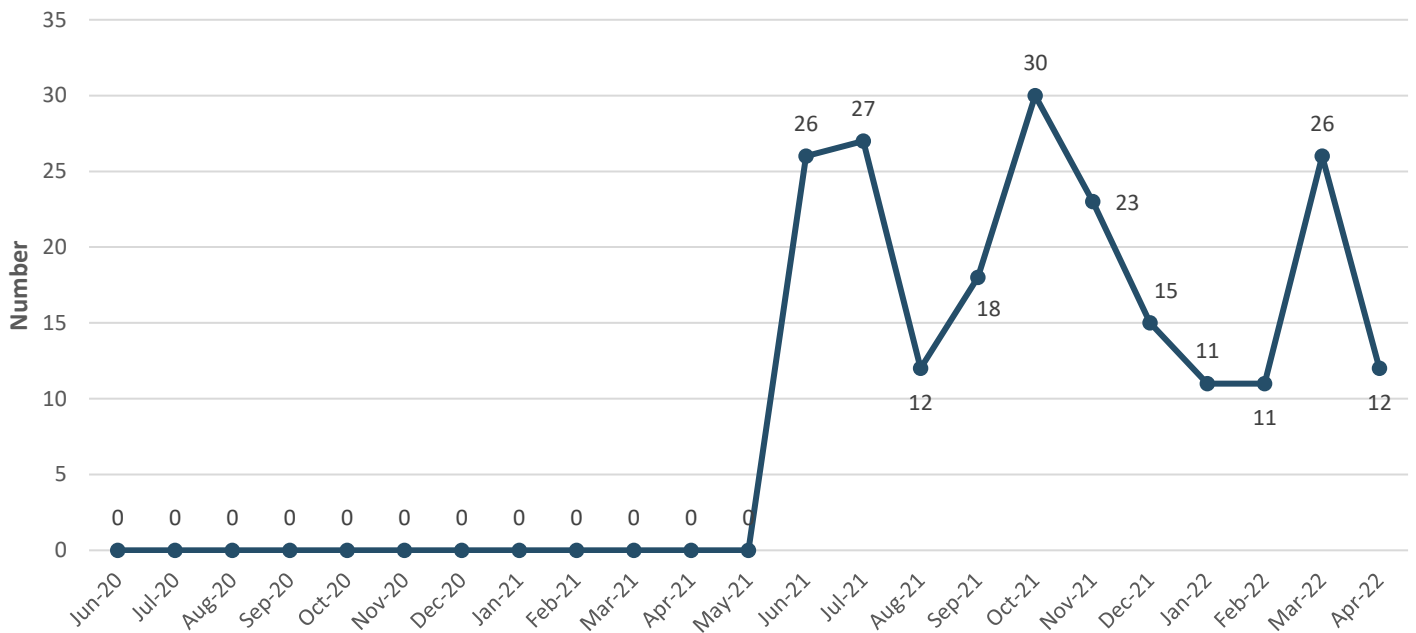


Note: One naloxone kit is offered to each inmate upon release and to offenders on parole. Naloxone kits are offered regardless of whether the individual has an opioid use disorder. Some individuals may receive more than one kit, if requested.



The chart below depicts the number of naloxone kits distributed to inmate sponsors or sponsors of offenders on parole by the CT DOC or parole offices by month from June 2020 to April 2022. Previously, there was no mechanism in place for providing naloxone to sponsors of inmates or offenders on parole. COVID-19 restrictions also prevented meeting in person or running group naloxone administration trainings. Beginning in March 2021, a new initiative was launched to distribute naloxone kits to the sponsors of inmates or offenders on parole. CT DOC staff responsible for clearing potential sponsors ask the question, “Are you interested in a free overdose awareness kit?” and provide naloxone kits as needed.

Number of naloxone kits distributed to sponsors of inmates or offenders on parole by the CT DOC or parole offices, June 2020 - April 2022



Note: A sponsor is a person approved by the CT 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.

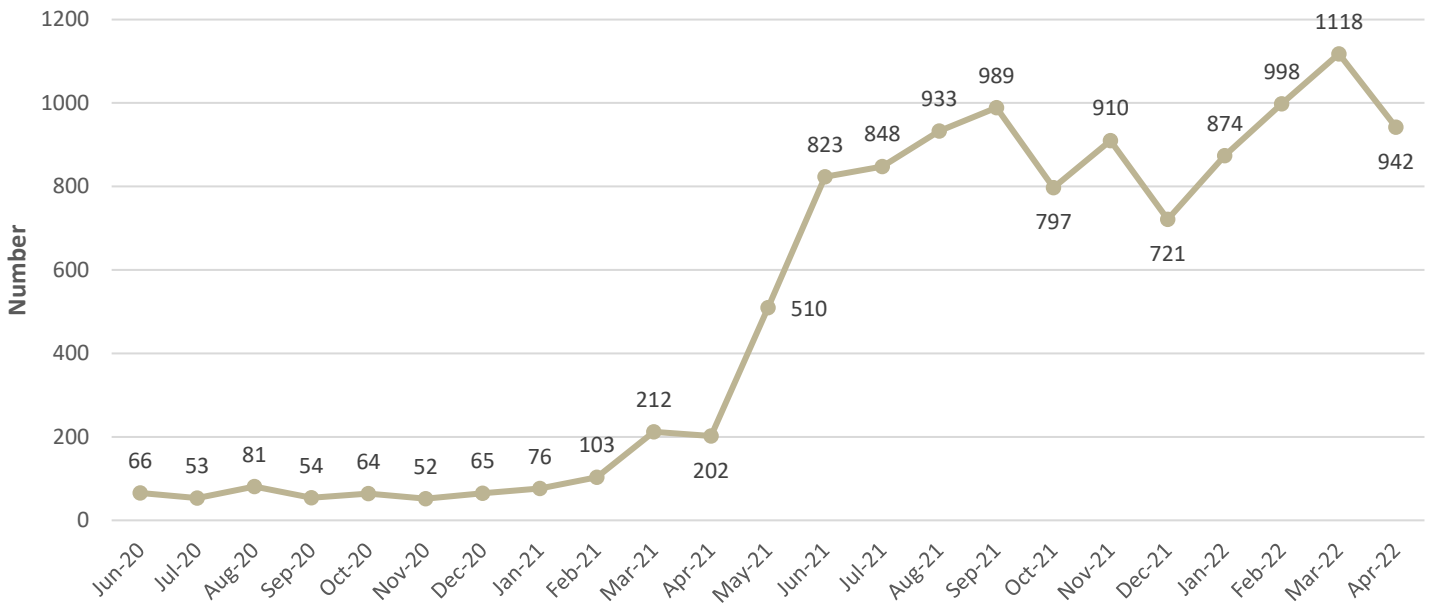


Naloxone Trainings

The chart below depicts the number of inmates and offenders on parole who were trained in naloxone administration by the CT DOC or parole offices and halfway house by month from June 2020 to April 2022. From June 2020 to early 2021, the number of inmates and offenders on parole trained in administering naloxone remained low and consistent. Due to COVID-19 restrictions during this time, CT DOC facilities were not able to conduct group naloxone administration trainings with inmates. Instead, CT DOC facilities held naloxone administration trainings on an individual basis. By mid-2021, the number of inmates and offenders on parole trained in naloxone administration increased dramatically and sustained through April 2022.

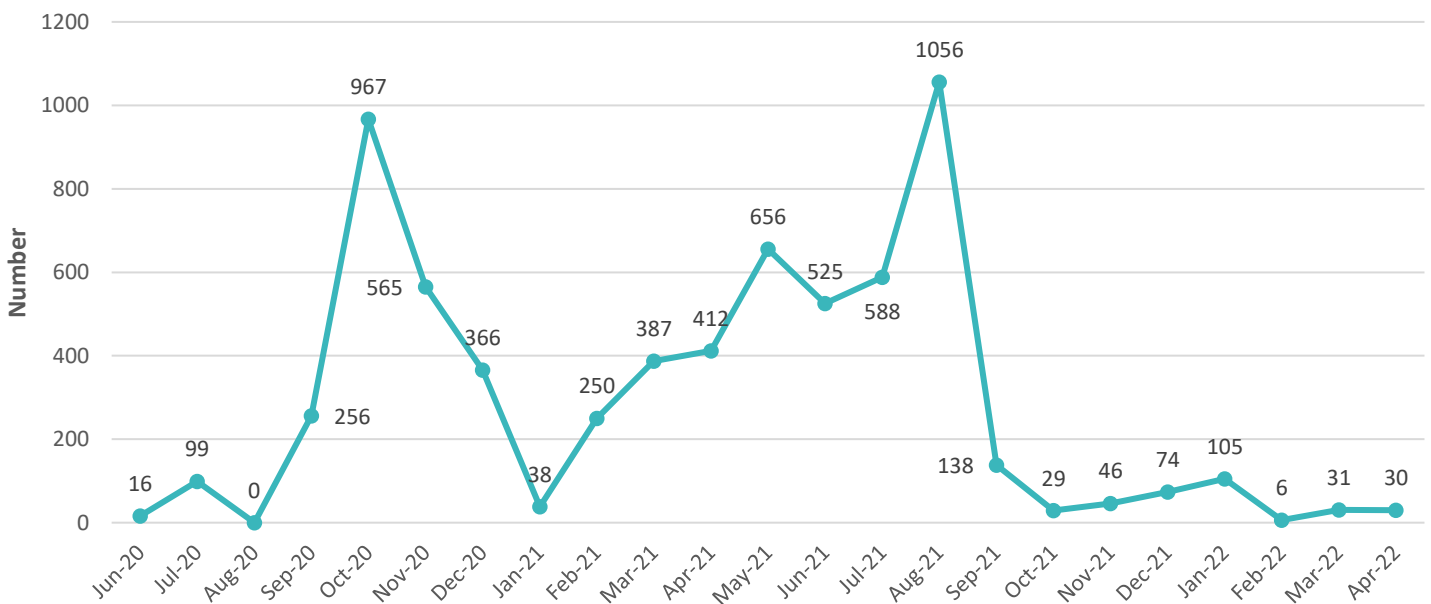
As COVID-19 restrictions eased, several CT DOC facilities began incorporating naloxone administration trainings into their facility orientations for all inmates. The sentenced facilities continued to incorporate naloxone administration training in their treatment programs. In addition to naloxone administration, CT 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 and offenders on parole trained in naloxone administration by the CT DOC or parole offices and halfway houses, June 2020 - April 2022



The chart below depicts the number of CT DOC and parole office staff who were trained in naloxone administration by month from June 2020 to April 2022. During June through August 2020, COVID-19 restrictions prohibited staff trainings at the training academy, resulting in fewer staff trained in naloxone administration for these months. From September to December 2020, staff trainings were allowed to resume at a limited capacity with smaller class sizes. Between January and April 2021, all new CT DOC staff were trained on how to administer naloxone in an overdose emergency as well as fentanyl safety for first responders. Existing CT DOC staff were also retrained in these courses as part of ongoing staff development. The CT DOC also added training on naloxone administration to the CPR trainings required by staff every two years, resulting in the peaks observed in October 2020 and August 2021.

Number of CT DOC and parole office staff trained in naloxone administration, June 2020 - April 2022



Note: Some staff may be trained more than once.

