

# don't survive a year

By **Nadia Kounang, CNN**

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Source: [CNN](#)

Video of a heroin addict being treated after overdosing 01:55

## Story highlights

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A review finds opioid antidote, naloxone, successful in stopping overdose 93% of the time

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However, 1 in 10 patients revived with naloxone are expected to die within a year

**(CNN)** — As the opioid overdose epidemic continues to surge, public health officials and first responders have turned to naloxone, the drug that reverses overdose, to help combat the rising tide. New research from Brigham and Women's hospital in Boston shows its effectiveness.

A review of emergency medical services data from Massachusetts found that when given naloxone, 93.5% of people survived their overdose. The research looked at more than 12,000 dosages administered between July 1, 2013 and December 31, 2015. A year after their overdose, 84.3% of those who had been given the reversal drug were still alive.

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## 'We saved them'

"With this reversal agent, we're saving the vast majority of people," said [Dr. Scott Weiner](#), lead author of the study and an emergency physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital. "These are people who got naloxone by ambulance. So we saved them. The lesson learned is not that naloxone is failing; it's working."



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