

DRUG WARNING

Rise in opioid overdoses after use of cocaine or methamphetamine

Know the risks

- Heroin and other opioids may be sold as or found in cocaine, methamphetamine and MDMA.
- Small amounts of opioids can cause life-threatening overdose in people who have never or rarely use opioids.
- You cannot always tell the difference between heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine by appearance.
- The risks of overdose are increased if you:
 - ❌ Use a high dose, or re-dose when you are not getting the desired effect.
 - ❌ Use with other drugs (for example alcohol, benzodiazepines, ketamine, GHB or opioids).
 - ❌ Use drugs alone.
 - ❌ Use a new batch.
- Fentanyl test strips do not detect heroin or many other opioids.

Effects to look out for

- Unexpected drowsiness, pinpoint pupils, loss of consciousness, slow breathing/snoring and skin turning blue/grey after using a stimulant (for example cocaine, methamphetamine or MDMA).

Getting help

If you or your friends see the warning signs of overdose:

Seek help immediately from your nearest emergency department or call **Triple Zero (000)**. You won't get into trouble for seeking medical care.

Start **CPR** if someone is not breathing.

Use **naloxone** if you have it. Call '000' even if naloxone has been given.



11 people with severe opioid overdose after use of drugs thought to be **COCAINE** or **METHAMPHETAMINE** since December 2023

HEROIN was the opioid identified

Take Home Naloxone Program

- **Naloxone** is a life-saving medicine that can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose. Naloxone is available in a very easy to use nasal spray, and as a pre-filled injection.
- **You should carry naloxone if:**
 - You are using drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine, MDMA or opioids.
 - You are hosting or going to a party where drugs will be present.
- If you are at risk of experiencing or witnessing an opioid overdose you can get **naloxone for free without a prescription in NSW** from some community pharmacies, needle and syringe programs, opioid treatment services and NUAA.
- Visit [Your Room](#) for participating sites and more information on take-home naloxone.
- NUAA can mail you naloxone in a discreet package. Order via their online shop: shop.nuaa.org.au or call (02) 9171 6650.

Support and advice

For free and confidential advice:

- Call [Alcohol and Drug Information Service](#) (ADIS) on 1800 250 015 at any time 24/7. Start a [Web Chat](#) with an ADIS counsellor Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5pm.
- Call [NUAA](#) & DanceWise NSW's PeerLine on 1800 644 413 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) or visit [NUAA](#) for a range of resources on opioids and naloxone.
- Call the [NSW Poisons Information Centre](#) on 13 11 26 for information on adverse effects from drugs.
- Visit [Your Room](#) for fact sheets and other resources.



<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aod/public-drug-alerts/Pages/default.aspx>

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