DRUG WARNING

Multiple opioid overdoses following use of cocaine

Six people recently presented to hospitals in Sydney and Western NSW with OPIOID overdoses after using what they thought was COCAINE

Know the risks

- Opioids such as heroin may be sold as or found in cocaine, methamphetamine and MDMA.
- Small amounts of opioids can cause life-threatening overdose.
- This risk is higher in people who have never or rarely used 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 and nitazene 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
- Skin turning blue/grey

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 responsive.

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

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 in the form of a pill, powder, crystal or liquid
  - You are going somewhere 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 & DanceWize 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.

For up to date alerts, visit
https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/drugalerts

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NSW GOVERNMENT