



MRC RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Activity Snapshot | 2024

The opioid crisis in the United States was declared a public health emergency in 2017 and remains one of the most devastating health challenges of the 21st century. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is on the front lines of the battle in communities across the U.S. In 2024, local MRC units in 43 states and territories engaged in activities that aimed to prevent opioid abuse, enhance community education and training around the risk of opioids, and reduce the number of opioid-related deaths.



650+
ACTIVITIES

Approximately 150 MRC Units spent more than 4,000 hours training volunteers, community partners, and members of the public on opioid overdose response protocols, including rescue breathing and the administration of naloxone.

3,000
VOLUNTEERS



Montgomery County MRC (TX) distributed naloxone to local fire departments. Jefferson County Health Department MRC (KS) trained law enforcement on personal protective equipment (PPE) use and naloxone administration during drug response incidents.



200
UNITS

Rhode Island MRC volunteers dedicated 300 hours assembling NaloxBox units, providing public naloxone access in community spaces like libraries, municipal buildings, and universities.

7,200
HOURS



Virginia MRC Units reported approximately 375 hours supporting REVIVE!, Virginia's statewide opioid overdose and naloxone education program. Activities completed primarily included trainings, outreach, and assembling and distributing naloxone harm reduction kits.

Deschutes County MRC (OR), Philadelphia MRC (PA), OKMRC Statewide MRC (OK), and many others supported harm reduction efforts by training volunteers on the use of fentanyl test strips and distributing harm reduction/safety kits to at-risk communities.



\$280K
ECONOMIC VALUE
OF TIME DONATED

Nine MRC Units participated in opioid-related exercises to enhance skills, strengthen partnerships, and improve preparedness for cold weather sheltering, fentanyl response, hepatitis A outbreaks, and overdoses.