



NEWS RELEASE

SHERIFF-CORONER DON BARNES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Affairs Director Carrie Braun

W: 714-647-7042 | C: 714-904-7042

OCSD deployment of Naloxone set to double for fifth year in a row

SANTA ANA, Ca. (July 30, 2020) – The Orange County Sheriff’s Department’s deployment of Naloxone, an opioid antagonist that can be effective in opioid overdose, has continued to increase dramatically since 2015, with the number of doses administered in the first half of 2020 setting the stage for the Department to double every year since deputies began administering Naloxone.

Annual Department-Wide Deployments (Corrections and Field Operations)							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 YTD	Total
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	3	9	20	38	66	52	188
TOTAL DOSES	3	10	24	58	111	92	298

Opioid misuse and addiction have increased dramatically across the nation, and Orange County continues to be no exception. In 2016, the first full year that OCSD deployed Naloxone department-wide, only nine doses were administered. In comparison, between January and June of 2020, deputies administered 92 doses of Naloxone to 52 individuals. Between April and June of 2020, 16 of the 30 Naloxone deployments resulted in the immediate reversal of an overdose.

Since the introduction of the program in 2015, OCSD has deployed a total of 298 doses. This year is tracking to exceed all previous years’ usage.

Naloxone, while effective, does not work every time. Between April and June of 2019 for example, the Coroner’s Division reported that 17 decedents had Naloxone in their system.

The Orange County Sheriff’s Department obtains Naloxone through the California Department of Health Care Services under the Expanded Access to Medicated Assistance Treatment (MAT) program. First awarded in March 2019, this grant has saved the Orange County Sheriff’s Department \$660,000 to date.

The Orange County Sheriff’s Department continues to be committed to interrupting the supply of drugs in our county. A recent seizure by OCSD Investigators yielded approximately 400 grams of carfentanyl, an odorless white powder ultra-potent synthetic opioid used as a large-animal tranquilizer. Carfentanyl is 100 times more potent than fentanyl, and a grain of sand size amount can be lethal.

“By working collaboratively to increase enforcement against illicit drugs, coupled with education and prevention efforts to reduce drug demand, we can keep Orange County a safe and drug-free community,” said Sheriff-Coroner Don Barnes.

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