

Using Expired Naloxone is Better Than Not Using Naloxone!



Recent studies have demonstrated that naloxone remains effective for decades beyond its expiration date. Research indicates that naloxone maintains its concentration even when exposed to extreme temperatures, such as heat or freeze-thaw cycles, for extended periods. A 2019 study found no significant changes in naloxone potency after 28 days of exposure to such conditions compared to room temperature storage.[1]

NALOXONE RETAINS POTENCY IN LESS-THAN-IDEAL CONDITIONS

A comprehensive study examined expired naloxone collected from fire departments, EMS services, and law enforcement agencies. The results confirmed that:

Some naloxone samples were nearly 30 years past their expiration date.

Most samples, including those stored in ambulances and police vehicles, retained nearly all their active ingredients.

Only one sample, more than 25 years past expiration, showed potency below 90%. [2]

IMPLICATIONS FOR NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION

Extending the shelf life of naloxone can significantly reduce costs and improve accessibility for communities in need. Ensuring that naloxone remains available, even if expired, can help save lives by preventing unnecessary barriers to its use.

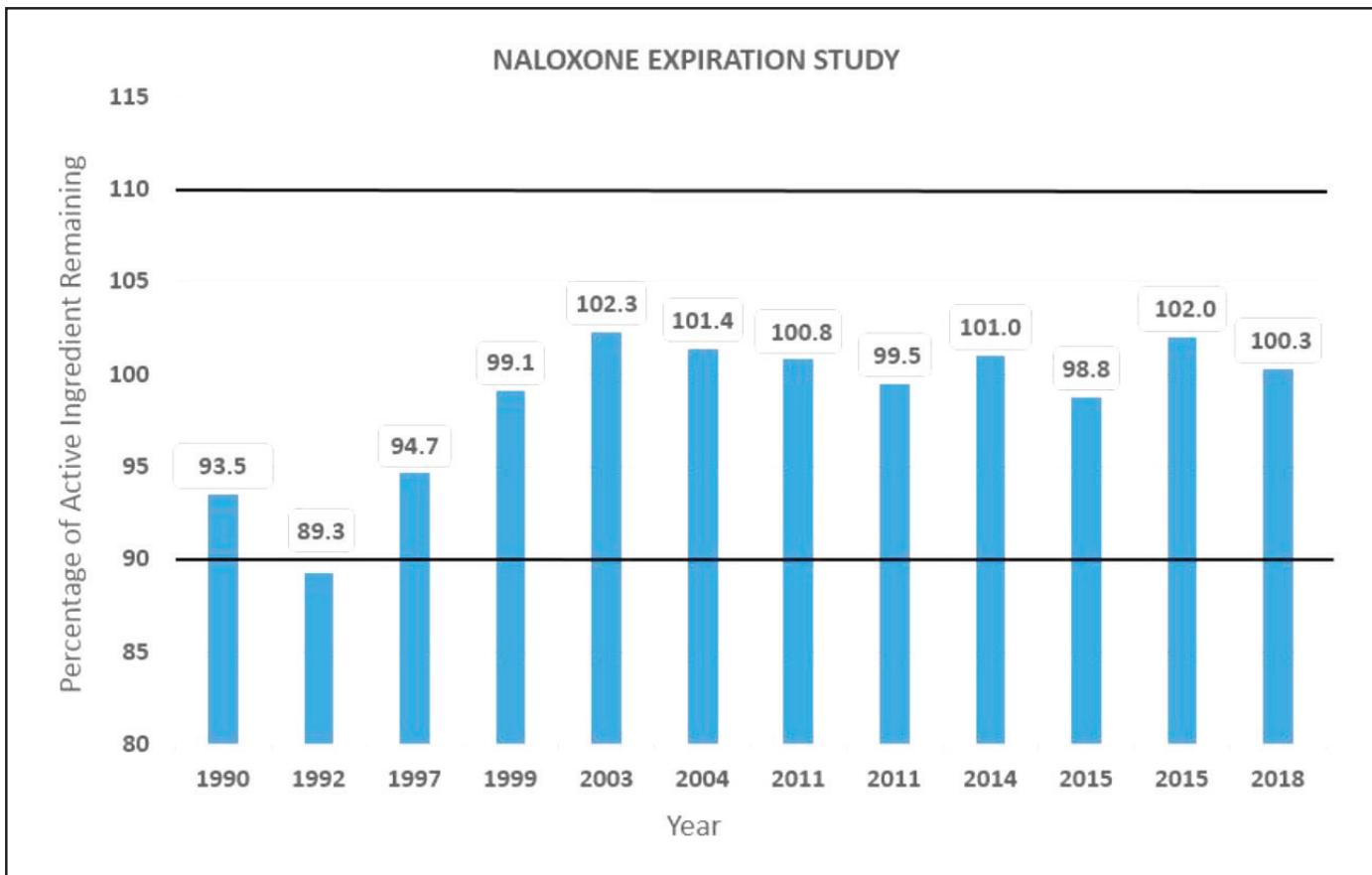
Journal of Prehospital Emergency Care: Studies found no significant degradation in expired naloxone samples, with many still meeting USP standards for safety and efficacy.[1]

2018 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Meeting: Preliminary findings suggest a potential shelf-life extension for naloxone stored in climate-controlled environments.[1]

American Pharmacists Association: Chemical analysis of expired naloxone samples found that 11 out of 12 retained between 90%-110% of their original potency, meeting USP standards for effective use.[1]

SUPPORTING STUDIES & EXPERT OPINIONS

Expired naloxone remains effective and should be used in emergencies rather than withheld. The risk of administering an expired dose is far lower than the risk of not using naloxone at all when responding to an opioid overdose. Ensuring broad access to naloxone, regardless of its expiration date, can help save lives and combat the ongoing opioid crisis.



SOURCES

[1] Next Distro. (2023). ***Mighty Naloxone***.

Next Distro. Retrieved March 4, 2025, from <https://nextdistro.org/mightynaloxone>

[2] Network for Public Health Law. (2022, February).

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<https://www.networkforphl.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/KS-Expired-Naloxone-Factsheet-FINALpdf-002del.pdf>



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Follow any of these links to access this toolkit and DCCCA other prevention resources:

<http://www.dccca.org/prevention-resources>

<https://ispri.ng/mxVY1>

Or scan here:

