



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## Press Release

### DA Morrissey awards BPD grant For life-saving overdose drug

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Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey has awarded a \$1,000 grant to the Brookline Police Department to support the town's overdose prevention work.

"The Brookline Police Department and Chief Daniel O'Leary were immediate supporters and participants when we offered training in the use of NarCan to revive citizens in opiate overdose," District Attorney Morrissey said. "They have saved more than 10 lives – from young teens to people in their late 40s. Some required multiple doses. This grant should help maintain a steady supply."

Time is critical in dealing with opiate overdoses. "Putting NarCan in the hands of our first responders, police and fire departments, allows them to act immediately – regardless of who arrives first on the scene," Morrissey said. "Every second counts in saving lives."

The March 2014 training which Morrissey arranged and sponsored for all police and fire department in Norfolk County included the distribution of 900 doses of the opiate antagonist drug NarCan, or nasal delivered naloxone, to Norfolk's 28 communities. Like the \$1,000 grant approved for Brookline last week, the 2014 training and initial supply were financed through assets seized during narcotics distribution prosecutions and ordered forfeited by a judge.

"My office responded to 94 fatal opiate overdoses across Norfolk County in all of 2014. By late September, we had exceeded 110 for this year. The problem continues to grow, which makes efforts like that in Brookline just that much more urgent," Morrissey said. "We know that without naloxone kits in cruisers across the county, the numbers would be even more staggering."

Morrissey is clear that Naloxone "is not the answer to the opiate problem," but is a necessary part of connecting users with the help and treatment they need.