

Good Samaritan Law on College Campuses

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OVERVIEW

- SCOPE OF THE ISSUE | Who is at risk?
- OVERVIEW OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN LAW
- ISSUES CONCERNING THE LAW
- GOOD SAMARITAN LAW ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES
- HOW TO GET THE LAW ON YOUR CAMPUS



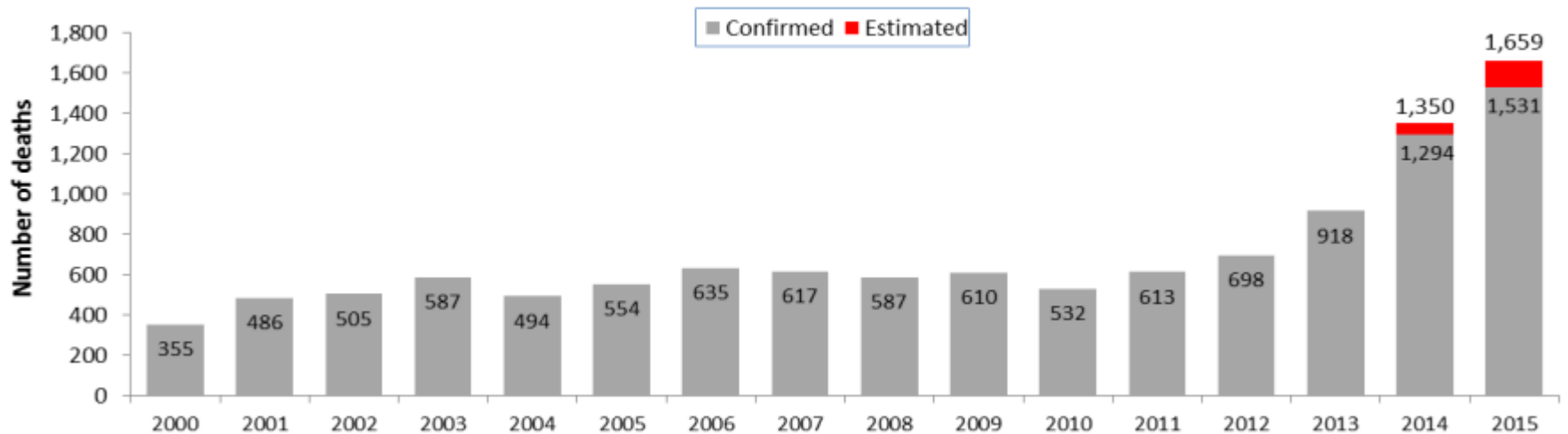
OBJECTIVE:

- To understand the Good Samaritan Law
- To understand issues surrounding the law
- To provide insight on how to get this law on your college campus

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

- Overdoses are the **leading cause of unnatural death** in this country, outweighing deaths by HIV/AIDS, homicide or car accidents.
- On average, **100** people die every day in the United States due to an overdose.
- In 2015, Massachusetts there were **1,379** confirmed overdoses and **1,526** estimated.

Opioid-Related Deaths, Unintentional/Undetermined
Massachusetts: January 2000- June 2016



Note: Counts for 2000 – 2013 have been updated following a review of cases that did not receive an official cause of death at the time the files were closed.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

- More people die from prescription drug overdoses than from heroin and cocaine combined.
- False sense of security with a prescription
- From 1999-2010 there was a fourfold increase in the use of prescribed opioids for pain.
- During that same time period, the rates at which people were overdosing on prescription opioids also quadrupled
- Evidence shows many switch to heroin after they no longer have access to prescription.



WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

DRUG OVERDOSES CAN BE PREVENTED!

- Most overdoses are witnessed by another person
- Calling 911 in a timely manner increases survival
- Decreased damage to the brain and body the more quickly help is contacted



WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

MANY PEOPLE REPORT **NOT CALLING 911**
DURING AN EMERGENCY DUE TO FEAR OF
POLICE INVOLVEMENT AND CRIMINAL
PROSECUTION

BECAUSE OF THIS:

The majority of states have recently modified their laws to increase access to emergency care and treatment for opiate overdose through Good Samaritan Laws.



THE GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

- **Passed in MA in August of 2012**
- **Gives limited immunity to anyone who calls 911 in the event of an overdose**
- **A person who experiences a drug-related overdose and is in need of medical assistance will not be charged with possession of a controlled substance.**



THE GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

- **The Good Samaritan Law has been passed through 35 states in the country.**
- **It is critically important that all first responders, especially police departments, are on board and properly trained.**
- **The current Good Samaritan Law provides legal protection to any person to possess and administer naloxone.**

ISSUES CONCERNING THE LAW

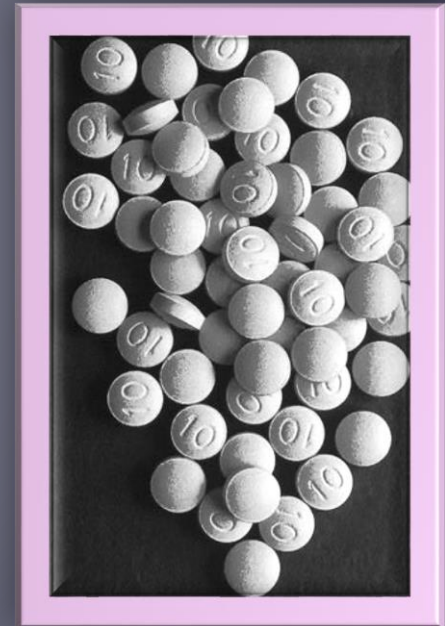
- Exemption of arrest and criminal prosecution through the implementation of 911 Good Samaritan Law has increased the number of individuals willing to call 911 to save a life
- In Massachusetts, Governor Charlie Baker has publically acknowledged that punishment is not the appropriate response to an individual with a substance use disorder
- His Opioid Working Group has called for an expansion of the Good Samaritan Laws



88% of individuals struggling with substance use disorders stated that they would be more likely to call for help in the event of an overdose due to the changes in the law

Good Samaritan Law & College Campuses

- The intimidation of disciplinary policies often causes hesitation during stressful situations at parties
- As of August 2015, **394 college campuses** across the United States have enacted Good Samaritan 911 policies to protect students
- The existence of a Good Samaritan Policy on college campuses ensures that students feel safe to seek and receive help when necessary



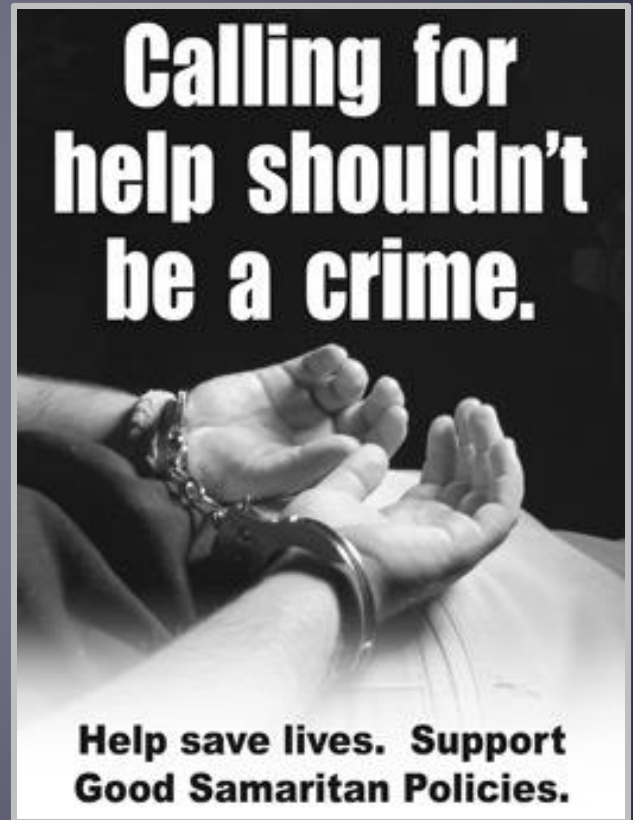
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As of August 2015, 17 colleges in Massachusetts have adopted Good Samaritan 911 Laws:

- Amherst College
- Babson
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Clark University
- College of Holy Cross
- Emerson
- Hampshire
- MCLA
- MA Institute of Technology (MIT)
- Northeastern
- Suffolk
- Tufts
- UMass Amherst
- UMass Dartmouth
- Wellesley
- Wheaton

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- Colleges campuses that uphold zero tolerance policies are hesitant to consider implementing the Good Samaritan Law on campus
- These institutions try to combat illegal underage drinking and binge drinking with such policies
- However, this often encourages students to consume alcohol and other substances in a secretive manner increasing likelihood of misuse, injury, overdoses, accidents, violence, and death



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“A fundamental component of any Good Samaritan policy on a college campus should include a **non-punitive follow-up evaluation** and **counseling** as opposed to harsh punitive consequences.

Similarly to state Good Samaritan laws, these policies shouldn't be viewed as “**get out of jail free cards**” but rather, they provide students with **empowerment** to make **responsible decisions** who would otherwise hesitate during emergency situations.”

Good Samaritan Law & College Campuses

These laws have proven to have “few if any foreseeable negative effects, can be implemented at little or no cost, and will likely save both lives and resources, they may represent some of the lowest-hanging public health fruit available to policymakers today”

Students who are aware of such policies are 2.5 times more likely to call for help than students who expect to face disciplinary actions.

HOW CAN I IMPLEMENT THIS ON MY CAMPUS?

1. IDENTIFY DECISION-MAKERS & STAKEHOLDERS AT YOUR INSTITUTION
2. MEET WITH DECISION-MAKERS AND INTRODUCE THE POLICY
3. LEVERAGE YOUR MEETING INTO RESULTS
4. ORGANIZE A CAMPAIGN

Search: STUDENTS FOR SENSIBLE DRUG POLICY
for more information

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CLEAR CHANNEL

**DON'T RUN,
CALL 911.**



**The Good Samaritan Law
Protects you.**

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