POLICY

1. **Sanctity of Human Life.** The policy of the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) is to value and preserve human life in all situations.

2. **Overdose Investigations.** Opioid-related overdose fatalities in Maryland increased by 106% between 2011 and 2015, and are expected to continue to rise\(^1\). The BPD shall thoroughly investigate overdose cases to ascertain the source of supply for the chemical substance and assign criminal culpability where appropriate.

3. **Maryland Good Samaritan Law.** A person who, in good faith, seeks, provides, or assists with the provision of medical assistance for a person experiencing a medical emergency after ingesting or using alcohol or drugs shall be immune from criminal prosecution for a violation of 5-601, 5-619, 5-620, 10-114, 10-116, and 10-117 of the Criminal Law Article if the evidence for the criminal prosecution was obtained solely as a result of the person’s seeking, providing, or assisting with the provision of medical assistance. Additionally, a person who reasonably believes that they are experiencing a medical emergency after ingesting or using alcohol or drugs shall be immune from criminal arrest, charge, or prosecution for violation of the above statutes if the evidence for the criminal arrest, charge, or prosecution was obtained solely as a result of the person seeking or receiving medical assistance.

REQUIRED ACTION

Non-Fatal Overdose

**Patrol Response**

1. Render/request medical aid for the victim.

2. If opioid overdose is suspected, administer Naloxone® if trained to do so (See Policy 821, *Use of Naloxone/Narcan for Opioid Overdoses.*)

3. Locate and identify all persons on scene.

4. Obtain initial factual information from all individuals involved/on scene. Be mindful that family members and associates can provide valuable information about the victim’s history of

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\(^1\) Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Overdose Death Report, June 2016.
addiction/drug abuse as well as possible suppliers and locations where the victim may have purchased the illegal substance.

5. Treat the location as a potential crime scene. Establish a crime scene log, when necessary.

6. Obtain the cell phone and home phone numbers of the victim. Attempt to gain consent to view the cell phone for any text messaging, photographs, or phone numbers that may be related to the source of supply for the overdose substance.

**NOTE:** Members issued a BWC shall memorialize the attempt to gain consent, as well as record the viewing of the contents of the cell phone into the BWC.

7. Process the scene. This shall include photographing evidence, if necessary, with a BPD-issued digital camera or mobile device.

7.1. In cases of prescription overdose, photograph prescription pill bottles.

8. Secure and submit all evidence. This may include:

8.1. Any suspected controlled dangerous substances or chemical agents believed to have been ingested by the victim.

8.2. Drug paraphernalia (e.g., hypodermic syringe, gelatin capsules, spoon, aluminum foil, glass pipe, etc.).

8.3. CCTV footage.

9. Complete/submit a Crime Incident Report, titled “Overdose,” before the end of your tour of duty. The report must contain the following information:

9.1. Victim, witness and/or suspect name, address, date of birth, telephone numbers, and additional pertinent identifying information.

9.2. Detailed crime scene description to include all items of evidence recovered.

**NOTE:** Include any monikers or identifying markings/characteristics on paraphernalia (e.g., symbols, stars, words/names, colored capsules, etc.) as this may assist investigators with identifying where and from whom the substance was purchased.

9.3. Identity of all persons on scene and information they provided.

9.4. In cases of prescription overdose (or state if the information is not available):

9.4.1. Medication type, dosage, date prescription was issued, and physician’s name.

9.4.2. Name of the pharmacy identified on the prescription container.

9.4.3. Pharmacy prescription number.

9.4.4. Name and address of patient on the label.
9.4.5. Number of tablets/capsules the victim ingested and remaining pill count.

9.4.6. Reason for the medication.

9.5. In cases involving other chemical agents, attempt to identify the substance and its source, and include such information in the Crime Incident Report.

9.6. Name of hospital where the victim was transported (when applicable).

9.7. Information related to the possible source of supply for the overdose substance, obtained through a lawful search of the cell phone, such as:

9.7.1. Phone numbers.

9.7.2. Contact names.

9.7.3. Text messages.

9.7.4. Photographs/videos.

9.7.5. Social media information.


**Patrol Supervisor**

1. Respond to the scene of the call.

2. Ensure the scene has been processed and all evidence submitted to the Evidence Control Unit (ECU).

3. Ensure all reports have been submitted and are complete and accurate.

4. Scan and email the Heroin/Opioid Overdose Report (see Appendix A), the Crime Incident Report, and any photographs, property receipts, etc. to Overdose@Baltimorepolice.org.

**Fatal Overdose**

**Patrol Response**

1. Notify a permanent-rank supervisor to respond to the scene.

2. Notify the Homicide Section.

3. Be guided by the Homicide Section primary investigator for further investigatory actions/reporting.

4. Seize/submit all cellular telephones or mobile devices belonging to the victim or suspects.
Patrol Supervisor

1. Respond to the scene of the call.
2. Ensure the scene has been processed and all evidence submitted to the Evidence Control Unit (ECU).
3. Ensure all reports have been submitted and are complete and accurate.
4. Scan and email the Heroin/Opioid Overdose Report (see Appendix A), the Crime Incident Report, and any photographs, property receipts, etc. to Overdose@Baltimorepolice.org.

Crime Lab

1. Respond and process the scenes of all suspected overdose deaths as requested by the Homicide Section.
2. Submit all evidence and photographs to ECU per Policy 1401, Control of Property and Evidence.

Homicide Unit

1. Determine if a response to a suspected overdose death is warranted.
2. Direct all investigatory actions of suspected overdose deaths.

H.I.D.T.A / Cyber Crimes Unit

1. Assist with the downloading of cellular/mobile device data when requested.
2. Review/collect all overdose reporting.
3. Analyze trends and assign cases for follow-up investigation.

APPENDIX

A. Heroin/Opioid Overdose Report

ASSOCIATED POLICIES

Policy 703, Death and Serious Assault Investigations
Policy 821, Use of Naloxone/Narcan For Opioid Drug Overdoses
Policy 1401, Control of Property and Evidence
Policy 1402, Management of Evidentiary CDS

COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

This policy is effective on the date listed herein. Each employee is responsible for complying with the contents of this policy.
APPENDIX A
Heroin/Opioid Overdose Report

DEA – W/B HIDTA
Heroin/Opioid Overdose Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responding Officer Agency:</th>
<th>County:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incident/Case Number:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident Date/Time:</td>
<td>Fatal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mm/dd/yyyy</td>
<td>24:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incident Location:</td>
<td>Street Number, Street Name, Direction, Apt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incident City:</td>
<td>MD</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>First</th>
<th>M.I.</th>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Victim Gender (circle):</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Victim Phone #:</td>
<td>Phone Seized</td>
<td>Consent to Search Phone</td>
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<td>Home Address:</td>
<td>Street Number, Street Name, Direction, Apt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incident County:</td>
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<table>
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<th>F</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspect Phone #:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Suspected Overdose Drug:  | ☐ Heroin ☐ Fentanyl ☐ Prescription Drugs ☐ Other (check all that apply) |
|                          | ☐ Packaging found at Scene ☐ CDS Recovered |

| Naloxone Administered:    | ☐ None ☐ 1 dose ☐ 2 doses+ Responded to Naloxone: ☐ Yes ☐ No |