



Overdoses Continue to Rise at New York State Prisons

For Immediate Release

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Drug overdoses at a New York State maximum-security prisons continue to rise, as 10 inmates were recently administered Narcan and transported to a local hospital after becoming unresponsive due to suspected drug use at Elmira Correctional Facility.

At the end of August, four inmates were found unresponsive on the floor near the gym shower area. All four were taken to the facility's infirmary, where Narcan was administered. Three inmates became partially responsive, while the fourth remained unresponsive despite receiving two doses of Narcan. All four were transported by ambulance to Arnot Ogden Medical Center for further treatment.

The remaining overdoses occurred between December 4 and December 27, when six inmates were found unresponsive in various areas of the prison. Each was transported to the infirmary and treated with Narcan. Two inmates required three doses of Narcan before

becoming responsive, while a third required four doses. All six inmates were later transported to Arnot Ogden Medical Center, where they recovered and were subsequently returned to the facility.

At this time, the specific substance involved in the overdoses has not been determined. However, these incidents reflect a growing and alarming trend of illegal drugs entering state correctional facilities.

“Correction officers are credited with responding quickly and professionally in each incident. Their prompt actions and medical training were critical in preventing potentially fatal outcomes. Too often, the lifesaving efforts of correction staff go unrecognized, despite their role in managing medical emergencies within the prison system. This ongoing trend not only affects the prison system, it affects surrounding communities, placing added strain on local emergency services. Frequent ambulance responses to prison overdoses may impact the ability of those services to respond to emergencies in the towns and villages they serve. I commend everyone involved in possibly saving these inmates lives. The job our members do at Elmira and all across the region is scrutinized daily, and I hope the lawmakers recognize how vital these overworked men and women are to the incarcerated that live there.”-stated Kenny Gold Western Region Vice President.