

**Akron Fire EMS-CPR and Opioid Program (November 2021):**

The U.S. opioid epidemic and related opioid use disorders are significant causes of cardiac arrest and death among adults ages 25 to 64. Few American cities have been harder hit by the opioid epidemic than Akron, Ohio which is also dealing with many other substance abuse issues. In addition, the cardiovascular disease mortality rate is about 17 points higher than the national average. Akron Fire EMS has collaborated with The American Heart Association (AHA) to improve bystander response in the event of an opioid overdose which is often accompanied by cardiac arrest through the addition of bystander CPR and naloxone training and education.

Through this collaboration the AHA and Akron Fire EMS have worked together to establish a new process which includes bystander CPR training/education, access to new community CPR equipment and opioid learning module to increase the number of trained lifesavers in the community. This training/education is deployed through Akron Fire EMS's Quick Response Team. This team is tasked with providing additional tools and resources to the community/family members after an opioid overdose event has occurred to improve health outcomes and equip the community with all the tools necessary to react in an overdose/cardiac arrest emergency. This initiative was launched November 2021 and impact will be felt across The City of Akron, which consists of over 198,000 residents.