

Naloxone Pilot Project – Data Brief

Naloxone Enrollment and Refill Forms

Background

The Vermont Department of Health (Health Department) initiated a pilot program distributing Naloxone, the drug commonly used to reverse overdoses for individuals misusing opioids. The Health Department distributed the first shipments of Naloxone (administered as a nasal spray), to two sites in Vermont, and kits were distributed to clients beginning on December 6, 2013.

Data Overview

Based on data from the larger of the two sites, after almost five months of distribution, 229 Overdose Rescue Kits (each containing two doses of Naloxone), have been distributed. At the smaller of the two sites, 21 kits have been distributed (data not shown here), for a total of 250 kits (500 doses).

Demographics	
Gender	
Male	59%
Female	41%
Race	
White	90%
Non-white	10%
Ethnicity	
Non-Hispanic	96%
Hispanic	4%

Of the individuals seeking Naloxone, 6% were non-drug-users, 50% were active users, and 44% were users in treatment or recovery. Overall, 71% had witnessed an overdose in their lifetime. Fourteen percent reported having been given Naloxone by medical personnel, and 3% reported being given Naloxone by a non-medical person (bystander).

In the past year the client reported	
Visiting the ER	54%
Visiting a primary care practitioner	70%
Being released from jail	31%
Going to detox	26%
Being in treatment	12%
Being in buprenorphine treatment	18%

Refill Report

Based on data from the larger of the two sites, after almost five months of distribution, 36 refills have been dispensed. Of those, 16 doses of naloxone were reportedly used in an overdose situation. In total, 11 were used on a friend, 2 were used on a stranger and 3 were used on the client themselves. Overall, 14 of the 16 overdoses involved heroin. Only 2 took over 5 minutes to respond to the dosage, the other 14 responded before 5 minutes. In 50% of the cases 911 was called as required by law. Among those cases where 911 was called, 7 reported a positive experience, and one reported a neutral experience with the emergency services personnel.

Reason for refill	
Given away/sold	22%
Lost	28%
Other/damaged/stolen	6%
Used during an overdose	44%

About the Pilot

Opioids are a highly addictive class of drugs that includes pain relievers such as oxycodone, codeine, fentanyl and morphine and street drugs such as heroin, as well as methadone used to treat opioid addiction. Overdose from opioids is a growing cause of death in Vermont. To save lives, the Vermont Department of Health, in partnership with community-based partners, is distributing a medication called nasal naloxone (Narcan®) that can reverse an opioid overdose.

Intranasal Naloxone (also known as Narcan®)

In an overdose, opioids can slow breathing to the point of death. Naloxone, when sprayed into the nose of someone who has overdosed, blocks the opioids and restores normal breathing. The key is to administer it as quickly as possible after an overdose is recognized. Naloxone is safe, easy to administer, and has no potential for abuse.

How does the program work?

The Vermont Department of Health has partnered with several community-based organizations to distribute Overdose Rescue Kits containing intranasal naloxone. The Department also plans to add more sites based at several of the regional treatment hubs. At the overdose rescue kit distribution sites, individuals receive prevention and overdose response training designed and approved by the Vermont Department of Health. To find out where:

<http://healthvermont.gov/adap/treatment/naloxone/index.aspx>

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