Opiate Overdose Educational Intervention and Naloxone Prescribing Programs

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Opiate Overdose

- Opiate overdose deaths are preventable!
- Boston—Overdose is the leading cause of death in homeless adults\(^1\)
- NYC—26% of all sheltered and 18% of unsheltered deaths were due to overdose\(^2\)
- Pittsburgh—In 2016, 8 of 9 unsheltered deaths were due to overdose
- Majority of opiate overdose deaths involved fentanyl\(^3\)
  - Increasing accounts of fentanyl found in cocaine, methamphetamine, and pressed pills
Reducing Opiate Overdose Deaths

- Empower consumers to make safer choices, conduct surveillance & research, advocate for local, state & federal reform
  - Standing pharmacy orders, drug immunity/good samaritan laws
- Overdose education and naloxone distribution programs
  - Education was retained 3 months after education and participants had higher rates of participation in treatment\(^6\)
- Naloxone is most effective in the hands of people that use opiates
- Train staff at shelters and HCH services and equip with naloxone
Project Design

- Purpose was implement and evaluate a 15 minute overdose training and prescribe and track naloxone fills

- HCH clinic in shelter/drop-in center in Pittsburgh

- 30 adult men and women that used opiates in the past year and homeless (HRSA)

- Education on local laws surrounding overdose, risk factors, signs, and response to overdose, including intranasal naloxone use

  - 6 Question pre and post test

  - Naloxone prescription phoned into pharmacy of patients’ choice (off site)

  - Insurance or HCH voucher

  - 1 week follow-up with pharmacy
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<tr>
<th>TABLE 1</th>
<th>Patient Demographics (Sample Size = 30)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Frequency</td>
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<td>Did not experience or witness an overdose</td>
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Education

- Local laws surrounding overdose
- Risk factors for overdose
  - History of prior overdose
  - Decreased tolerance
  - Injection drug use
  - Combining opiates with other drugs
Education cont.

• Signs and symptoms of overdose
  • LOC
  • Respiratory depression
• Response to opiate overdose
  • Attempt to arouse
  • Call 911
  • Naloxone administration
  • Rescue breathing if needed
  • Repeat naloxone if needed
Pre and Post Knowledge

- 4 T/F, 1 multiple choice, and 1 ordering question
- Pre-test mean 3.17 +/- 1.12; Post-test mean 5.37 +/- 0.71
  - P-value <0.001
- Pre-test: Most knowledgeable about local laws and how to respond to overdose
- Least knowledgable about signs of overdose (7 options)
  - Most recognized “shallow or no breathing, gurgling sounds” and “LOC (can’t be woken up or aroused)” and “blue or purple fingernails and lips”
  - Half misidentified “falling asleep” as a sign
Naloxone Fill Rates

- All participants: 33%
- Street: 32%
- Shelter: 30%
- Transitional: 43%
- Other: 40%
- Insured: 35%
- Uninsured: 40%
- Experienced/witnessed overdose: 50%
- No overdose experience: 50%
- Additional medications at pharmacy: 50%
- Naloxone only: 100%

Percentage filled
Naloxone fill rates
Barriers

- Cost
- State laws
- Clinician time
- Stigma
Conclusions

• Create a policy and standing order

• Train the trainers, then train the masses!
  • Signs/symptoms and order of response to overdose
  • Rescue breathing

• Distribute naloxone on site
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References


