



Frequently asked questions about naloxone: Effectiveness

Do take home naloxone programs reduce opioid overdose deaths?

To answer the question, take home naloxone programs are seen to be effective at treating opioid overdoses. By increasing naloxone distribution within your pharmacy, positive effects will be seen in your community. A systematic review by Chimbar and Moleta (2018) found that take-home naloxone programs generally work to prevent fatalities due to overdose. Within an analysis of 22 trials to assess causality, the results revealed that there is a strong association between take home naloxone programs and overdose survival (McDonald & Strang, 2016). Both distribution and training on naloxone to the general public are associated with increased odds of identification and recovery from an overdose (Giglio et al., 2015).

What are the statistics within Canada?

A modelling study in British Columbia estimated that take home naloxone program prevented 226 deaths between January and October 2016. If the study was conducted earlier, the program estimated that it would have prevented an additional 344 deaths (Irvine et al., 2018). In Manitoba, a study found that 765 take home naloxone kits were dispensed, with 93 kits being replaced, suggesting that one kit was used for every eight dispensed (Bozat-Emre et al., 2018). In British Columbia, the utilization rate of naloxone has been increasing from October 2016, with 5.8 kits distributed per reversal, to 3.3 kits distributed per reversal in October 2019 (*BC Overdose Response Indicators*). The statistics within Canada show that naloxone kits are being utilized by the public and help to prevent accidental deaths.