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Take-home naloxone: Insights from existing international programs

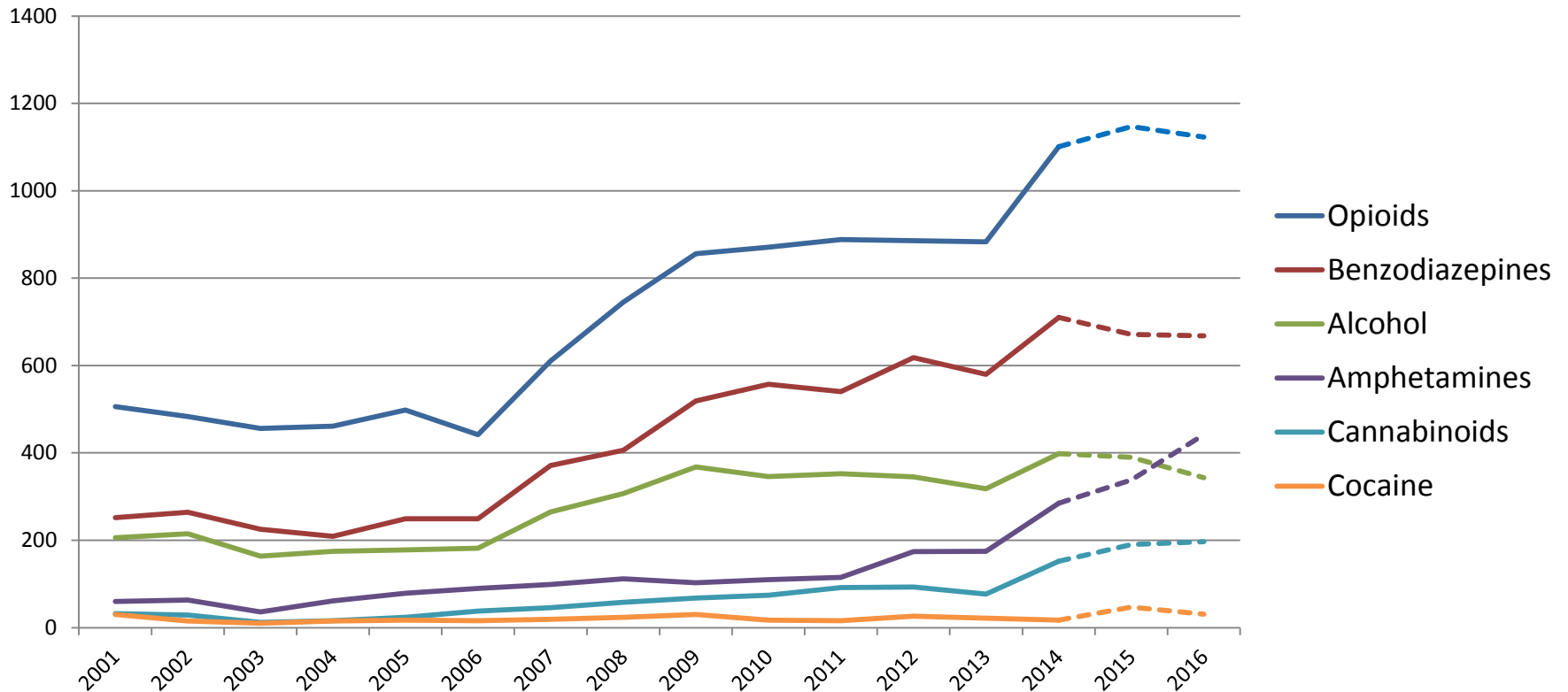
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Dr Stephen McNally
Deputy CEO
Penington Institute



Accidental drug-related deaths by drug class 2001-2016

Number of deaths



Australia's Annual Overdose Report 2018, Penington Institute

Accidental opioid-related deaths by opioid type 2001-2016, number of deaths



Australia's Annual Overdose Report 2018, Penington Institute

Accidental drug-related deaths (opioids), 2002-06 vs. 2012-16 by drug class

Drug	Gender	2002-2006 (n)	2012-2016 (n)	Ratio
Pharmaceutical opioids	Male	585	1,625	2.5
Pharmaceutical opioids	Female	100	249	3.0
Heroin	Male	454	934	1.9
Heroin	Female	271	869	3.5
Methadone	Male	297	568	1.7
Methadone	Female	111	288	2.2

Australia's Annual Overdose Report 2018, Penington Institute

Six large-scale publicly-funded naloxone programs operating in five countries.

- Ontario, Canada
- British Columbia, Canada
- Scotland
- Wales
- Norway
- Massachusetts, US

Ontario's Take-Home Naloxone Program

Three separate programs:

- The Ontario Naloxone Program (ONP)
- The Ontario Naloxone Program for Pharmacists (ONPP)
- The Provincial Correctional Facilities Take Home Naloxone Program

Ontario -The Ontario Naloxone Program (ONP)

- 2013 - 22 eligible NSPs,
- 2016 - 36 Public Health Units (funded to provide training and capacity development)
- 6 types of agencies distribute THN:
 - homeless shelters
 - outreach services
 - withdrawal services
 - drop-in centres
 - community health centres (including Aboriginal Health Services)
 - 'overdose prevention sites'
- Anyone can walk in to the service and get naloxone



Ontario Naloxone Program for Pharmacists (ONPP)

- 2016 following rescheduling to 'over the counter'
- Free THN kits available to anyone who has a Ontario Health card
- All pharmacies eligible, participation is voluntary, don't have to sign up
- Training a client in naloxone administration is optional
- No standardized training for pharmacists available
- Online training module for pharmacists

Ontario Correctional Facilities THN Program

- 2016 - All 26 correctional facilities
- Newly released inmates with history of opioid use and/or have identified themselves as at risk
- Access is through the correctional facility
- Training by staff prior to release. Upon release, the former inmate provided with free naloxone kit
- Intranasal naloxone
- Kit also contains wallet card with contact details to service that locates nearest THN site
- Parole and probation officers carry wallet cards to give out

Public Awareness Campaigns

- Public awareness campaigns have been largely left to individual PHUs and/or agencies.
- Public awareness campaigns have been run by NGOs and individuals, such as groups of concerned students.
- Advertising resources such as posters identifying an agency as a naloxone distribution site are available through the ONP. However, the services operating in the ONP rely largely on word-of-mouth and peer-to-peer for awareness.
- Government runs an online locator tool to assist in identifying closest distribution point.

British Columbia

- No tier system
- Program overseen by BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)
- 2012 pilot – By Dec 2013 all BC Health Authorities participating in pilot
- 2012 naloxone classified as prescription-only medication
- Overdose prevention training and free THN kit
- Sites include; existing health units or community agencies partnered with healthcare providers, housing drug treatment centres, needle and syringe programs and specialist community health services.

British Columbia

- 2014 expanded into formal province-wide THN program
- Oversight devolved to Regional Health Authorities
- Free kits given to people at risk and those likely to witness an overdose
- Standardised training program for clients with app for service providers and clients
- 2016 guidelines for prescribing of drugs recommended Dr offer THN kits to all patients being prescribed opioids
- 2016 downgraded to 'unscheduled'. Now available to buy from any vendor that chooses to stock it.

British Columbia

- Dec 2017 - 1,563 active distribution points
 - emergency departments
 - community health organisations (incl. Aboriginal health & HIV/AIDS centres)
 - homeless shelters
 - pharmacies
 - harm reduction organisations
 - addiction treatment clinics
 - pain management clinics
 - counselling services
 - community services (youth drop-in centres)
 - Supervised Injecting Facilities (SIF) & temporary Overdose Prevention Sites

Scotland

- Two-year pilot launched 2007
 - Lanarkshire 24 participants (buddy system)
 - Greater Glasgow and Clyde 300 participants
- Train the trainers model
 - offered to clients and their friends/family
 - emergency medicine consultants trained local AOD workers. Then cascaded to agency clients along with a THN kit.
- Naloxone classified as a prescription-only medicine in Scotland, so a ‘patient group direction’ was used — a legal device that allows prescription-only medicines to be supplied without a prescription to the patient group.

Scotland

- Launched 2011. Available to people who use opioids, friends/family
 - community outlets
 - correctional facilities
 - pharmacies
- Training and kits are also available to service workers
- Standardised training
- Primary distribution points are community outlets (primarily specialist drug treatment centres but also include hostels, drop-in centres, needle and syringe exchanges, etc.) and correctional facilities (for at-risk inmates upon release)
 - Distributors reimbursed £10 per kit distributed

Scotland

Naloxone remains a prescription-only medication in Scotland:

- 2015 - Available via community prescription from pharmacies free-of-charge upon receipt of a prescription (issued by a doctor, nurse, hospital pharmacy or on behalf of clients by a community organisation).
- Patient Group Direction (a mechanism allowing named services to dispense naloxone without a prescription).

Scotland

- Rigorous data collection and monitoring
 - Scotland Information Services Division (ISD) commissioned to monitor program
- Most programs track the number of kits distributed, few track whether these are a first supply or refill. Most programs collect some data using voluntary surveys, but the Scottish program mandates the collection of this information.
- Able to estimate the ‘reach’ of the program
- The latest estimate of reach is 345 new kits distributed per 1000 people at risk of overdose.

Feature	Description	Benefit	Contexts used
Patient Group Directives	Protocols allowing named practitioners to dispense w/o prescriptions or medical supervision	Increases number of staff authorised to dispense	Scotland, Wales, Massachusetts
Overdose Response Sites	Temporary site that functions as a temporary NSP, SIF and naloxone distribution point	Allows for coordinated response to localised spikes in overdose	British Columbia, Ontario
Nasal atomiser adaptors ¹	Adaptors attached to pre-loaded syringes of naloxone (Prenoxad) to convert it for intra-nasal use	Injectable formulations can be adapted for intra-nasal use	Norway
THN distribution through peer outreach (Naloxone Outreach on Wednesdays (NOW) van)	Weekly mobile outreach that provides training and THN in high-risk areas.	Delivers naloxone kits and training to people rather than requiring them to attend training sessions	Ontario
Pharmacies as distribution points	THN available from pharmacies	Having pharmacies distribute THN increases coverage of naloxone programs	Scotland, Ontario, British Columbia
Emergency departments	THN available from EDs	Those receiving treatment for overdose at emergency departments provided with THN	Ontario, British Columbia
Pain Management Clinics	THN available from pain management clinics	Having THN available from pain management clinics captures those taking prescription opioids for pain	Ontario, British Columbia, Norway

Feature	Description	Benefit	Contexts used
Supervised Injecting Facilities (SIF)	Supervised rooms where drug users can safely consume drugs. Also distribute harm reduction supplies including naloxone	Reduces overdose and associated harms, links users to health and support services	Norway, Ontario, British Columbia
Overdose phone app	App alerting people carrying naloxone of nearby overdoses	Allows people carrying naloxone to be notified of nearby overdoses in real-time	British Columbia
First responders carrying naloxone	Police cars and fire trucks carry naloxone in addition to paramedics	Gives all first responders naloxone to administer when an overdose is encountered	Ontario, British Columbia, Massachusetts (partial)
Opioid Maintenance Therapy	Use of methadone or buprenorphine to treat opioid addiction	Proven to reduce the risk of opioid overdose	Ontario, British Columbia, Massachusetts, Scotland, Wales, Norway
Facility Overdose Response Box (FORB)	A first aid kit for overdose that organisations that work with people at-risk of overdose can install.	Makes emergency naloxone available in agencies that work with populations at risk.	British Columbia

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