

Stakeholders' perceptions of barriers and facilitators to equitable access to naloxone in Ontario, Canada

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BACKGROUND

- In 2018, there were over 1450 accidental opioid-related deaths in Ontario, Canada
- Groups including First Nations and low-income individuals are significantly more likely to experience opioid-related harm

OBJECTIVES

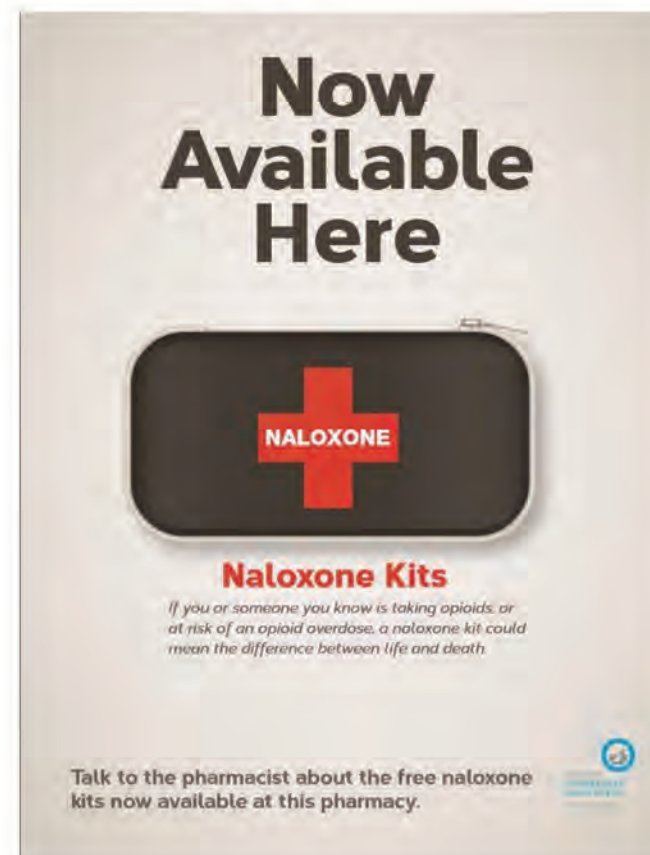
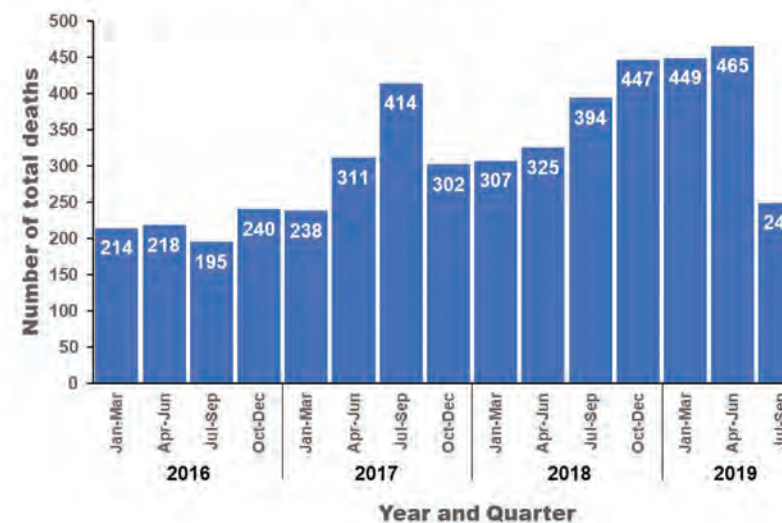
This study will determine potential barriers and facilitators to equitable access to the Ontario Naloxone Program and the Ontario Naloxone Program for Pharmacies from stakeholders' perspectives. This will include exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to these naloxone programs.

ONTARIO NALOXONE PROGRAMS

The Ontario Naloxone Program provides naloxone kits to clients of needle syringe and exchange programs, their friends and families, and newly released inmates.

The Ontario Naloxone Program for Pharmacies provides naloxone at participating pharmacies to anyone with a health card at no cost to the client.

Opioid-related deaths in Ontario



QUALITATIVE METHODS

An environmental scan will be completed with 6-10 community pharmacies in Durham Region. Questionnaires will be given to assess the availability and accessibility of naloxone kits.

Semi-structured in-depth interviews will be conducted with 6 service providers and 6 program users participating in Ontario's naloxone programs in Durham Region, Ontario, Canada. All participants will be English speaking adults of at least 18 years of age. Data, in the form of transcripts from recorded interviews, will undergo thematic analysis to determine barriers and facilitators to equitable care as perceived by those with lived experience in either Ontario Naloxone Program.

IMPLICATIONS

The findings of this study may be used to inform and develop policy in order to promote facilitators and reduce barriers to naloxone access through the Ontario Naloxone Programs. As well, strategies to overcome barriers to access during a pandemic will be identified.

REFERENCES

Special Advisory Committee on the Epidemic of Opioid Overdoses. Opioid-related Harms in Canada. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; March 2020. <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/substance-related-harms/opioids>