

TAKE-HOME NALOXONE IN THE ACT: PARTICIPANTS' KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE POST-TRAINING

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Introduction and Aims:

The ACT provided Australia's first take-home naloxone (THN) program in 2012. An initial evaluation found that THN can be successfully distributed and used in the Australian setting. More recently, the TGA re-scheduled naloxone and it is now available for purchase over-the-counter (OTC). Little is known about the ongoing overdose prevention needs of people who have previously participated in a THN program including awareness of changes to naloxone availability.

Method:

Individuals who completed the ACT THN program between 2012 and 2015 were contacted by telephone to ask about their: experiences related to opioid overdose and naloxone administration, and awareness of access to naloxone since completion of the program.

Results:

Forty-five people completed the survey. Eight-two percent were in possession of naloxone and over a third had used naloxone in an overdose incident. In comparison to the original evaluation, there was a small decrease in participants' confidence recognising and managing an overdose. Only fifty-six percent knew that they could access naloxone from their GP and few were aware of OTC naloxone.

Discussion and Conclusion:

This study provides further insight into the value of the ACT THN program in promoting naloxone awareness and in supplying naloxone for use in the community. These findings highlight the importance of continued education and training around naloxone as some participants appear to have lost confidence in their ability to administer naloxone and few are aware of alternative avenues for acquiring naloxone.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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