

High levels of uptake and use of naloxone among participants in a Take-Home-Naloxone program in Stockholm, Sweden (Holmén & Kåberg)

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Study background

- High drug related mortality in Sweden
- Take-Home-Naloxone (THN) was made legal in 2018
- THN can only be prescribed directly to the person at risk

Aims of study

- The implementation and take-up of the THN program in the Stockholm needle exchange program (NEP)
- Demographics of THN participants
- Level of naloxone use
- Characteristics of overdose events
- Factors associated with naloxone use

Stockholm Needle Exchange Program (NEP)

2 fixed sites, one mobile unit



- 4200 individuals

Design and data collection

- Prospective open inclusion cohort study from Jan 2018 - Jan 2020
- THN enrollment questionnaire
- THN refill questionnaire
- NEP's own database

Results - demographics

- 802/2221 (36%) NEP clients were included in the THN program
- Opioid use
- Extensive overdose experiences
- Younger age
- Born in Sweden

Results - overdose reversals

- 634 overdose reversals reported from 281 individuals
- 49% of overdoses took place outside
- Ambulance was called for in 46% of cases
- Overdose victim died in 0.6% of cases

Results – participant characteristics associated with naloxone use

- Time in THN program
- Opioid use
- Opioid substitution treatment
- Irregular housing status
- Previous experience of overdose

Conclusions

- The THN program rapidly reached a high risk population
- THN participants reported high level of naloxon use

Implications

- Change in legislation to increase the reach of THN in Sweden
- Opioid users who are not using harm reduction services.

Disclosure of interests

EH has no conflict of interest.

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