

Sustaining take home naloxone (THN) since 2012: A review of THN provision between 2020-2023 from the Kirketon Road Centre, a primary healthcare setting in Kings Cross, Sydney

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I would like to acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation on whose land this work was created and the Ngunnawal people on whose land we are meeting today. I pay my respects to Elders past, present and future.

I would like to acknowledge the many people who inject drugs who have participated in the Take-Home Naloxone program on which this study was based.

Disclosures of interest

Dr Phillip Read has received research funding from Gilead Sciences, as well as institutional and individual honoraria from Gilead Sciences, Abbvie and MSD.

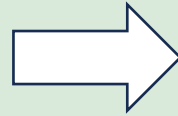
Kirketon Road Centre (KRC)

- The Kirketon Road Centre (KRC) is a publicly funded primary health care facility involved in the prevention, treatment and care of HIV and viral hepatitis among people who inject drugs (PWID)
- Provides free, non-judgemental and anonymous healthcare via a multidisciplinary team of Nurses, Counsellors, Doctors and Health Education Officers.
- Client focus is vulnerable and marginalised populations:
 - People who inject drugs
 - People with mental health issues
 - Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander people
 - Rough sleepers and people living with chronic homelessness
 - People employed in sex-work
 - At-risk young people
 - And people living with HIV/HCV



Introduction

- **Take-home naloxone (THN)** has been an integral part of the Kirketon Road Centre's (KRC) harm reduction framework since 2012.
- We examined our **THN service between 2020 – 2023** and reviewed changes in **client demographics**, staff role and program sustainability.



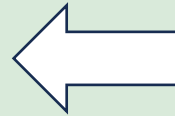
Initially, naloxone **had to be prescribed by a doctor**



Overdose Response Take-Home Naloxone (ORTHN) project looked at **who and how** could supply naloxone

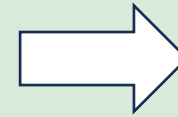


NSW Health policy directive from 19 July 2019: THN could be **supplied by a wide range of staff working in Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD)** services, including KRC



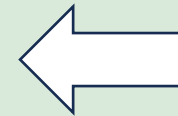
Methods

- We completed a review of the Take-Home Naloxone (THN) program at KRC between ***April 2020 and December 2023***
- Descriptive analysis of ***routinely collected data***



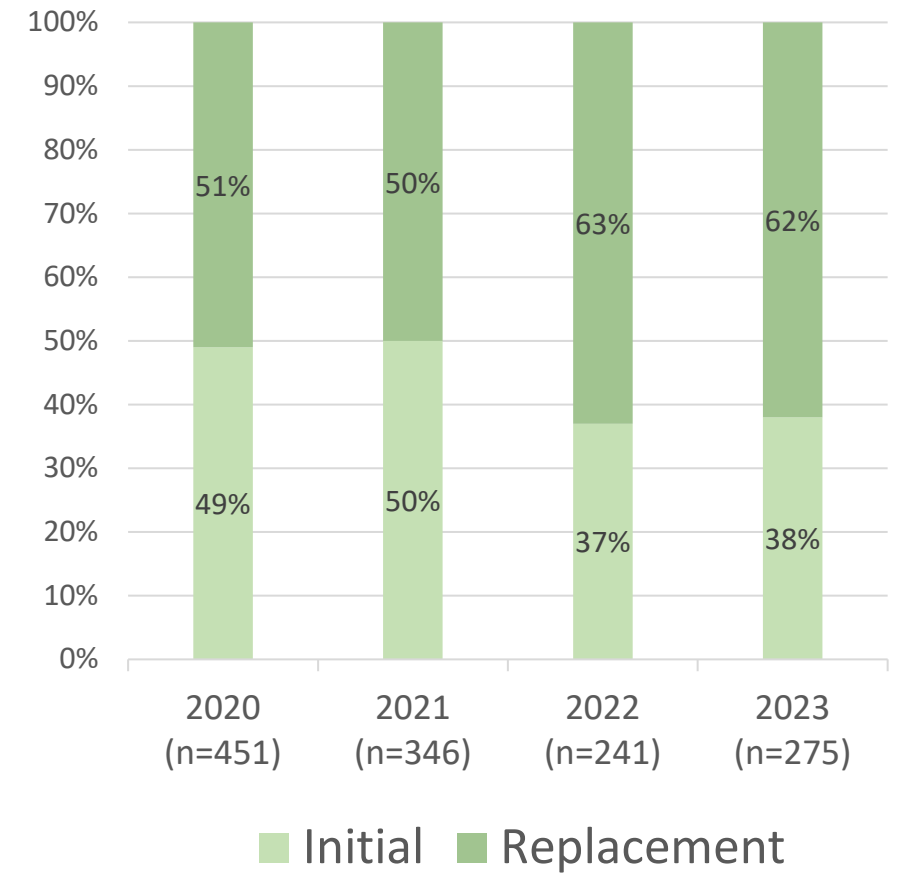
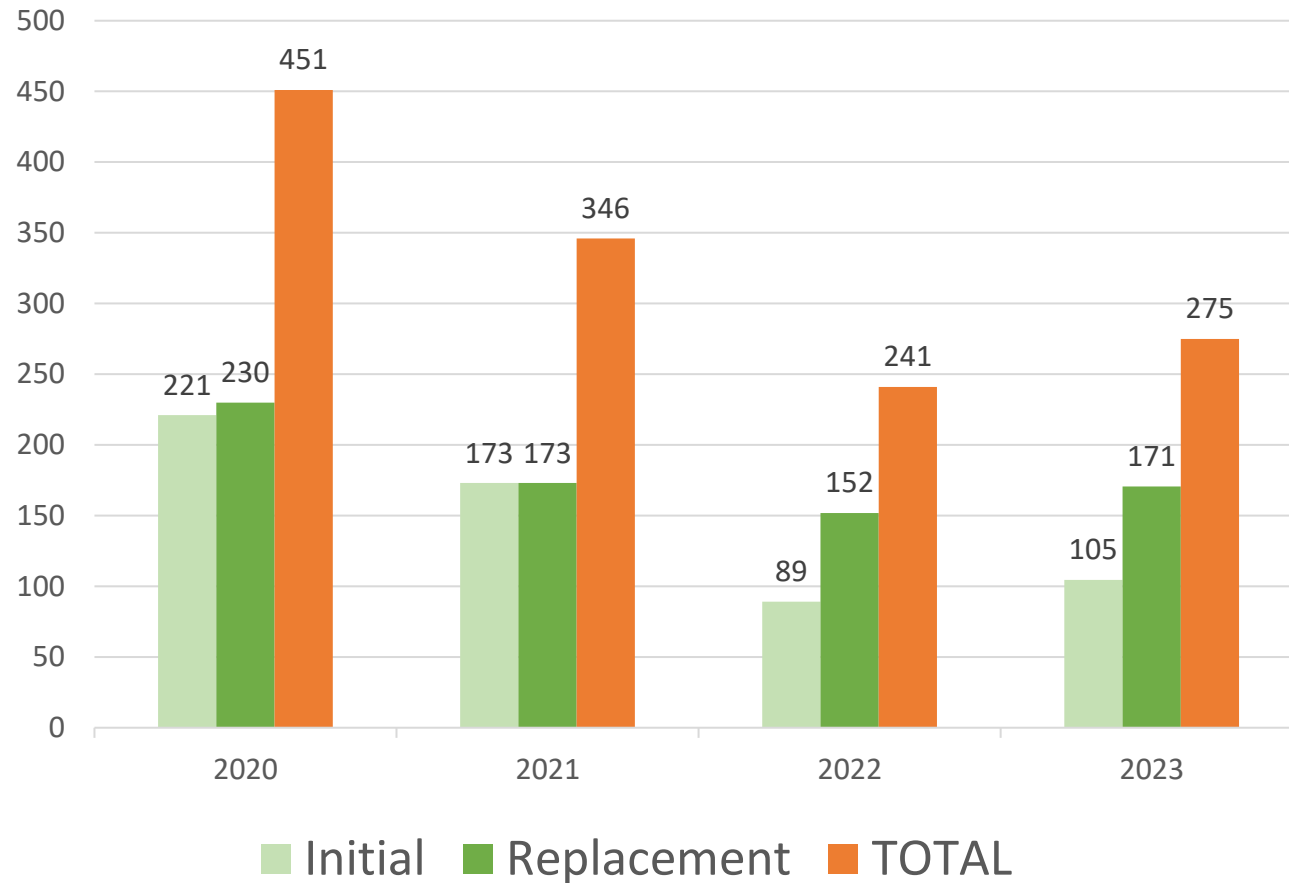
DATA ON:

- number of THN occasions of service
- type of naloxone distributed
- whether it was an initial supply or replenishment
- healthcare worker role (who provided THN)
- gender and age of clients



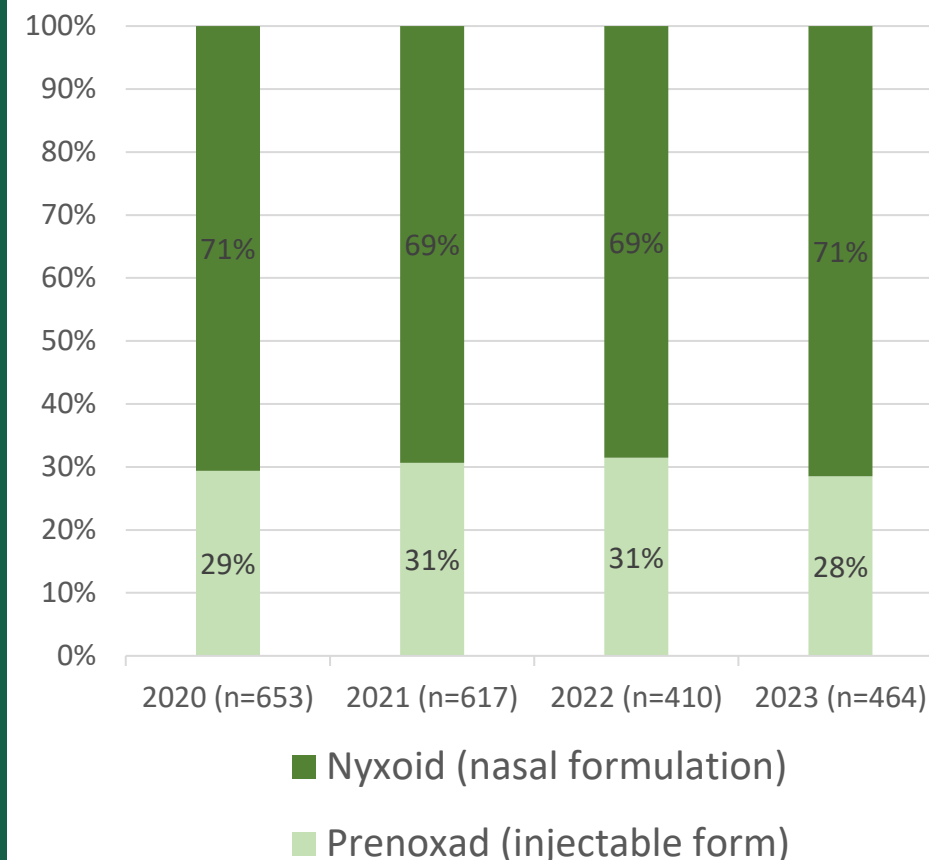
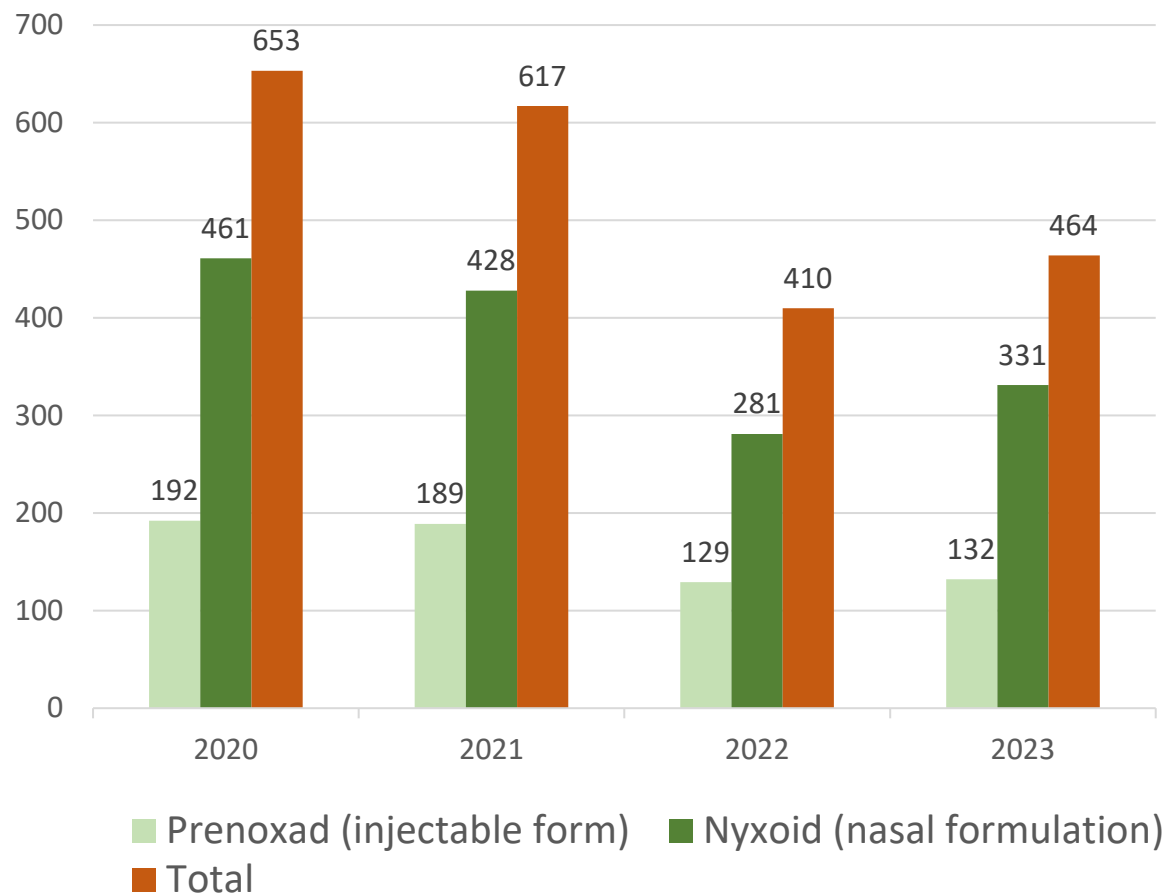
Naloxone trainings by initial/replacement 2020 – 2023

total no. of trainings n=1313

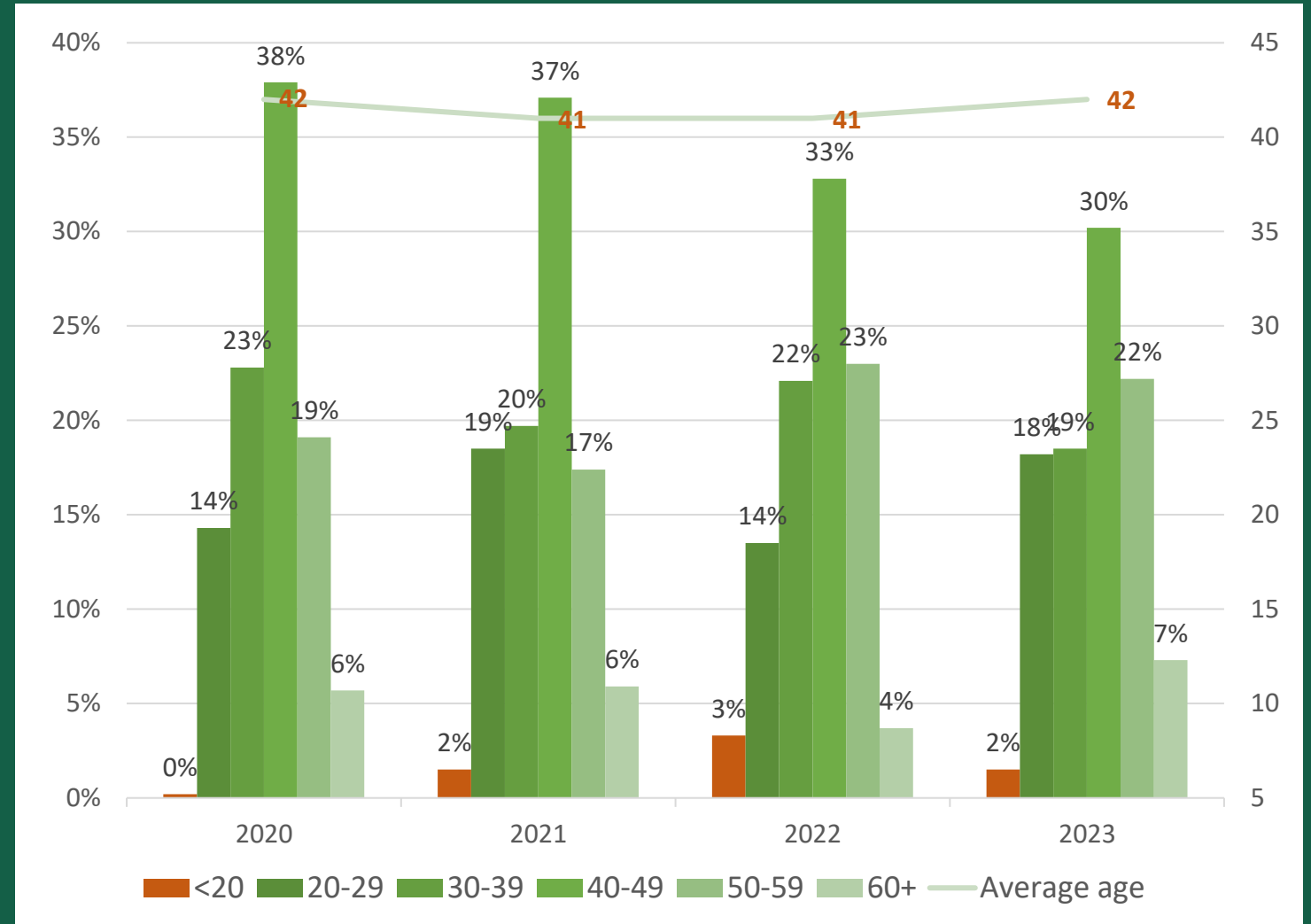


Naloxone trainings by type of kit provided 2020 – 2023

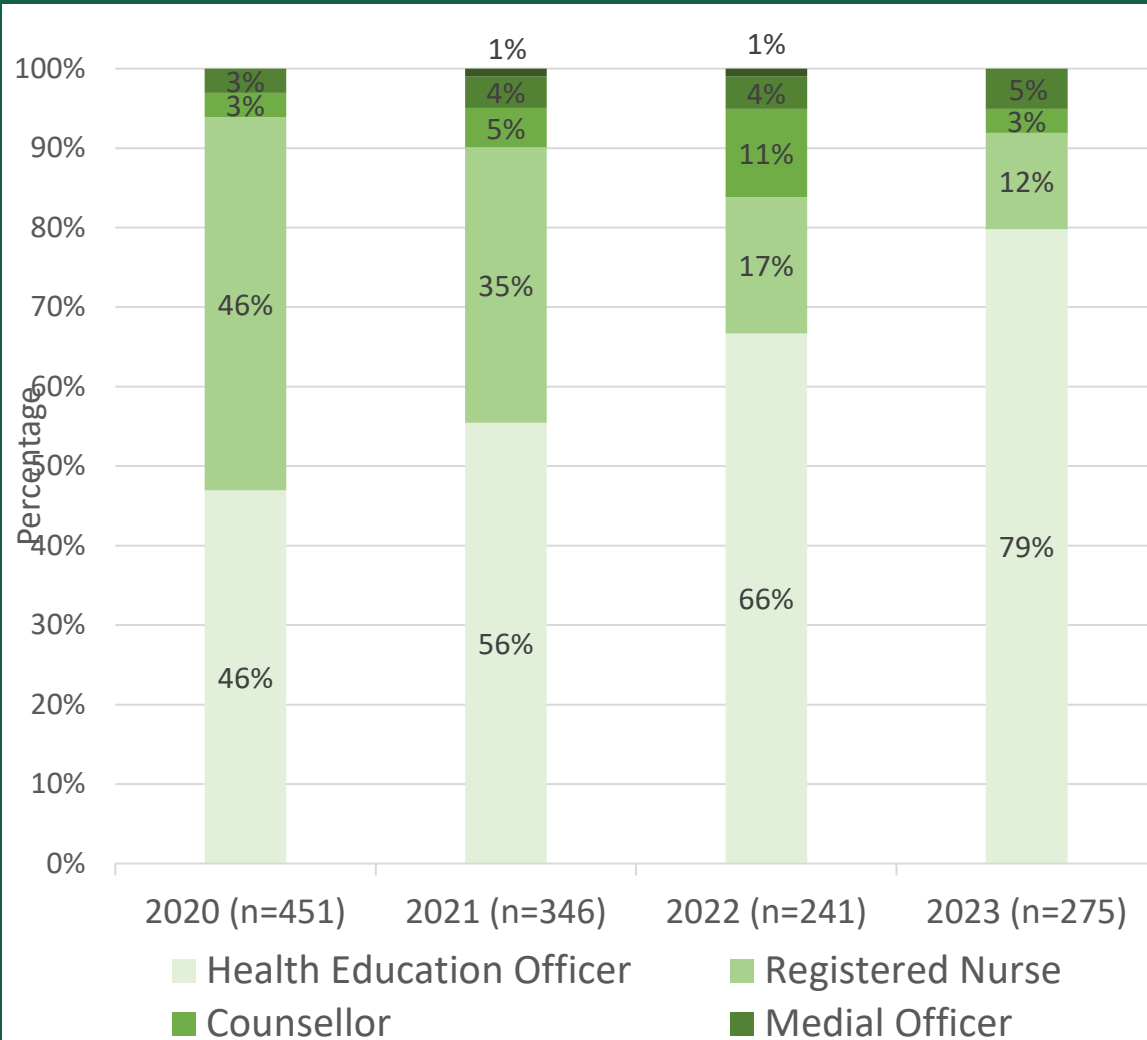
total no. of kits n=2144



Naloxone trainings by gender and age 2020 – 2023



Naloxone trainings by staff role 2020 – 2023



According to a survey among KRC staff from 2022 (n=37):

- 97 % considered THN distribution an **important part** of their day-to-day practice
- 92 % agreed that THN trainings benefited their **engagement with clients**
- 89 % agreed that delivering THN training improved their **job satisfaction**
- 92 % **DISAGREED** that THN training would negatively impact their **workload**

Conclusion

- There is continued need and demand for the take-home naloxone (THN) program in the community and among the clients of Kirketon Road Centre (KRC)
- A wide range of staff can effectively engage in THN training and we have observed a shift from a doctor or nurse-delivered program to a program that is largely being run by health education officers/ peer workers
- This shift reflects a broader trend toward expanding the role of non-clinical staff in naloxone distribution, making lifesaving interventions more accessible to the community.



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