



### BC Take Home Naloxone (THN) Program

Launched in 2012, the THN program provides kits for free to people at risk of an opioid overdose and those most likely to witness and respond to an overdose. The program expanded into community pharmacies in December 2017.



1,670

ACTIVE THN  
DISTRIBUTION SITES



703

COMMUNITY  
PHARMACIES

### EVALUATION OF THN IN COMMUNITY PHARMACIES (2019)

Mamdani et al. (2019).

#### Findings

- Expansion of THN into community pharmacies has been well received across the province
- The majority of individuals who obtained kits from a pharmacy were not at risk of overdosing themselves (i.e. a family or friend of someone at risk)
- Most of the kits distributed from a pharmacy location was a 1st kit for someone

#### Recommendations

- Increase awareness about availability of THN kits through pharmacies
- Continue expansion to sites across BC
- Continue centralized implementation processes and improve ongoing communication at all levels
- Enhance pharmacist refresher training and site training resources



"The general consensus for us here was this is something that we need to do to address this crisis. And we were open to being a part of that and helping with that situation. [...] We're easily accessible. We're trained in how to give injections."

- Interview participant



### BC Facility Overdose Response Box (FORB) Program

Launched in December 2016, FORB provides naloxone and supplies for free to non-profit community-based organizations where staff work with individuals at risk of experiencing an opioid overdose. FORB helps staff to be prepared to recognize and respond to an overdose in the workplace and to be supported following overdose response.



605

ACTIVE FORB  
SITES



1,288

OVERDOSE REVERSALS  
REPORTED

### EVALUATION OF THE FORB PROGRAM (2019)

Williams et al. (2019).

#### Findings

- FORB is unique as it requires sites to consider their occupational health and safety protocol and supports available for staff
- FORB resources, ongoing training, and practice drills help staff at community sites to feel more prepared in recognizing and responding to an overdose
- Addressing underlying perceptions about harm reduction principles and drug use an important part of training and activities

#### Recommendations

- Collate and simplify application and implementation processes
- Clearly define eligibility and application processes for FORB vs. THN programs to reduce confusion between the programs
- Develop a standardized comprehensive training model and concise training resource package informed by program participants that facilitate "train-the-trainer" models
- Implement an annual checklist for review of training polices and refreshers



"We're asking facilities to think about their processes in terms of sort of the polices that they have in place and what the process is going to be at their site should an overdose happen. And we're also asking sites to think about the impact that responding to an overdose has on staff who are responding"

- Interview participant