

# HARM REDUCTION RESEARCH BRIEF

## NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION IN BC AND THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY PHARMACIES

Moustaqim-Barrette A, Papamihali K, Mamdani Z, Williams S, Buxton JA. *Accessing Take-Home Naloxone in British Columbia and the role of community pharmacies: Results from the analysis of administrative data.* PLOS ONE. 2020 Sep 11;15(9):e0238618.

Since 2012, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) has overseen a centralized take-home naloxone (THN) program to train individuals in overdose recognition and response and provide naloxone kits free of charge to any person at risk of experiencing an opioid overdose. Eligibility for THN kits was expanded to individuals likely to witness an opioid overdose (like family and friends) in 2016. While the THN program was originally rolled out in harm reduction supply distribution sites, hundreds of community pharmacy distribution sites were on-boarded to increase access to naloxone in BC at the end of 2017.

A new research paper published in PLOS ONE in September 2020 provides an overview of uptake of BC THN, since program inception on August 31 2012, to the end of 2018, as well as correlates of naloxone distribution through pharmacy sites after the BC THN's pharmacy expansion.

### BETWEEN AUGUST 2012 AND DECEMBER 2018:

**398,167**

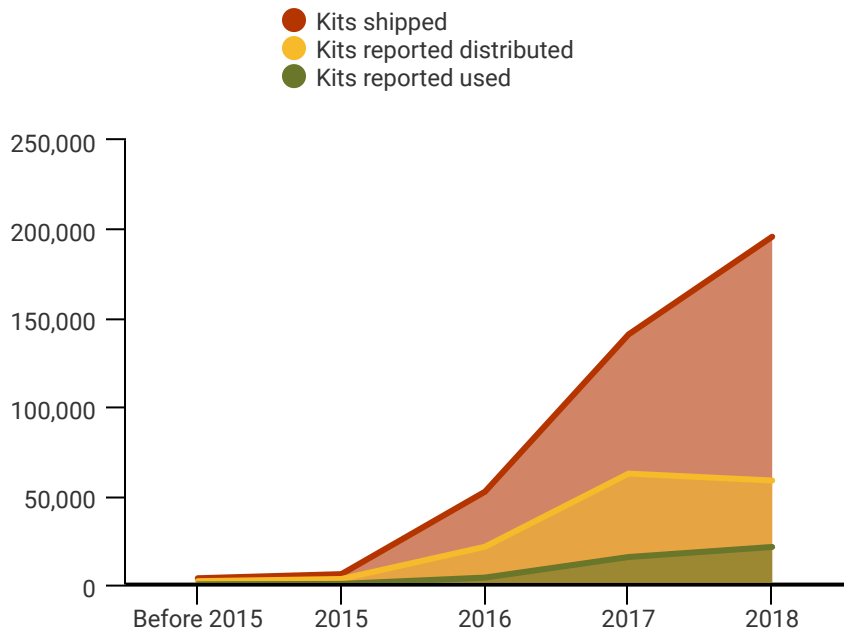
Naloxone kits were shipped to distribution sites

**149,999**

Naloxone kits were reported distributed to individuals likely to witness or experience an opioid overdose

**40,903**

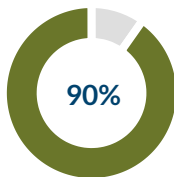
Naloxone kits reported used to reverse an opioid overdose



### IN 2018, AFTER THN EXPANSION TO PHARMACY SITES:



there were 1,448 active THN distribution sites across BC, including 562 community pharmacy sites



of all kits distributed were obtained by individuals who reported being personally at risk of overdose.



Individuals personally at risk of overdose were significantly more likely to collect naloxone from non-pharmacy sites, while 1st time kit recipients were more likely to collect naloxone from pharmacy sites

### CONCLUSIONS:

Findings from this study highlight the importance of making naloxone available through a variety of distribution sites that are both widely accessible and responsive to the needs of people who require naloxone.

Go to [towardtheheart.com](https://towardtheheart.com) to find take-home naloxone sites and training resources across BC.