

# FINDINGS FROM THE 2018 HARM REDUCTION CLIENT SURVEY (HRCS) CORRELATES OF NALOXONE KIT POSSESSION

Moustaqim-Barrette et al. "Correlates of take-home naloxone kit possession among people who use drugs in British Columbia: A cross-sectional analysis." *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* (2019): 107609.

In response to a sudden rise in opioid overdose deaths, distribution of the opioid overdose antidote naloxone has been identified as a key emergency measure to prevent death among people who use drugs. Using the 2018 iteration of the Harm Reduction Client Survey (HRCS), a survey introduced in 2012 to assess substance use trends and service use among clients of harm reduction supply distribution sites, a recent study was done to describe naloxone kit possession among people who use drugs in British Columbia (BC).

The following knowledge summary outlines the main results from the study, published in the journal of Drug and Alcohol Dependence in October 2019.

OF 348  
INDIVIDUALS  
INCLUDED IN  
THE STUDY



62.6% identified as male, 35.6% as female and 1.7% identified as another gender (trans or gender non-conforming). 80.4% were 30 years of age or older, and 88.2% identified as heterosexual.



64.7% reported having regular housing, 77.9% were unemployed, and 72.7% lived in a medium or large urban area.

SAMPLE:

61%

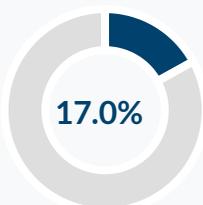
reported having witnessed an opioid overdose in the last 6 months.

19%

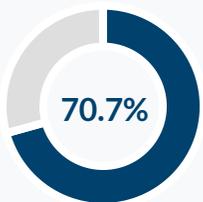
reported having personally experienced an opioid overdose in the last 6 months.

## KEY FINDINGS

The proportion of respondents reporting having a naloxone kit has increased between the 2015 and 2018 HRCS.



Reported having a naloxone kit in 2015



Reported having a naloxone kit in 2018

In 2018, after controlling for the confounding effects of gender, age, drug type, having witnessed an opioid overdose in the last six months, having regular housing, and urbanicity:

Those who reported using opioids were **significantly more likely** to possess a naloxone kit, compared to non-opioid users.

Those who preferred inhaling, smoking, or snorting drugs were **significantly less likely** to possess a naloxone kit compared to those who preferred injecting drugs.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the unpredictability of the drug supply, it is important to **urge anyone who uses drugs or has family and friends who use drugs to get trained in overdose response and pick up a take-home naloxone kit** however they choose to use (e.g. inject, smoke, snort).

Go to **towardtheheart.com** to find take-home naloxone sites and training resources across BC.