OVERVIEW

▪ Introduction
▪ North Carolina’s Overdose Epidemic
▪ North Carolina’s Overdose Prevention Project (OPP)
▪ Innovative Characteristics
▪ Program Outcomes and Impact
▪ Overcoming Barriers and Obstacles
▪ Conclusion
Overdose Epidemic

NORTH CAROLINA
Steady Rise in Medication or Drug Overdose Death in North Carolina since 1999

Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, NC Division of Public Health
North Carolina’s Overdose Prevention Project Objectives

ADVOCACY

CAPACITY BUILDING

IMPLEMENTATION
NALOXONE  AKA NARCAN®

WHAT IS IT? WHAT DOES IT DO?
NALOXONE

- Non-addictive prescription medication that reverses opiate overdose
- Naloxone distribution is associated with up to a 50% drop in OD fatalities

- Administer via intramuscular injection or nasal spray
- **Cannot** be abused nor cause overdose

- Restores breathing and consciousness
- *Works within* one to three minutes
- *Effect lasts* 30 to 90 minutes
Innovative Characteristics

KEY PARTNERSHIPS, MEDIA CAMPAIGN, STANDING ORDER MODEL, PEER DISTRIBUTION, VOLUNTEER NETWORK, DISTRIBUTION AT TREATMENT CENTERS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
Innovative Characteristics: KEY PARTNERSHIPS
Innovative Characteristics: MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Brunswick deputies will carry Naloxone to help save those overdosing on heroin

New Law Helps Hundreds Survive Heroin Overdose In NC

Opioid Treatment Programs Should Provide Naloxone to Patients

Tessie Castillo
Advocacy and Communications Coordinator, North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition

N.C. Harm Reduction Coalition's Robert Childs makes the case for syringe decriminalization
Under NC Law, medical providers can prescribe naloxone through a **standing order**

**Standing Order** is a broad, general prescription that allows naloxone to be distributed to people at risk for an overdose or to anyone who may be at the scene of an overdose. This differs from the traditional prescription named specifically for a particular patient.
HOW DO WE GET NALOXONE INTO THE HANDS OF PEOPLE WHO NEED IT?
Innovative Characteristics: PEER DISTRIBUTION

- An effective way to get naloxone into networks of people who actively use opioids
Innovative Characteristics:
DISTRIBUTION AT MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT CLINICS

- Another effective way to get naloxone into networks of people who actively use opioids
Innovative Characteristics: VOLUNTEER DISTRIBUTION

- Community resources of naloxone for people throughout the state
Innovative Characteristics: LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Law enforcement are first responders in emergencies
Program Outcomes and Impact
Number of Opioid Overdose Reversals with Naloxone Reported to the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition by Date

8/1/2013 - 2/1/2016

Overall 2,024

Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, NC Division of Public Health
Number of Opioid Overdose Reversals with Naloxone Reported to the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition by Date
1/1/2015 - 2/1/2016

Law Enforcement reversals: 33

- Cramerton PD, 1 reversal, 2015
- 4 reversals by Greenville Police Dept
- 1 reversal by Carrboro Police Dept
- 1 reversal by Pitt Co Sheriff
- 1 reversal by Henderson Co Sheriff
- 2 reversals by Pitt Co Sheriff
- 5 reversals by Fayetteville Police Dept
- 2 reversals by Fayetteville Police Dept
- 2 reversals by Pitt Co Sheriff
- 1 reversal by Winston Salem
- 3 reversals by Winston Salem PD
- 1 reversal by Winston-Salem PD
- 2 reversals by Dare PD

Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, NC Division of Public Health
Number of Opioid Overdose Reversals with Naloxone Reported to the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition by County
8/1/2013 - 2/1/2016 (2,024 total reversals reported)

- Asheville (520)
- High Point (201)
- Elkin (1)
- Asheboro (24)
- Thomasville (31)
- Maiden (1)
- Charlotte (66)
- Fayetteville (34)
- Burgaw (15)
- Rocky Point (22)
- Wilmington (267)
- Greensboro (335)
- Winston-Salem (89)
- Rocky Mount (9)
- Fayetteville (34)
- Greensboro (335)
- High Point (201)
- Asheboro (24)
- Thomasville (31)
- Maiden (1)
- Charlotte (66)
- Fayetteville (34)
- Burgaw (15)
- Rocky Point (22)
- Wilmington (267)
- Greensboro (335)
- High Point (201)
- Asheboro (24)
- Thomasville (31)
- Maiden (1)
- Charlotte (66)
- Fayetteville (34)
- Burgaw (15)
- Rocky Point (22)
- Wilmington (267)

5 reversals in an unknown location in North Carolina and 28 reversals using NCHRC kits from other states reported to NCHRC.

Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, NC Division of Public Health
Program Outcome and Impact: LIZ’S STORY

COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD
An antidote for the prescription drug epidemic

COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD
An antidote for the prescription drug epidemic

Courtesy Louise Vincent
Program Outcome and Impact: BEYOND NC

Georgia Overdose Prevention & Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition

• Distributed over 2000 overdose rescue kits
• Reported 330 reversals by lay individuals
• Reported 41 reversals by law enforcement in Georgia
Overcoming Barriers and Obstacles
Overcoming Barriers and Obstacles: LAWS, REGULATIONS

**Barrier**
- To pass comprehensive overdose law in red state

**Solutions**
- Tapped into values that have common ground
- Non-partisan language

**NC Result**
- First Republican introduced and led overdose prevention law in US

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Senator Stan Bingham (R)
NC S.L. 2013-23’s Primary Sponsor

NCHRC Board Member Dianne Glenn’s son Michael died of overdose in 2012

LTC Tony Dragovich and Leilani Attilio
Overcoming Barriers and Obstacles: BEING THE FIRST

Barriers
- No model program to replicate
- No legal syringe exchange programs in NC

Solutions
- Fixed site vs. mobile site distribution
- Street model vs. medical model
- Became the model program!

NC Results
- NC has the largest naloxone program in US South
- Second largest in country
- Over 20,000 overdose rescue kits distributed
- Over 2000 reversals by lay individuals
Overcoming Barriers & Obstacles: LACK OF AWARENESS

**Barrier**
- Lack of general awareness of accidental overdose issue
- Lack of awareness of enacted laws

**Solution**
- Aggressive, proactive media campaign

**NC Result**
- Source media and public cannot be without NCHRC

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“**The best thing you could have done was put your contact information at the bottom of that article**” – Helen, Wilmington, NC, mother of son who has overdosed
Conclusions

▪ Unintentional drug overdoses are at epidemic proportions
▪ NC Overdose Prevention Project created to save lives
▪ Successful community-based program through innovative methods
▪ Met challenges with replicable solutions
THANK YOU

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