

# Evaluation of the Take Home Naloxone Demonstration Project



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Research Summary

Social research

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Naloxone is an opioid antagonist which counteracts the effects of opioids and can bring an overdose patient back to consciousness in minutes following its administration. The Take Home Naloxone (THN) demonstration project involved providing drug users, and their family and friends, with training in the administration of naloxone, as well as instruction on first-aid, following the discovery of an overdose event. THN kits are issued to opiate users who complete the training. The key aim of the demonstration project was to reduce drug-related deaths in Wales.

This document presents the main findings of the evaluation of the THN demonstration project

## Method

The demonstration project was initially located in four community based locations: Newport, Cardiff, Swansea and North Wales. Additional locations-HMP Parc, HMP Cardiff, HMP Swansea, and HMP Prescoed, and Gwent, were added later.

The evaluation included a literature review, pre and post training questionnaires, and observation of training sessions, analysis of training sessions, analysis of replenishment forms giving data on use of naloxone, analysis of recorded drug related deaths, and interviews with police and paramedics.

## Findings

- Knowledge of methods for recognising and responding to an overdose event increased, as did perceived confidence in responding to an overdose, and willingness to carry out the recommended procedures.

Dadansodi ar gyfer Polisi



Analysis for Policy

- In most cases, in addition to the use of naloxone, the recovery position was used, and in almost half of cases CPR was used. In nearly all cases an ambulance was called.
- Since the launch of the scheme, over 600 clients have been trained in the use of naloxone, and have been given other advice on recognizing and dealing with overdose events, On average, just under 10% of kits handed out were used (over a variable time period, but not exceeding one year).
- A comparison of harm-reduction action taken at overdose events among the naloxone group, and a comparison non-naloxone group, showed that the naloxone group more frequently used the recovery position, and called an ambulance.

### **Key Recommendations**

1. That the scheme continues, and the aim to roll out the programme, nationwide, is pursued.
2. That the training sessions are substantially shortened and simplified, while maintaining the quality of the remaining components of the training.
3. That publicity about naloxone is more widely distributed to include other agencies, as well as the general public.

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