

Naloxone Training and Distribution Program in an Urban Collegiate Setting

SECOND PLACE

Andrew Lam, EMT; Samantha Steeman, EMT; Gabrielle Ramirez, EMT; Joshua Glick, MD

POSTER PRESENTATION ABSTRACT | PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & EVALUATION CATEGORY

Introduction: The opioid crisis plaguing America has been called Philadelphia's "greatest public health crisis in a century." Numerous members of the Penn and West Philadelphia communities live and work in areas where opioid overdoses will continue to occur. These bystanders have personally witnessed overdoses, but lacked either the training or means to effectively respond in multiple cases that Penn's student-run Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) has been made aware of. Naloxone (Narcan) can rapidly reverse the effects of opioid overdoses. However, one pack can cost upwards of \$130, and free, in-person naloxone administration trainings by qualified instructors are rare.

Program Development & Implementation: MERT worked with physicians from Penn Medicine's Emergency Department to develop a 1-1.5 hour bystander naloxone training curriculum. The program consists of opioid crisis information, how to detect an overdose and administer naloxone, and integrates rescue breathing and CPR. MERT forged a partnership with Philadelphia's Department of Public Health to acquire a renewable Narcan supply for distribution to trainees who face financial, insurance-based, or societal barriers in obtaining naloxone. With an initial 96-dose Narcan supply, MERT provided pilot trainings to Penn Social Policy and Practice, Medicine, Nursing, and Education graduate students.

Program Evaluation: In anonymous post-training surveys since March 2019, the trainings' effectiveness received an average score of 4.83 (SD=0.41) on a Likert scale, with "1" representing "poor" and "5" representing "excellent." Participants who use Narcan supplied by MERT can report their use and receive another dose, allowing for continued evaluation.

Discussion/Conclusions: To our knowledge, this is the only collegiate EMS-run bystander naloxone training program to date. Collegiate agencies can play crucial roles in overdose awareness and prevention. Due to initial success, MERT will collaborate with Penn's Division of Public Safety to teach integrated CPR/AED/Narcan trainings and continue the existing program, while expanding into the greater West Philadelphia community.

Author Affiliations: From Medical Emergency Response Team, University of Pennsylvania – in Philadelphia, PA, USA (A.L., S.S. & G.R.). From Department of Emergency Medicine, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, University of Pennsylvania – in Philadelphia, PA, USA (J.G.).

Address for Correspondence: Samantha Steeman | Email: outreach@pennmert.org

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