

Naloxone Training and Distribution Program in an Urban Collegiate Setting



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Introduction

Opioid Crisis in Philadelphia

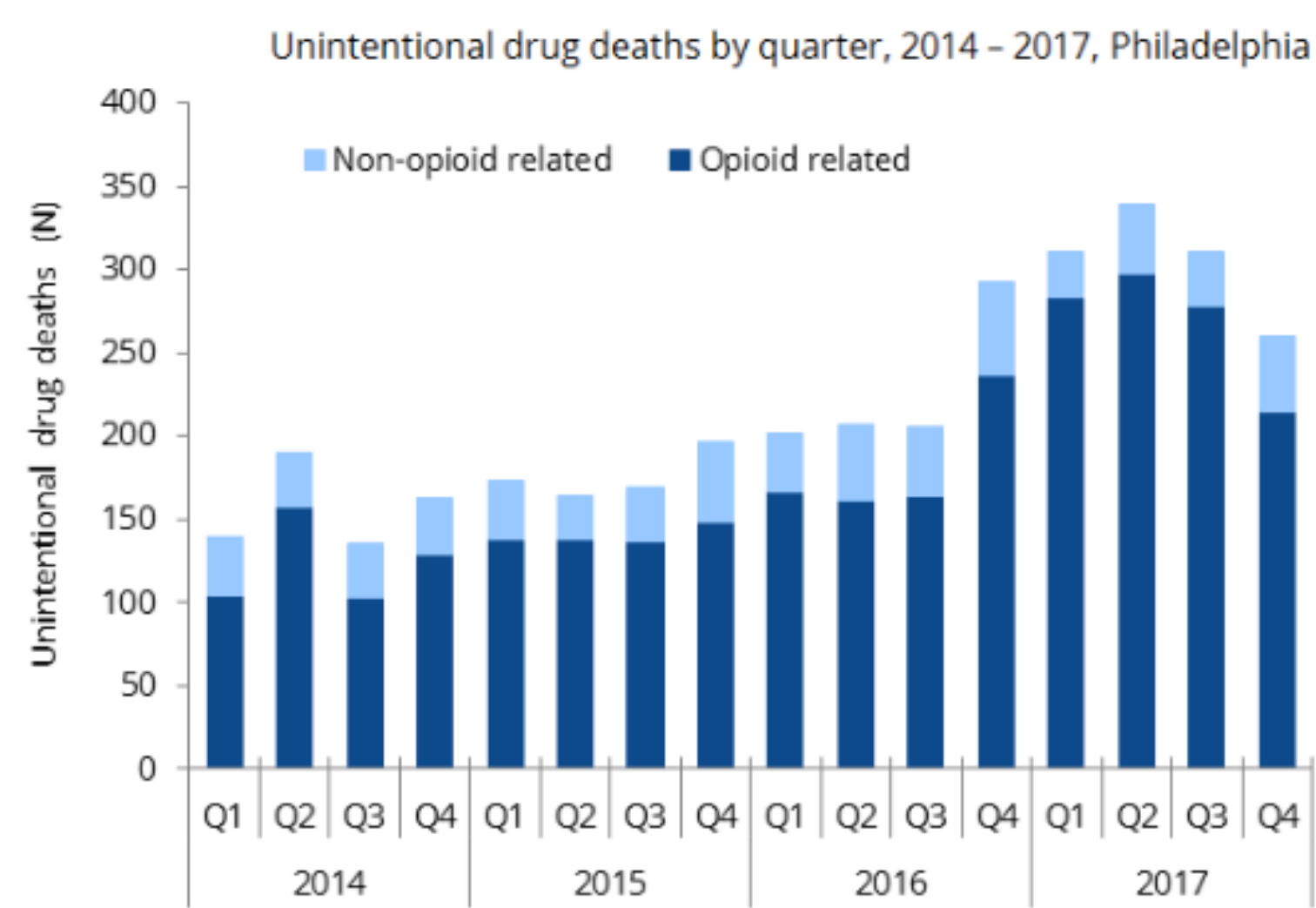


Figure 1. Unintentional drug deaths by quarter, 2014-2017, by opioid- and non-opioid related.

1074 out of 1217
Drug overdoses in Philadelphia involved opioids in 2017.

Out of all U.S. counties with populations over 1 million, Philadelphia had the **highest rate of overdose deaths** in 2016.

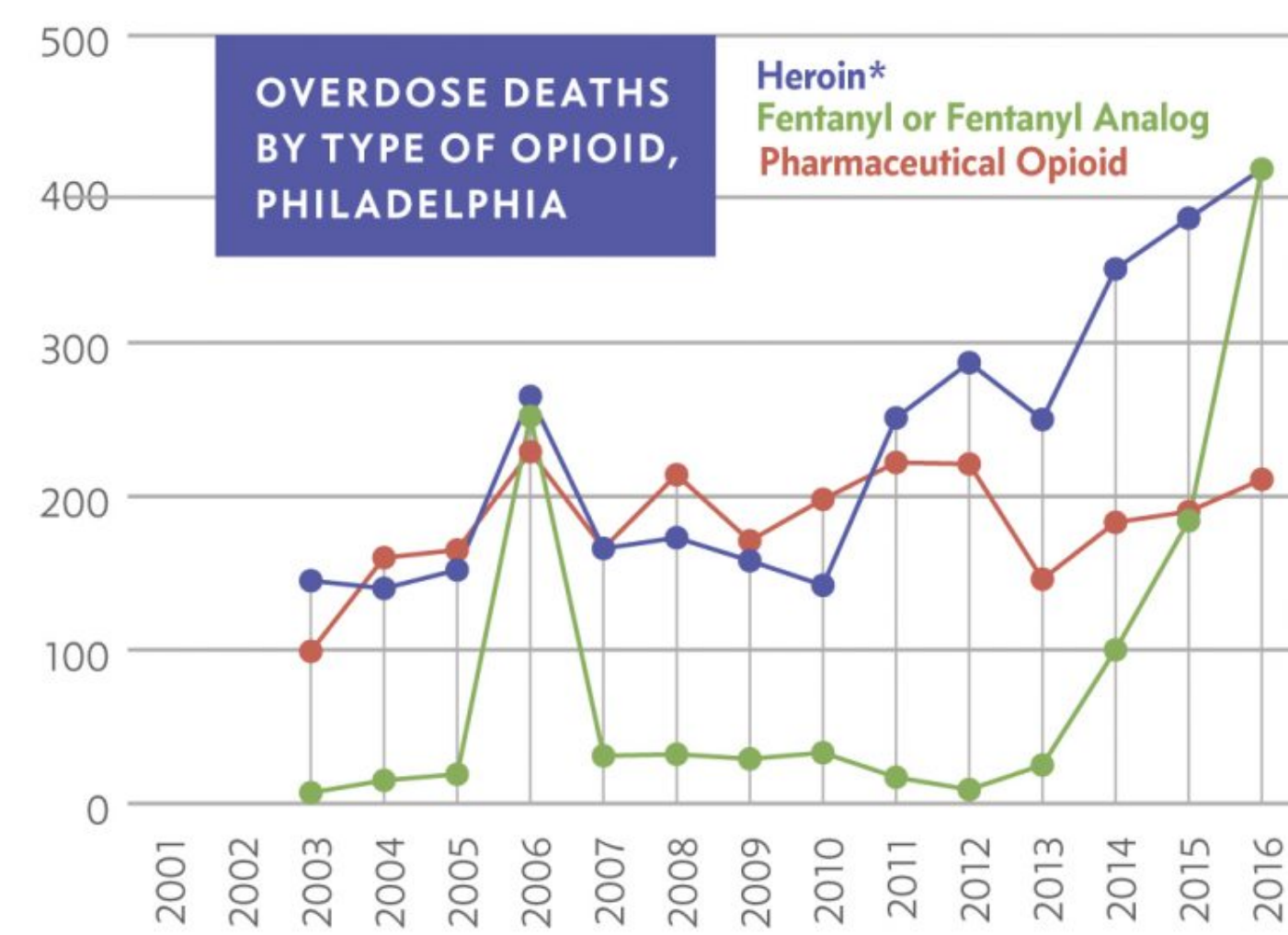


Figure 2. Overdose Deaths by Type of Opioid, Philadelphia, by Year

On-Call Naloxone Administration & Internal Training

April 2018

MERT began carrying Naloxone (Narcan)

MERT EMTs

Required PA BLS Naloxone administration certification

Overdose Calls

Reported to Penn Police for tracking in the Pennsylvania Overdose Information Network

Opioid Scenarios

Incorporated into group training for MERT EMTs

Motivation

- Numerous members of the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) and West Philadelphia communities live and work in areas where opioid overdoses are likely to occur
- These bystanders include Penn graduate students and faculty who travel through or perform research or social work in high-risk areas
- Many of these bystanders that MERT has been made aware of have witnessed overdoses, but lacked training or means to respond
- 8 different Penn schools/departments** and numerous concerned students/community members reached out to MERT with interest in naloxone training
- Several MERT EMTs have witnessed overdoses off-shift without the means to respond
- Social policy students perform field work in Kensington, an area with high rates of overdoses
- Many Penn students and employees take public transit daily and are likely to witness opioid overdoses

With its Community Outreach Officer, experienced EMTs, the Penn Division of Public Safety, and Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Penn MERT has the capacity to offer and ensure the continued growth of opioid overdose and reversal trainings to bystanders.

Objective

Develop an opioid overdose and reversal training program for bystanders and help trainees acquire naloxone for use in emergencies

Development & Implementation

Training Curriculum



Opioid crisis background information Responsiveness, pulse & breathing Naloxone administration

- Opioid crisis information relevant to Philadelphia
- Background information on how opioids and naloxone work physiologically
- Scene safety; checking for responsiveness, pulse, and breathing
- Calling for EMS, rescue breathing, and naloxone administration
- Hands-only CPR (when to begin CPR vs. performing rescue breathing)
- Recovery position and continued monitoring
- Withdrawal symptoms and risks
- Interactive, team-based bystander overdose and CPR response scenarios
- Methods to obtain Narcan in Philadelphia

MERT works closely with our Medical Director and opioid specialists at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Perelman School of Medicine to ensure the curriculum is up-to-date.

Acquiring a Naloxone Supply for Distribution

- After development of the training program and success of a pilot training, MERT applied for grants to obtain naloxone to give to trainees who live and work in high risk areas
- MERT received a **renewable** supply of naloxone from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health that can be distributed to trainees at **no cost**

Initial supply of 96 Narcan doses granted for distribution (renewable upon expiration)



Pathway for Trainees to Acquire Naloxone

Unable to obtain Narcan from community programs?

Check copy for Narcan at local pharmacy

Report copy (or financial aid status) to MERT for approval and obtain Narcan from MERT at no cost

Report use of Narcan to MERT to receive a new dose

Evaluation

Naloxone training program has been implemented over multiple trainings at Penn with **plans to expand offerings** in the West Philadelphia community

Current Success & Future Directions

49 individuals and departments have requested training

4.83/5 average rating on a Likert scale (SD = 0.41)

- Trainings given to Penn Social Policy & Practice, Nursing, Dental, Medicine, Design, and Education graduate students; Human Resources and Art Institute faculty
- Narcan distributed to multiple trainees who have demonstrated need
- Partnership with Division of Public Safety program to include naloxone kits in AED boxes on campus
- Work towards partnering with Penn Dental and Medical schools to provide trainings
- Emerging partnership with local prisons to expand naloxone training clientele

"My coworker witnessed a bystander response to an opioid overdose on her train today. I would like to obtain Narcan from Penn MERT so that I can be a responsible citizen and assist in case of emergencies." — Institute of Contemporary Art Trainee

Conclusions

First collegiate EMS-run and developed bystander naloxone training program

Demonstrated interest from bystanders in a variety of community settings

Collegiate EMS agencies can play crucial roles in opioid overdose prevention

References & Acknowledgements

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Opioid Overdose and Drug Overdose Deaths. 2016. Philadelphia Department of Public Health. Opioid Overdose and Misuse Data. 2019.

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