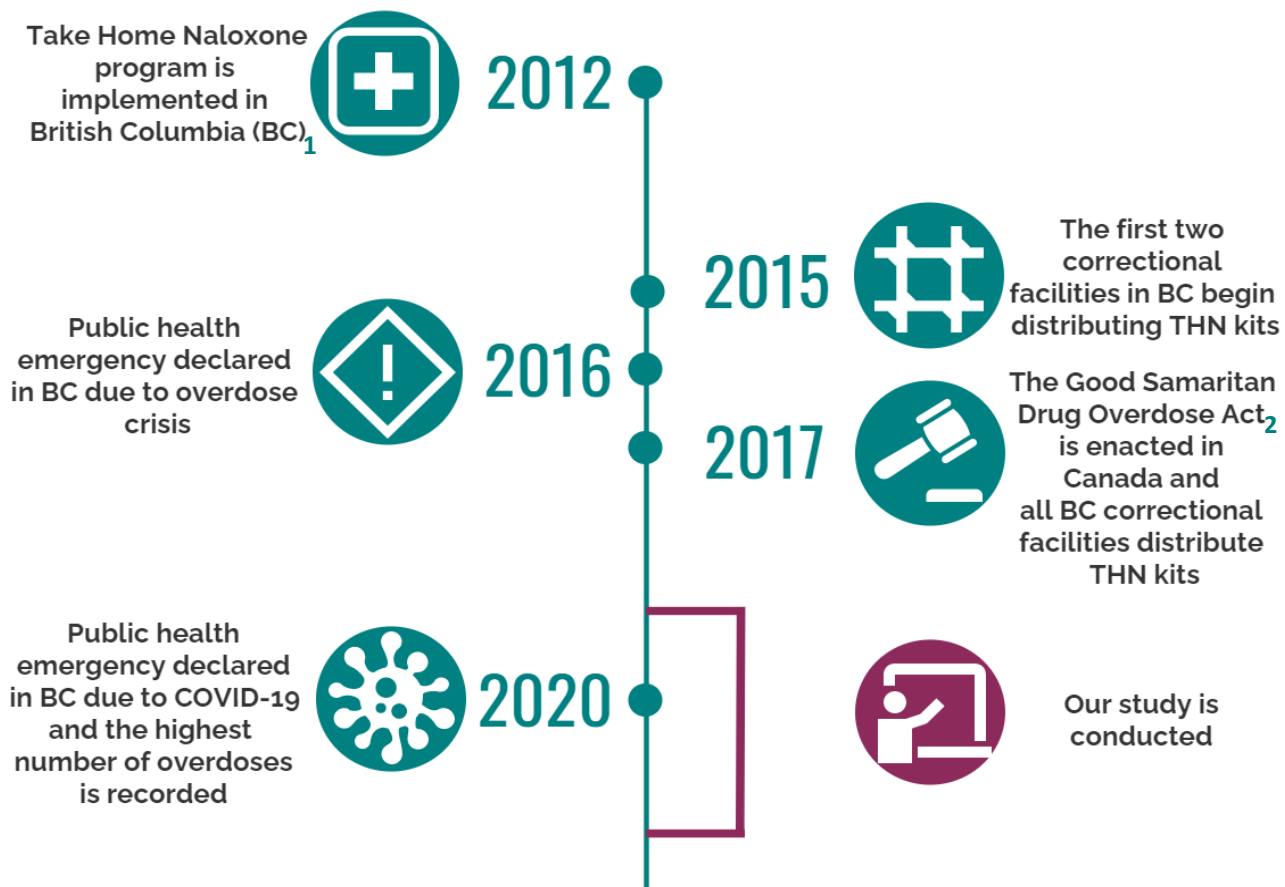


Take-Home Naloxone Kits, Phone Ownership and Knowledge of the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act Among People Released from Correctional Facilities in BC, Canada



What was our study about?

Our study aimed to answer - do people being released from correctional centers:

- 1 Have training on how to recognise and respond to an overdose and use naloxone?
- 2 Own a naloxone kit on release?
- 3 Own a cell phone on release?
- 4 Know about the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act (GSDOA)?

In 2019, questions about THN training and kit possession, phone ownership and *GSDOA* awareness were added to the survey administered to UTG clients.

Who did we hear from?

Participants were **recruited from the Unlocking the Gates (UTG) Service Society**. UTG is a peer mentoring program that supports people transitioning out of provincial correctional facilities.³

When? Between Jan 2019-Sept 2020

Who? **137** participants completed the survey and were included in the analysis
65 men & **72** women

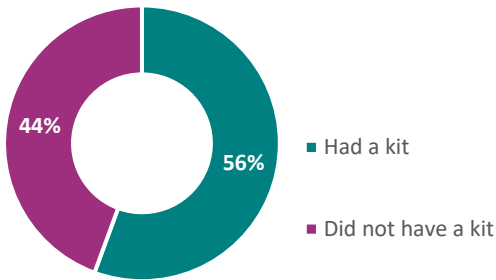
¹ The Take Home Naloxone program aims to ensure access to naloxone, a medication that can reverse opioid overdoses, for all those at risk of experiencing or witnessing an overdose in BC. For more information, visit: <https://towardtheheart.com/naloxone>

² The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act aims to encourage bystanders to contact emergency medical services by providing legal protection for simple possession charges at the scene of an overdose. For more information, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-use/problematic-prescription-drug-use/opioids/about-good-samaritan-drug-overdose-act.html>

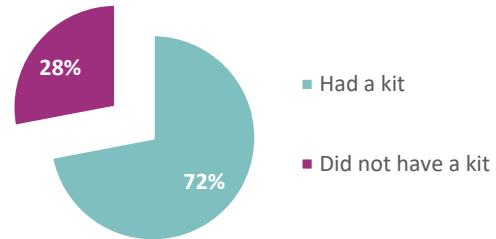
³ For more information: <https://ccphe.ubc.ca/projects/research-and-projects/unlocking-the-gates-utg-peer-health-mentoring-program/>

Key findings

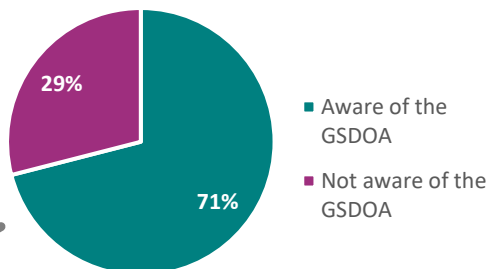
Had a THN kit on release



People who self-identified as at-risk of overdose who had a kit on release



GSDOA knowledge



Nearly all (99%) participants who were aware of the GSDOA, reported that they would call emergency medical services (911) if they witnessed an overdose.

Had a cell phone on release

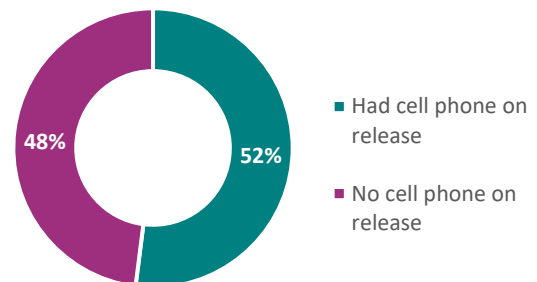
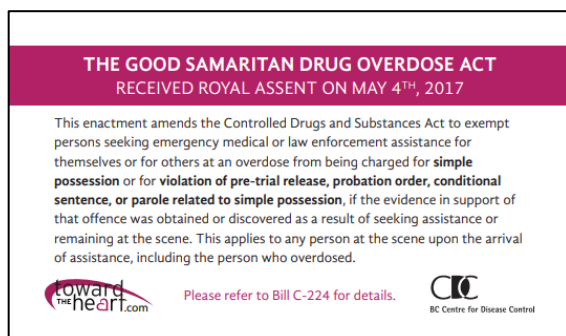


Figure 1. GSDOA wallet cards



IF YOU SUSPECT AN OVERDOSE, CALL 911 STAY WITH THE PERSON UNTIL HELP ARRIVES	
THE LAW DOES PROVIDE PROTECTION FROM CHARGES FOR:	THE LAW DOES NOT PROVIDE PROTECTION FROM CHARGES FOR:
Simple possession (personal use)	Selling illegal drugs (trafficking)
	Offences other than drug possession
	Any outstanding arrest warrants
Violation of pre-trial release, probation order, conditional sentence, or parole related to simple possession	Violation of pre-trial release, probation order, conditional sentence, or parole for an offence other than simple possession

Key interventions

- ✓ UTG peer mentors now have THN kits to distribute to clients released without a kit.
 - ✓ UTG peer mentors now have GSDOA wallet cards (Figure 1) and distribute cards and discuss the GSDOA with clients.
 - ✓ At the request of Correctional Health Services, a brief informational presentation about the GSDOA was developed for corrections staff, see: <https://towardtheheart.com/resource/training-resource-improving-awareness-and-knowledge-around-the-gsdoa/open>
- More work is needed to encourage access to communication technologies among people being released from correctional facilities.