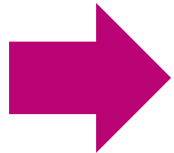




Take Home Naloxone Kits, Phone Ownership and Knowledge of the *Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act* Among People Being Released from Correctional Facilities in British Columbia, Canada

Presented by **Jessica Xavier, Mo Korchinski, Pam Young** on behalf of Katherine McLeod, Ali Okhowat, Kristi Papamihali, Ruth Elwood Martin, Jane Buxton

GSDOA evaluation project



Unlocking the Gates Program survey

- The Unlocking the Gates Peer Health Mentoring Program aims to support people in the first 3 days after release from prison. As part of this program, a survey is administered before release.
- Questions were added to assess knowledge of the GSDOA and access to naloxone.

Interviews with youth

- Youth between the ages of 16-24 years old will also be invited to participate in a more in-depth one-on-one interview over the phone

Online survey with youth

- To determine whether there are differences in youths' knowledge, and attitudes around the GSDOA, youth between the ages of 16-24 will be invited to complete a survey online.
- Foundry is a network of health & social service centres for young people, and will be supporting province-wide recruitment

Interviews with people who are at-risk of experiencing or witnessing an overdose

- People with living/lived experience of overdose and/or witnessing overdoses will be invited to participate in a one-on-one interview over the phone to share their experiences of overdose and calling 9-1-1 as well as their knowledge, understanding and attitudes around the GSDOA.



Take home naloxone (THN) administration form

- THN program provides overdose response training and kits containing naloxone. Administration forms are submitted after naloxone has been used. Data is entered and analysed to explore if 9-1-1 was called and, if not, why.
- Changes in trends before & after GSDOA implementation were examined.

Harm reduction client survey (HRCS)

- The HRCS is an annual survey assessing substance use trends, and the use of harm reduction supplies among clients accessing harm reduction supply distribution sites in B.C. Questions were added to assess clients' knowledge of the GSDOA

Key informant interviews with police officers

- 22 interviews have been conducted with municipal police officers in: West Vancouver, Vancouver, Victoria, Abbotsford and RCMP officers in: Prince George, Kelowna, Vernon, Campbell River
- Preliminary findings will be shared soon.
- Based on findings, educational materials will be developed and piloted with participating police departments

Surveys with people who are at-risk of experiencing or witnessing an overdose

- People picking up a Take Home Naloxone kit at THN sites were identified as being at risk of experiencing or witnessing an overdose.
- Clients will be invited to complete a survey about their experiences of overdose and calling 9-1-1 as well as their knowledge and attitudes towards the GSDOA. The survey will also be available online.

Unlocking the Gates: Peer Mentoring & BC Corrections Take Home Naloxone Program

Unlocking the Gates Services Society:

- Implemented in 2012 to support women transitioning out of provincial correctional facilities; in 2019 expanded to include men.
- Peer mentors connect with participants before release and support individuals during and after release
- Questions about the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act (GSDOA) and Take Home Naloxone (THN) training and kit possession were added to survey administered on release

BC Corrections Take Home Naloxone :

- **2015**: THN kits available on release from Alouette & Fraser Regional – first correctional centres in Canada to offer THN kits
- **2016**: BC THN kits available for those at risk of witnessing, as well as having an overdose
- Evaluation of THN program through focus groups with health care and correctional staff in Alouette and Fraser Regional
- **2017**: THN kits offered on release by all provincial correctional centres

Our research questions were:

Among people being released from correctional facilities:

- 1) Are people aware of the *GSDOA*?
- 2) Were people offered a Take Home Naloxone kit and trained during their time spent in correctional facilities?
- 3) Do people have a Take Home Naloxone kit and a cell phone upon release?

THE GOOD SAMARITAN DRUG OVERDOSE ACT RECEIVED ROYAL ASSENT ON MAY 4TH, 2017

This enactment amends the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to exempt persons seeking emergency medical or law enforcement assistance for themselves or for others at an overdose from being charged for **simple possession** or for **violation of pre-trial release, probation order, conditional sentence, or parole related to simple possession**, if the evidence in support of that offence was obtained or discovered as a result of seeking assistance or remaining at the scene. This applies to any person at the scene upon the arrival of assistance, including the person who overdosed.



Please refer to Bill C-224 for details.



Who did we hear from...

- 137 respondents who were a) being released from a provincial correctional facility in BC, b) participated in the UTG program, c) agreed to complete a survey

When was the data collected...

- Between January 2019 to September 2020

What statistical analysis was used...

- Descriptive Statistics
- Bivariate logistic regression



Dataset variables

The dataset consisted of 14 variables in 3 categories:

1

Participant-related

1. Sex
2. Age
3. Indigeneity
4. Housing situation

2

Custodial data

1. Institution
2. Time served

3

Harm reduction

1. At risk of overdose?
2. Own mobile phone?
3. Will get mobile phone?
4. Received naloxone training?
5. Offered THN kit?
6. Have THN kit?
7. Heard of the *GSDOA*?
8. Would you call 911, in the event of an overdose?

Participant demographic data (n=137)

Sex

- 53% identified as females (n=72) and 47% identified as males (n=65)

Age

- Of 116 participants with known age, 86% were between 20-49 years old (n=16).
Median age of female participants = 35 years; males = 36 years

Indigeneity

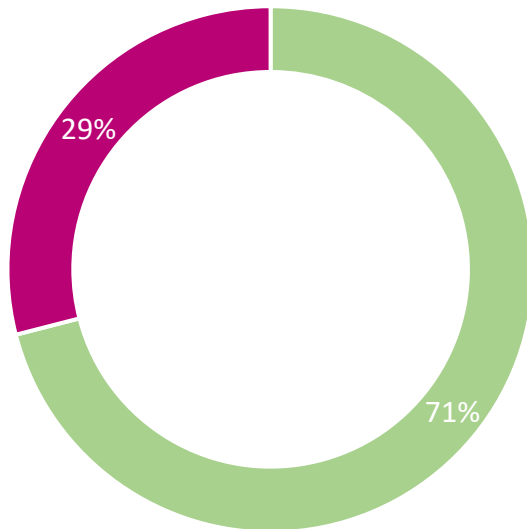
- 39% identified as Indigenous (n=53)

Housing situation

- 37% anticipated being homeless, living in camp or shelter upon release (n=50);
30% anticipated that they would be living in a recovery house or treatment facility upon release (n=41).

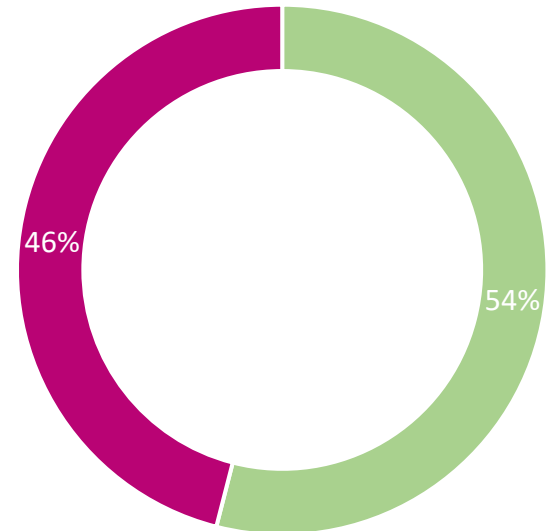
GSDOA awareness

Awareness of *GSDOA* among UTG clients being released from correctional facilities



■ Heard about GSDOA ■ Had not heard about GSDOA

Awareness of *GSDOA* among people who use drugs in 2019 Harm Reduction Client Survey



■ Heard about GSDOA ■ Had not heard about GSDOA

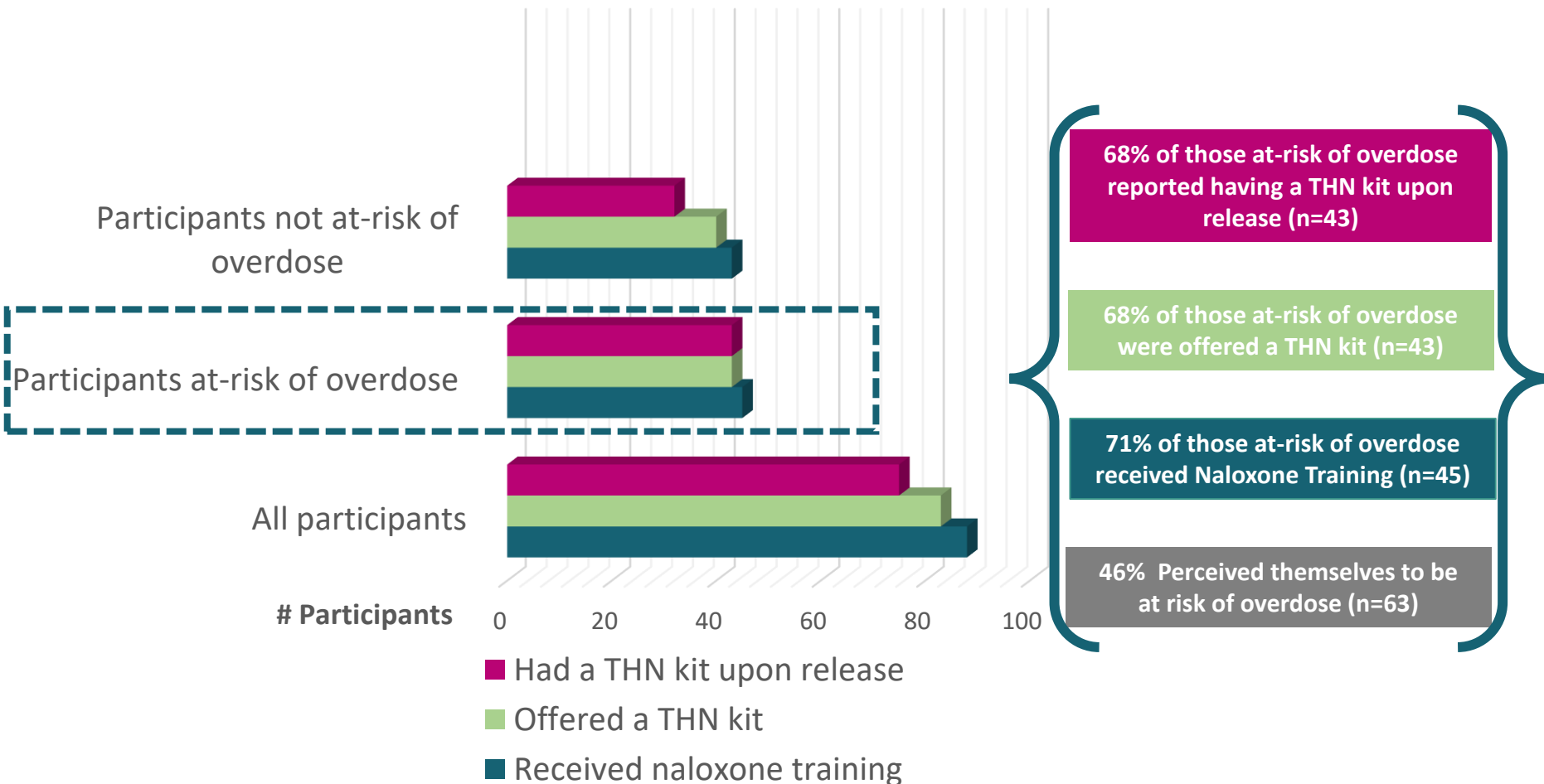
Factors associated with *GSDOA* awareness

Odds of having heard of the *GSDOA* on release among clients of the Unlocking the Gates Peer Health Mentoring Program.

	Unadjusted Odds Ratio – Heard of the <i>GSDOA</i>
Would call 911 if saw an overdose	27.87 (4.95, 524.29)
Received Naloxone Training	3.51 (1.64, 7.67)
Have a Naloxone Kit*	5.17 (2.33, 12.15)
At risk of overdose	5.24 (2.28, 13.29)

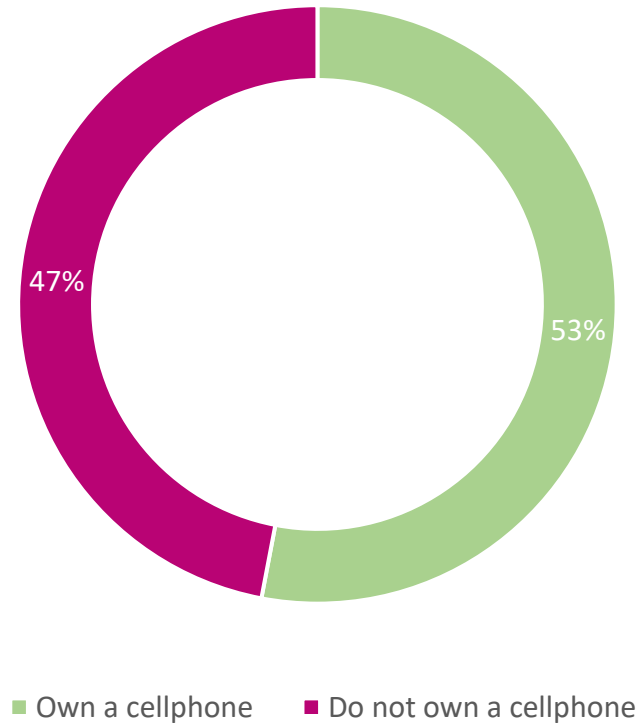
**complete case; removed 4 with missing exposure responses (n=133).*

Self perceived risk of overdose, receiving THN training, offered and owning THN kit upon release



Cell phone ownership

Not owning a cellphone has been identified as a primary reason people report not calling 9-1-1 in the event of an overdose.



Factors associated with THN kit and cell phone ownership

- Participants were more likely to report they would call 9-1-1 if they owned a phone
- A higher proportion of people with a THN kit reported being incarcerated for longer

Key interventions

GSDOA

- *In prison*: Reinforce knowledge of the *GSDOA* during THN training and upon release
- ✓ *Mentors*: To discuss *GSDOA* and provide *GSDOA* wallet card to increase the likelihood of calls to first responders in the event of an overdose

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THN KITS

- *In prison*: Ensure those at risk of having/witnessing an overdose are released with a THN kit
- ✓ *Mentors*: Now provided with THN kits to distribute to people who perceive themselves to be at risk or may witness an overdose who are released without a kit.



MOBILE PHONES

- Provide mobile phones on release for persons who use drugs (even mobile phones without SIM cards have emergency calling capabilities)



Strengths & Limitations

Strength

Data collection by peer mentors

Data collection by trusted peer mentors likely increased participants feelings of comfort and, thus, reliability

Limitations

Sample

Participants self-selected to meet a mentor and complete a survey. Findings may not be representative of persons released from Provincial prisons in BC

Small size limited strength of possible correlations for subgroups

Self-reported data

May be constrained recall and social desirability biases, among others.

Additional information & Study contacts

For more information about the **GSDOA Evaluation Project**, visit:

<https://towardtheheart.com/research-projects>

For more information about the **Unlocking the Gates Services Society**, see:

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

Allied GSDOA presentations at LE & PH:

March 23, 2021 –

Factors associated with the awareness of the GSDOA among people who use drugs in BC, Canada

March 24, 2021 –

Police officer's attitudes, knowledge and implementation around the GSDOA

Next steps:

Manuscript underway

GSDOA Study Contacts:

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Unlocking the Gates Contacts:

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Pam Young, pamyounghbc@gmail.com - *Peer Coordinator*

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