

Take-Home Naloxone to Prevent Opioid Overdose: Prescribe to Survive

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Purpose

Lander, WY and Fremont County (FC) suffer high rates of unnatural deaths related to opioids. To address this problem, the use of take-home naloxone has been researched and implemented in Lander, WY. Naloxone prevents opioid overdose related mortality by reversal of CNS respiratory depression.

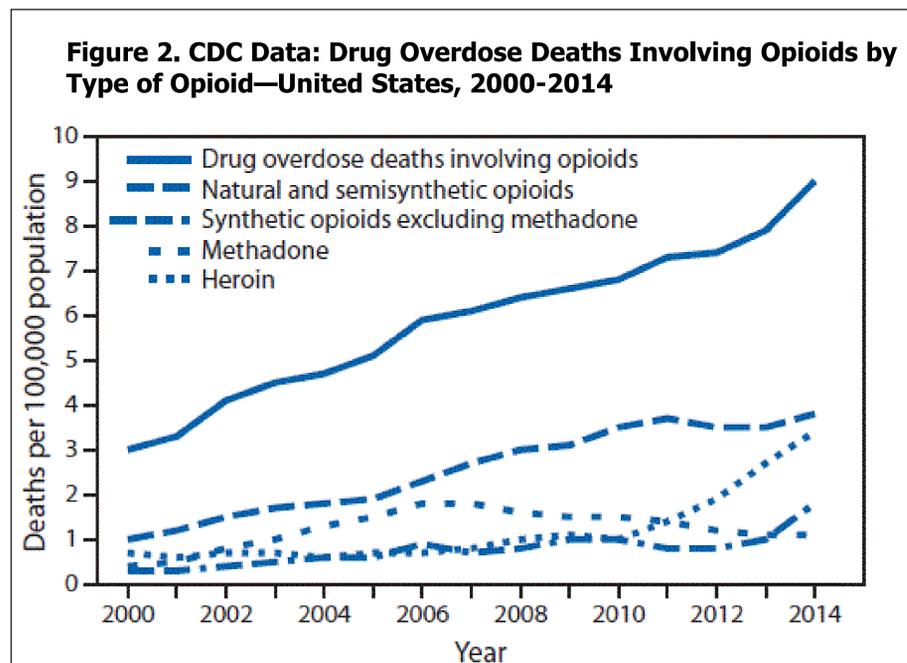
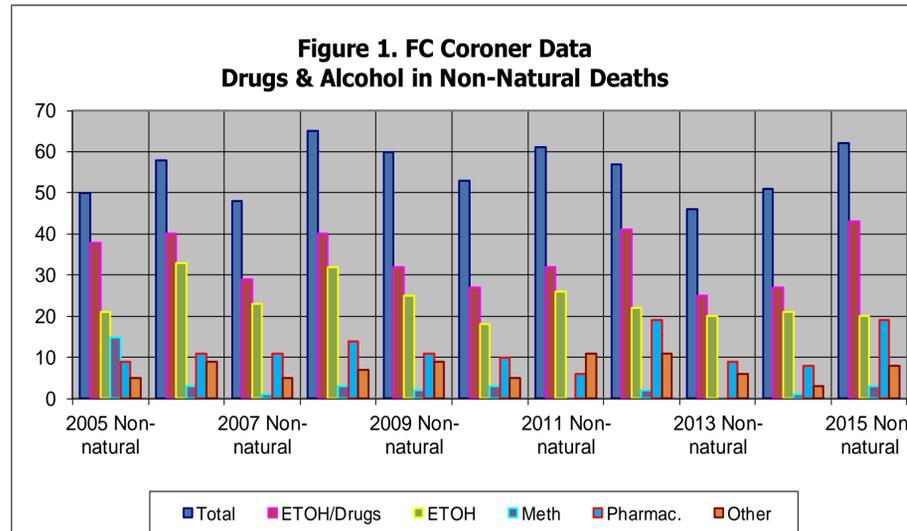


Background

- Lander, WY lies at the base of the Wind River Mountain range
- Seat of Fremont County
- FC population ~41,000
- In 2015 there were 19 non-natural deaths related to prescription drugs
 - Majority were opioids
 - 46 unnatural deaths /100,000—much higher than WY and the U.S.
- No state or county naloxone programs
- Naloxone legislation needed in WY

Methods

- FC data on opioid overdose related mortality gained from FC Coroner
- FC data was compared to CDC U.S. data
- Literature review revealed naloxone programs success at reversing overdoses and reducing opioid related mortality
- A comprehensive PowerPoint providing resources for a FC naloxone program was shared with the Clint McMahon, MD at the Lander Medical Clinic and the Prevention Management Organization of Wyoming (PMO)



Results

- Dr. McMahon at the Lander Medical Clinic has agreed to follow the roadmap provided in the PowerPoint and implement overdose awareness and provide naloxone to those at risk for an overdose
- Resources in the PowerPoint were presented to the PMO of WY at their coalition meeting, goals were to:
 - Introduce the idea of a naloxone program
 - Suggest creating awareness about opioid overdoses and naloxone at PMO prescription drop boxes and prescription take-back programs
 - Propose that the PMO of WY be the organizing body for a county wide naloxone program

Conclusion

- A take-home naloxone program is designed to reduce opioid overdose related mortality in a community
- Because nearly half of overdoses occur in a private setting, take-home naloxone provides a way to combat overdose mortality
- Illicit and licit opioid users could be targeted
- Research shows that family and friends can be successfully educated by those at risk for an overdose
- Naloxone programs are evidence based and supported by the CDC, AMA, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Resources and naloxone toolkits are free, minimizing upfront costs
- Challenges:
 - Creating a formal program in FC with an organizing body
 - Creating standing physician's orders for naloxone distribution
 - Legislative steps in Wyoming for easier access to naloxone and protection for 3rd party administrators