



# CHOW FACT SHEET

CHOW Project. Reducing Harm. Optimizing Health.

## Naloxone Saves Lives

### Naloxone reverses opioid overdose

- Naloxone is a non-narcotic Opioid antagonist that blocks opioids, like heroin and oxycodone, yet has no potential for abuse and side effects are rare.<sup>i</sup>
- When administered during an overdose, it blocks the effects of opioids and restores breathing within 3 minutes.
- There have been over 10,000 overdose reversals using naloxone nationwide.<sup>ii</sup>
- 37 jurisdictions have laws that increase access to Naloxone.
- Providing take-home Naloxone to people who use opioids and their family, friends and caretakers not only saves lives, it saves money.
- One study found for every 164 kits distributed, one life was saved.<sup>iii</sup>
- Community-based naloxone education, training and distribution is effective.<sup>iv</sup>
- Naloxone is available in easy-to use nasal spray and IM injection for effective administration.

### Unintentional drug overdoses are on the rise

- Drug overdose is the leading cause of injury death for the past two decades in the U.S. –
  - more than 100 people die of accidental drug overdose each day in the U.S.<sup>v</sup>
- From 2010-2014, drug poisoning/overdose was the leading cause of fatal injuries in Hawai'i<sup>vi</sup> – surpassing falls, motor vehicle, drowning and other injury-related deaths.
- In Hawai'i there were 155 deaths in 2014 from drug poisonings/overdose with a total of 1,465 over the past decade<sup>vii</sup>
- 56% of the participants in Hawai'i's syringe exchange program witnessed an overdose in the past three years.<sup>viii</sup>

The Community Health Outreach Work (CHOW) Project is dedicated to serving individuals, families and communities adversely affected by drug use, especially people who inject drugs, through a participant-centered harm reduction approach. CHOW works to reduce drug-related harms such as but not limited to HIV, hepatitis B/C and overdose. CHOW supports the optimal health and well-being of people affected by drug use throughout the State of Hawai'i.

### Overdose deaths are preventable

- The majority of drug-related overdoses occur in the presence of others
- There is usually time to intervene:
  - Call 911
  - Rescue breathing
  - Use Naloxone
- Access to Naloxone is one of 10 promising strategies to help curb prescription drug abuse
- Increased community access to Naloxone can reduce overdose fatalities by 50%<sup>ix</sup>

#### Citations

i Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, "Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit" ii Prescription Drug Abuse Policy System's 2015 Naloxone Overdose Prevention Laws Report iii A.Y. Walley et al, "Opioid overdose rates and implementation of overdose education..." BMJ 346 (2013) iv Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Community-based Opioid overdose prevention programs providing naloxone" 2010 v Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vi Hawaii State Department of Health, Injury Prevention and Control Program vii Hawaii State Department of Health, Injury Prevention and Control Program viii CHOW Project 2014 Evaluation Report ix CHOW Project 2014 Evaluation Report x <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/drugabuse2013/release.php?stateid=HI> xi Walley, AY et al. Opioid overdose rates and implementation of overdose education and nasal naloxone distribution in Massachusetts; interrupted time series analysis. BMJ. 2013 Jan 30;346:f174.