



## STUDY FINDS MANY STREET-INVOLVED YOUTH DON'T OWN NALOXONE KITS

### BACKGROUND & METHOD

- Overdose deaths due to opioid use, including fentanyl, have been increasing steadily.
- Take-home naloxone kits can help prevent overdose deaths by reversing the effects of opioids.
- This study looked at the percentage of street-involved youth who know about and own naloxone kits, and what factors influence this.
- Between December 2014 to November 2016, we talked to 177 street youth who inject drugs as part of the At-Risk Youth Study (ARYS) in Vancouver.
- On a regular basis, we asked these youth about their housing situation, drug use, and other risk behaviours, including whether they knew about or owned a naloxone kit.

### FINDINGS

- There is a gap between knowledge of and possession of take-home naloxone: 71.2% of youth reported they knew about the take-home naloxone program while 22.6% reported owning a naloxone kit.
- Non-white and male youth were less likely to own a naloxone kit.
- Those who used crack or cocaine were less likely to know about the take-home naloxone program.

### QUICK FACT

**MORE THAN THREE  
QUARTERS OF  
STREET-INVOLVED  
YOUTH WHO INJECT  
DRUGS DO NOT OWN  
A NALOXONE KIT.**

### IMPLICATIONS

- Street-involved youth who inject drugs need better access to naloxone education and naloxone kits.
- Take-home naloxone sites that target youth who are non-white, male, and use crack or cocaine may help to increase access in this population.

Goldman-Hasbun J, DeBeck K, Buxton JA, Nosova E, Wood E, Kerr T. Knowledge and possession of take-home naloxone kits among street-involved youth in a Canadian setting: a cohort study. Harm Reduction Journal, 2017 Dec; 14(1): 79.

