

# Access to, Experience with, and Attitudes towards Take Home Naloxone: An Online Survey

## Background:

The opioid public health crisis continues to burden individuals, communities, and economies. Public health opinion has emphasized the need for increased access to harm-reduction services, but there is limited information on the views and experiences of people who use opioids.

This study aimed to investigate the prevalence of naloxone use, attitudes, and experiences with naloxone among an online community of people who use drugs.

## Methods:

### Data Collection:

- Participants for this survey were recruited from [www.erowid.org](http://www.erowid.org), a drug information website and online community.
  - A banner advertising the study was displayed on the website, inviting active erowid.org users to participate in a web-based survey on naloxone experiences and attitudes. It was displayed from 25 April 2019 till 24 October 2019.
- The banner link was clicked 3,868 times by 3,571 unique IP addresses.
  - It is not known how many of these clicks were from actual humans versus “bots.”
- The study comprised 42 primary questions utilizing branching logic with possible additional questions depending on the participant’s responses.

### Analysis:

- Analysis included 1,143 participants who accessed the web-based survey and were 18 years or over.
- Categorical variables were reported as frequencies and percentages and were compared across participants who do and do not use opioids using the  $\chi^2$  test and Fisher’s exact test.
- Continuous variables were described using medians and interquartile ranges and compared using the Mann-Whitney U test.

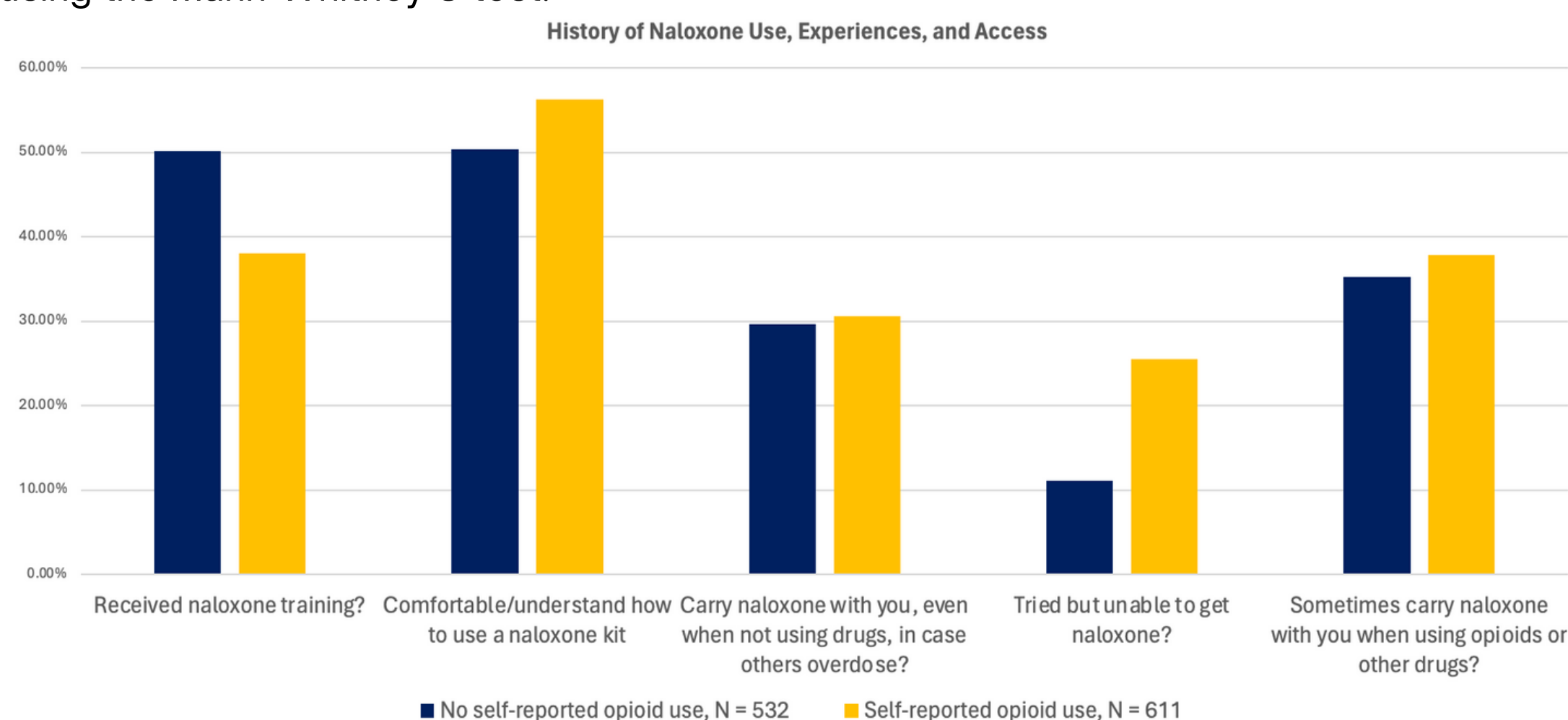


Figure 1. Excerpt from Table 3. History of naloxone use, experiences, and access.

## Findings:

- Overall, 30.2% of respondents said they carry naloxone with them, regardless of whether they are or are not using drugs.
- Among participants who use opioids, 38.4% were worried about the possibility of overdosing, while 37.3% were not concerned.
- Significantly more participants who use opioids (67%) than those who do not use opioids (49.4%) thought that naloxone should be freely available to people.
- 95% of respondents said they would be willing to use naloxone on someone who had overdosed, and approximately 90% of participants said they would want naloxone used on them in the case of an overdose.
- In terms of harm reduction access, very few respondents (24%) said they had access to safe use or safe injection programs. Only 33% had access to a clean needle exchange program.

## Discussion:

A significant majority of the participants who use opioids were in favor of having naloxone with them when using drugs and believed naloxone should be freely available to people. This study provides valuable information for the next steps in public health initiatives and valuable perspectives from people who use drugs and their respective communities, which could help drive the implementation of these initiatives.

## Citation:

Schwieger, L., **Carpenter, J.E.**, Moran, T.P., Erowid, F., Cornelison, M., **Evans, D.**, Morgan, B., Murray, B.P. Access to, Experience with, and Attitudes towards Take Home Naloxone: An Online Survey. *J Community Health* (2023). <https://doi.org.proxy.library.emory.edu/10.1007/s10900-023-01321-6>

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