Preventing Overdose Deaths in Vancouver Coastal Health

Vancouver Coastal Health Open Board Meeting
February 17, 2016
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Outline

• Key trends in overdose in BC and VCH
• Illicit fentanyl and its possible contribution to overdose deaths
• Interventions to reduce harm associated with fentanyl and other illicit drug use
Overdose Deaths (BC)

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths and Death Rate per 100,000 Population

Source: BC Coroner's Service
Illicit Fentanyl

• Synthetic opioid 10-100x more toxic than morphine or heroin
• Imported into BC as powder
• Sold as heroin or pills (fake oxy’s, green meanies/monsters)
• May also be added to stimulants
• 1/3 of BC harm reduction clients have been exposed to fentanyl
• Most drug users do not know they are taking it
Fentanyl-Detected Deaths (BC)

Source: BC Coroner’s Service
ER Overdose Visits (VCH)

Figure 1. Number of ER visits related to overdose* by substance type and epidemiological week. Vancouver Coastal Health, 2015 compared to historical average and 95% confidence limits†
Insite Overdose Visits (VCH)

Figure 3. Number of Vancouver Insite* visits resulting in an overdose by epidemiological week. VCHA, 2015 compared to previous 3-week average and historical average†

- Green: Overdoses involving heroin/other opiates requiring Narcan intervention
- Blue: Overdoses involving other/unknown drugs requiring Narcan intervention
- Black: Historical average (overall overdoses)
- Red: Previous 3-week average (overall overdoses)

Key:
- Red arrow: Week with cheque issued

Legend:
- Overdoses involving heroin/other opiates requiring Narcan intervention
- Overdoses involving other/unknown drugs requiring Narcan intervention
- Overdoses involving heroin/other opiates not requiring Narcan intervention
- Overdoses involving other/unknown drugs not requiring Narcan intervention

Vancouver Coastal Health
Promoting wellness Ensuring care.
Heroin Overdose Visits (VCH)

Figure 4. Number of ER and Vancouver Insite® visits related to heroin overdose by epidemiological week. Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, 2015
Harm Reduction Messages

• Don’t use alone
• Use a small amount first
• Don’t mix drugs and alcohol
• Learn to recognize the signs of an overdose
• Call 911 when somebody is having an overdose
• Learn about naloxone (Narcan)
• Use Insite
Overdose Alerts

Overdose Alert:
Fake Percocet (fentanyl)

Fake Percocet pills containing fentanyl found in Vancouver:

Fentanyl was found in 25% of fatal ODs in BC in 2014

If Someone ODs:
1. Call 911 right away
2. Clear airway and give breaths
3. Give Naloxone (narcan) if you have it
4. Find naloxone (narcan) at Insite or TowardTheHeart.com/site-locator
Know Your Source?

• Website, posters, social media ads…

• Target Audience:
  – Inexperienced or infrequent users
  – Recreational settings
  – 18-40 yrs
Supervised Injection Services
Take Home Naloxone
Take Home Naloxone

- 373 overdoses reversed
- 60% called 911
- 5494 people trained
- 2190 Service Providers, Friends & Family
- 2954 People who use opioids
- 2954 kits for new participants
- 1458 replacements for used, stolen, lost, expired & confiscated kits
- 4412 naloxone kits dispensed
- 126 Locations in BC
- 8 Emergency Departments
- 2 BC Corrections Facilities

Source: TowardsTheHeart.com
Questions?