

Project DAWN: Increasing Access to Narcan for Patients at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

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Background

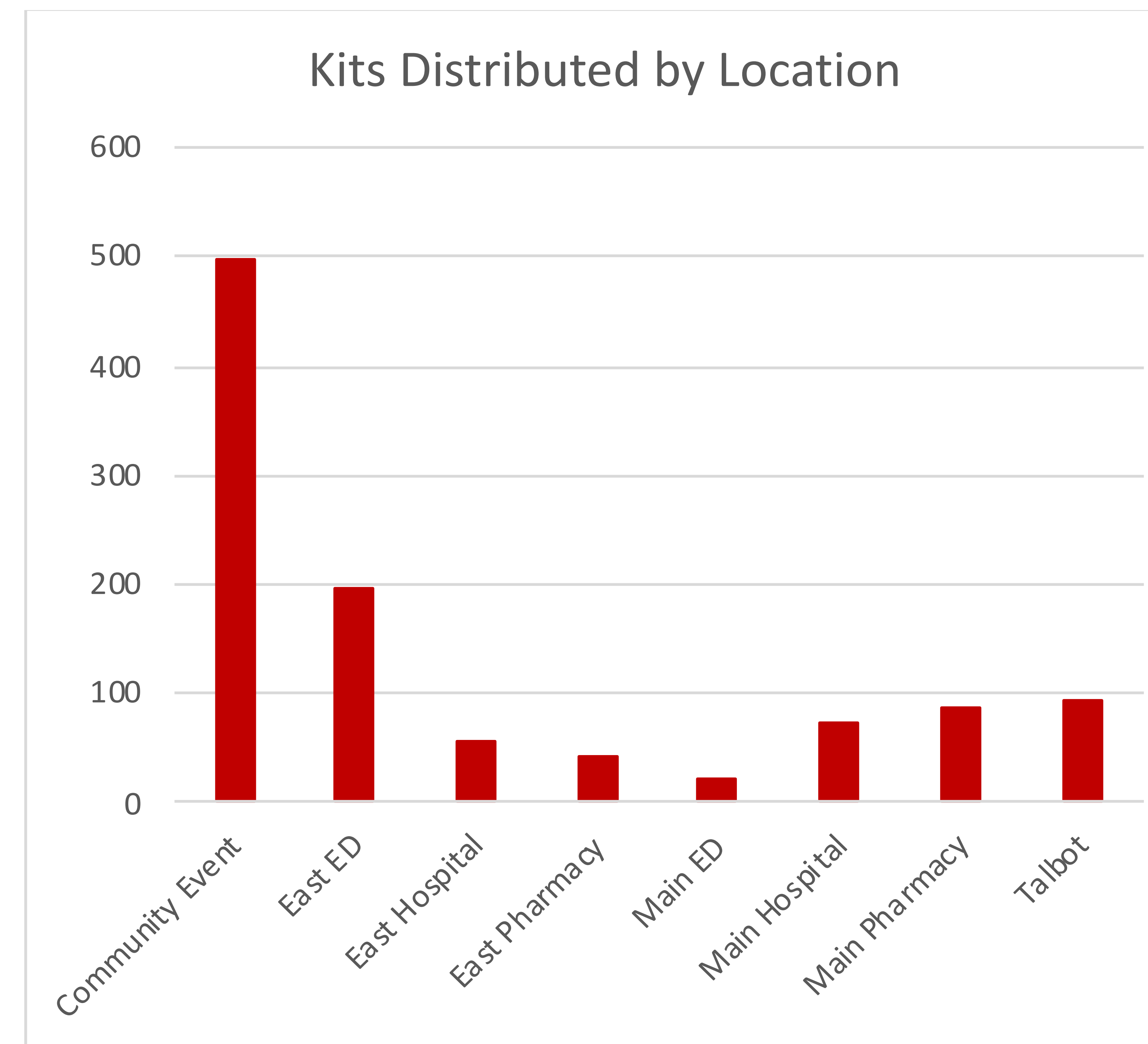
- Drug overdose, whether accidental or intentional is currently the leading cause of death in individuals under the age of 50 in the United States.
- Much of the Midwest, including Ohio is at the epicenter of this opioid epidemic. Ohio has the second highest incidence of fatal drug overdose.
- Naloxone (also known as Narcan) is a medication that can reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug.
- Though there were Narcan distribution programs within Franklin County, no formal distribution program existed at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center prior to Project Dawn.
- Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone) is Ohio's community-based overdose education and naloxone distribution program. Grant allows for funding for institution to receive free Narcan kits to be distributed to patients. The Ohio State University and OSU East were awarded the grant in July 2019.
- Project Dawn is a harm reduction program targeted towards patients with opioid use disorder.

Methods

- Project DAWN at OSUWMC has been implemented at OSU Main and OSU East emergency departments, inpatient units, all OSU pharmacies, Talbot Hall (OSU's addiction medicine center), and in the community via partnership with the Columbus Rapid Response Emergency Addiction Crisis Team (RREACT).
- On inpatient units or the ED providers identify eligible patients to receive the Narcan kits from Project DAWN.
- The provider enters the order via the discharge navigator so the medication is placed on the patient's home medication list.
- Patient receives education from nurse on how to use kit, naloxone kit, education sheet, and patient intake form which is required by Ohio Department of Health.

Results

- From November 2019 to July 2020, 917 total kits have been distributed across the OSUWMC and OSU East locations (including inpatient units and ED) as well as in the community.
- Of these 917 patients, only 366 have had prior experience administering Narcan in the past, making the education piece from the nurse vital.
- Of these 917 patients, only 108 have had formal treatment experience. This low number may be a reflection of community distribution as some participants may not be actively using opioids themselves but live with someone who does.



Next Steps

- Increasing provider awareness and education about Project DAWN can help increase its outreach and number of kits distributed on inpatient units and ED.
- Education about how to use and administer Narcan and encouragement of formal treatment when distributing Project DAWN Narcan kits are opportunities for further outreach and treatment.

Conclusions

- Given the volume, morbidity, and mortality of patients presenting to the medical center with opioid-related health issues, we continue to work collectively to keep pace and meet the challenges inherent to this tragic epidemic
- Though in its early stages, Project DAWN has helped deliver naloxone kits and patient education to patients with opioid use disorder, with the goal of helping to prevent future overdoses.

References

- Hall, O. T., Hall, O. E., Kolodny, A., Teater, J., & Mcgrath, R. P. (2020). Assessment of Excess Mortality Associated With Drug Overdose in Ohio From 2009 to 2018. *JAMA Network Open*, 3(4). doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.2183
- Levin, Aaron. "Tackling Opioid Overdose Epidemic Demands Multiple Approaches." *Psychiatrics News*, 30 June 2017, psychnews.psychiatryonline.org/doi/full/10.1176/appi.pn.2017.7a6.