

Naloxone rarely administered by layperson in opioid deaths

September 10 2018



(HealthDay)—From July 2016 to June 2017, bystanders were

documented in 44 percent of opioid overdose deaths, but naloxone was rarely administered by a layperson, according to a study published Aug. 31 in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Christine L. Mattson, Ph.D., from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and colleagues used data from 11 states participating in the CDC's Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance program to describe [opioid](#) overdose deaths among those testing positive for prescription opioids (e.g., oxycodone and hydrocodone), illicit opioids (e.g., heroin, illicitly manufactured fentanyl, and fentanyl analogs), or both prescription and illicit opioids.

From July 2016 through June 2017, the researchers identified 11,884 opioid overdose deaths, in which 17.4 percent of decedents tested positive for prescription opioids only, 58.7 percent for illicit opioids only, and 18.5 percent for both prescription and illicit opioids. In the month preceding the fatal [overdose](#), approximately one in 10 decedents had been released from an institutional setting. In 44 percent of the deaths, bystanders were reportedly present, but naloxone was rarely administered by a layperson.

"Consistent with other emerging evidence and recommendations, these data suggest prevention efforts should prioritize naloxone distribution to persons misusing opioids or using high-dosage [prescription opioids](#) and to their family members and friends," conclude the authors.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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Citation: Naloxone rarely administered by layperson in opioid deaths (2018, September 10) retrieved 2 May 2024 from

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