

## Introduction

Did you Narcan for Norco? If so, have you considered other opportunities where naloxone might save a life?

Death rates from opioid overdose continue to rise across the United States despite efforts to increase awareness of the epidemic and improve access to treatment and reversal agents. Louisiana Department of Health initiated an outreach program to help reduce opioid related deaths. Efforts include giving naloxone to patients at the time of their visits to local health units and community education events for schools and first responders.

Primary care physicians, pharmacists and local health units share a critical role in recognizing those at risk of an opioid related overdose, educating patients and the public on the signs of overdose, and providing easily accessible opioid reversal agents. Naloxone is available without a prescription in the state of Louisiana, yet many physicians are unaware - leading to missed opportunities to save a life.

## Objectives

- ❖ To educate FMC (Family Medicine Clinic) physicians on the indications and proper usage of naloxone and how to better identify patients at high risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose
- ❖ Assess FMC physician prescribing practices and preparedness in their ability to identify and counsel patients who could potentially benefit from naloxone

## Methodology

Education session

- ❖ Video by National Institute of Drug Abuse
- ❖ Resident presentation - identifying risk factors for opioid overdose event, candidates for naloxone counseling, naloxone prescribing rules in Louisiana.
- ❖ LA Department of Health/Investigator from the Coroner's Office - statistics, professional experiences, demonstration of naloxone use in the field

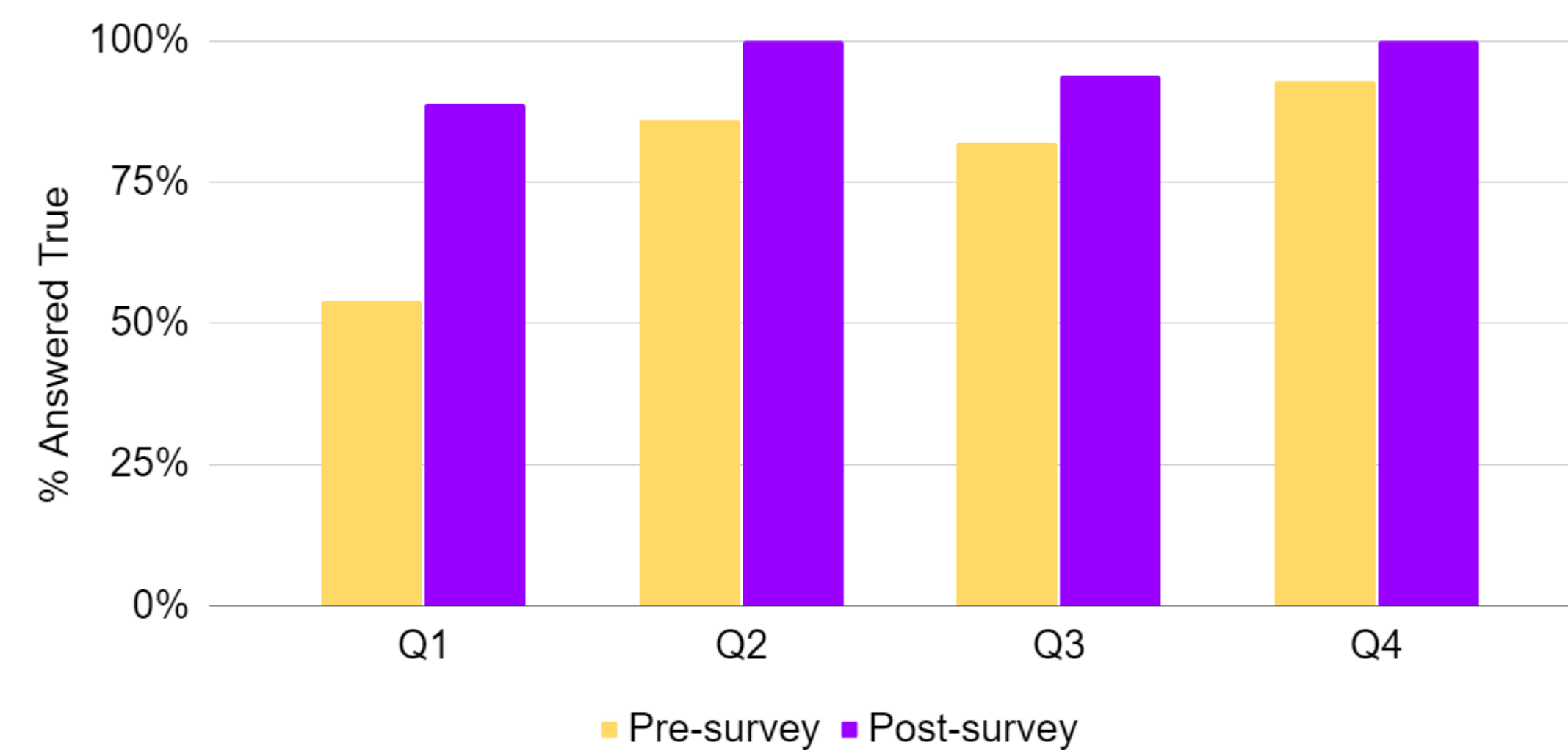
Pre/post Session survey

- ❖ Created using SurveyPlanet® platform
- ❖ Distributed via work email/GroupMe
- ❖ Polled knowledge of patients at high risk for opioid related event, accessibility of naloxone, naloxone prescribing habits/ confidence in naloxone prescribing/ counseling

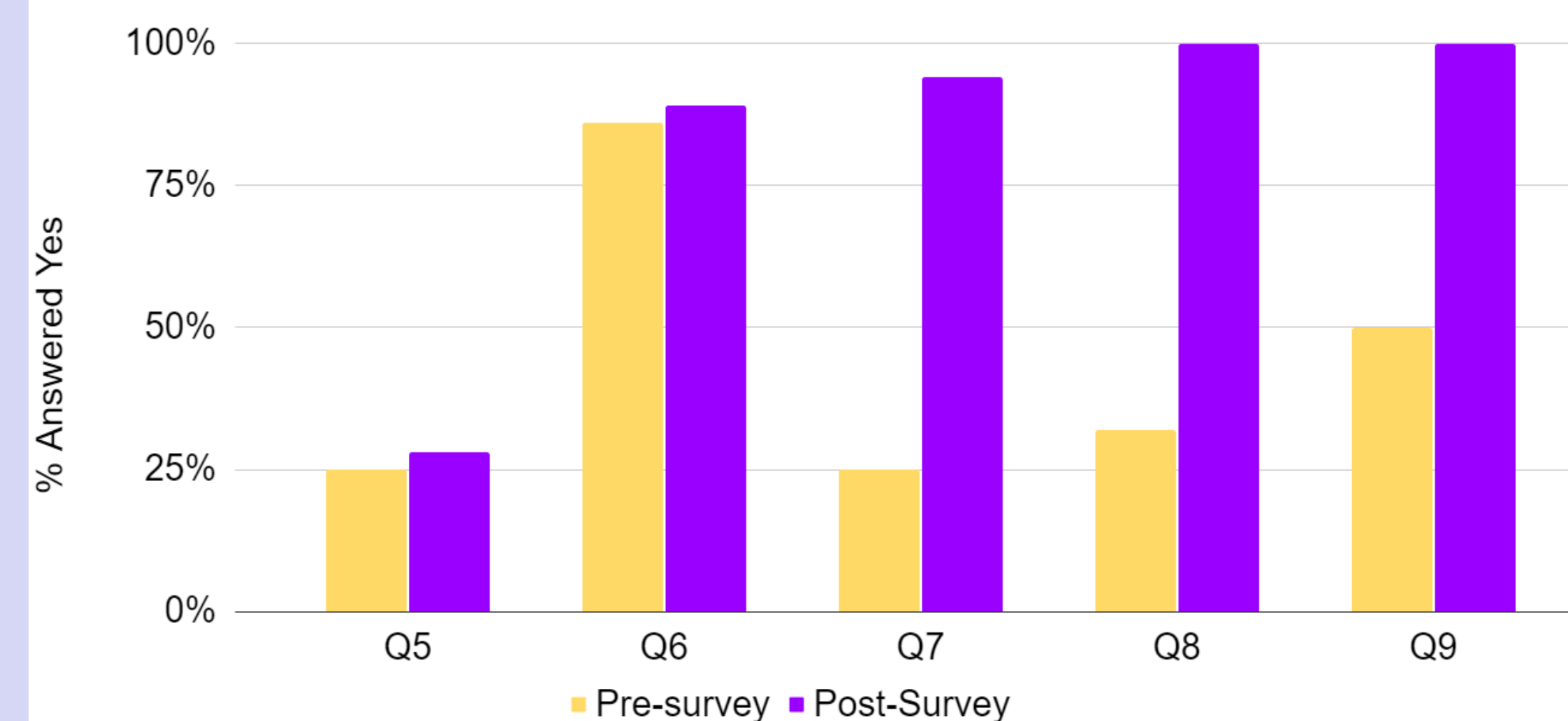


## Results

Indication for Narcan use



FMC Physicians Narcan Prescribing Practices



Key:

- Q1 Narcan does not require a prescription. (T/F)
- Q2 Narcan can also be offered to individuals who may be concerned for a friend/family member at risk for opioid overdose. (T/F)
- Q3 Narcan can be offered to patients who use illicit drugs like cocaine. (T/F)
- Q4 Narcan is FDA approved as both nasal spray and injectable. (T/F)
- Q5 Have you prescribed Narcan for someone with OUD? (Y/N)
- Q6 Do you prescribe chronic opioids for your patients? (Y/N)
- Q7 Do you/Will you address whether a patient needs Narcan every time you prescribe opioids? (Y/N)
- Q8 Have you/Will you counseled friends or family members of patients at risk for OUD on Narcan use? (Y/N)
- Q9 Do you feel prepared to counsel a patient/family member on how and when to use Narcan? (Y/N)



## Conclusions

- ❖ Educational session was highly effective in increasing awareness of naloxone availability in state of Louisiana
- ❖ Project experience highlighted opportunities to counsel patients about naloxone use and availability not previously or currently optimized

Limitations:

- ❖ Reduced participation at the educational session and subsequent post-survey due to scheduling conflicts
- ❖ Providing a copy of the presentation and/or video could have improved retention of the information and accommodated for participant absence due to scheduling conflicts

## Discussion

There are still many missed opportunities to provide naloxone prescriptions to those at risk for opioid overdose.

Many street drugs are now contaminated with lethal doses of Fentanyl making the need for public awareness of naloxone availability even more critical. Missed opportunities for life-saving naloxone therapy exist in ED settings where dedicated Fentanyl testing is not done on routine urine drug screens.

Those attending or hosting parties where any illicit drugs may be found, friends or family of those with addictive disorders, patients with positive drug screens for illicit substances/prescription opioids, and school nurses/personnel should all be encouraged to obtain naloxone and to receive training on proper administration.

Patients who are hospitalized, incarcerated or in a rehabilitation facility may develop a renewed response to opioids upon discharge, making them susceptible to an overdose event when restarted on their previous dose of chronic opioid therapy. At the time of completion of this project, the FDA had just approved naloxone to be made available over-the-counter. Hopefully, this will encourage community members to take a more active role in fighting the opioid overdose crisis.

## References



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