



INTRODUCTION

- Business managers are often first responders to drug overdoses across New York City in convenience stores, bars, clubs, and restaurants.¹
- Overdoses are occurring from “club drugs” mixed with synthetic opioids. Fentanyl and other potent synthetic opioids are in heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, and street pills marked as “Xanax.”²⁻⁵ Fentanyl was present in 60% of overdose deaths in NYC last year.²
- East Harlem and South Bronx had overdose rates more than twice the citywide average, and some of the highest rates in the nation.²

“I wish I had this training years ago, before I saw my friend die in front of me.”
– anonymous manager

OBJECTIVE

- The aim of this study is to highlight business managers’ experiences and knowledge with drug overdoses. The larger objective is to reduce opioid overdose deaths in New York City by training local business managers, who are often first responders to drug overdoses, in administering naloxone.

METHODS

- Data collection is in progress through convenience and purposive sampling across all five NYC boroughs. The survey was modeled from a previous study survey¹ on topics as seen in Table 1.

RESULTS

- 64% (n=30/47) managers declined to participate and reported negative perceptions of individuals with substance use and making naloxone available in businesses.
- 36% (n=17/47) managers participated and frequently encountered drug use with no prior training in overdose reversal.

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of managers who encountered drug use.	Business managers (n=17)	
	n	%
Encountered drug use	17	100%
EMS activation for drug encounter	14	82%
EMS activation for unresponsive person	9	53%
Found drug paraphernalia	10	59%
Found syringes	6	35%
Found crack pipes	2	12%
Customer complaints about drug use	8	47%
Prior training in overdose reversal and naloxone	2	12%
Believe that training in overdose reversal is useful and should be widely available	17	100%
Family member or close friend who overdosed	9	53%
Monthly encounters	AVG 9.75, MAX 50	

CONCLUSION

- Preliminary findings of this study show a great need for expanding overdose recognition and naloxone training to the community.
- Stigma is prevalent in the community where many managers declined to participate due to negative perceptions of substance users and making naloxone available in their businesses.
- Follow us and join our efforts!

@nycsavealife
 @narcawecan

REFERENCES

1. Wolfson-Stofko, B., et al. Drug use in business bathrooms: an exploratory study of manager encounters in New York City. *Int J Drug Policy* 2017;39:69-77.
2. New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Epi Data Brief 2019: Unintentional Drug Poisoning (Overdose) Deaths in New York City in 2018. Retrieved from: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/databrief16.pdf>
3. Ahmad, F.B., Escobedo, L.A., Rossen, L.M., Spencer, M.R., Warner M., Sutton P. (2019). Provisional drug overdose death counts. National Center for Health Statistics 2019. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
4. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. HHS publication 2019 PEP19-5068, NSDUH Series H-54. Rockville, MD.
5. Frank, D., et al. High risk and little knowledge: overdose experiences and knowledge among young adult nonmedical prescription opioid users. *Int J Drug Policy* 2015;26:84-91.