Five years of a national naloxone programme (NNP) in Scotland: what have we learned?

Dr Andrew McAuley
Senior Epidemiologist, Health Protection Scotland
Senior Research Fellow, Glasgow Caledonian University

The International Naloxone Conference: ThINC 2
Oslo, 27 November 2017
Scotland

- Population ~ 5 million
- 14 Health Boards

--------------------------------------
- ~ 60,000 ‘Problem Drug Users’
  - ~ 20,000 PWID
  - ~ 25,000 OST
- Widespread availability of IEP services

--------------------------------------
- 15 Prisons
- 1/3 prisoners test +ve for opiates
- 1/3 prisoners has history of injecting
National Naloxone Programme (NNP): 2011 - present

“The aim of this national programme is to increase the availability and awareness of naloxone across Scotland, in order to increase the chance of it being administered during an opiate overdose... I hope that the impact of increased naloxone availability will contribute to a reduction in fatal opiate overdoses in Scotland and I am very grateful for your support in taking forward this important initiative.”

Fergus Ewing, Minister for Community Safety, 01/11/10
Naloxone in Scotland: 5 Key questions

1. Did the NNP reach those most at risk of opioid overdose?
2. Who engages most with the NNP?
3. Are PWID in Scotland following the NNP training protocol?
4. Did the NNP have an impact on opioid-related overdose?
5. What are the priorities for the NNP moving forward?
1a. Did the NNP reach those most at risk of opioid overdose?

Source: ISD (2017)

Figure 4.1: Cumulative number of THN kits supplied, by source, financial year and quarter (Scotland; 2011/12 to 2016/17)

85-91% per year supplied to ‘persons at risk of opioid overdose’
1b. Did the NNP reach those most at risk of opioid overdose?

Figure 4.3: Cumulative number of THN kits distributed as first supply to people at risk, by source, financial year and quarter (Scotland; 2011/12 to 2016/17)

Estimated reach among PWUD: 345 kits per 1,000 problem drug users

Source: ISD (2017)
1c. Did the NNP reach those most at risk of opioid overdose?

Engagement in the NNP by people who inject drugs (PWID)

- Supplied with naloxone in last 12 months
- Carrying naloxone

“...Cos they don’t even carry needles in their bag. You know, they’ve usually got a stash for that sort of stuff. So if someone OD’s and the other one is doing something for a quick hit, none of them is gonna have naloxone on them because the police stop them and check them. They find a needle on them, that’s enough to take them all the way back to the station for a full body search, strip search...they’re like that. So that’s all it takes. They find naloxone, they’ll say, ‘oh right he’s a junkie’ [clicks fingers], ‘right down the station, full body search’”.

‘Andy’, 45-54 years old, injecting > 10 years
2. Who engages most with the NNP?

Percentage of NESI respondents supplied with naloxone in the past year, 2015-16

Source: Bird et al, 2017
3a. Are PWID in Scotland following the NNP training protocol?

Between 2011/12 and 2016/17, a total of 3,088 repeat supplies were issued due to the previous kit being used for the purposes of saving a life...
3b. Are PWID in Scotland following the NNP training protocol?

“Yeah I think it’s [naloxone] pretty useful to have around. In fact I don’t like being, not having it around. But, I didn’t know you were only supposed to give the little bit. But I’ll continue to give the whole lot [laughs], do you know what I mean? Cos I want them around completely. I’m not wanting to put half in and then the guy, poor guy stops breathing again. And it’s like put another wee bit in. No, by the time you’ve finished giving him the whole lot, five injections, the poor guy’s deid [dead]. Ken what I mean? So I still inject the whole lot into him.”

‘Walter’, 45-54 years old, injecting 3-5 years
3c. Are PWID in Scotland following the NNP training protocol?

Weekly ambulance callouts to opioid-related overdose incidents, Scotland, 2008-2015

P = 0.39

3d. Are PWID in Scotland following the NNP training protocol?

“When they came they were like, ‘you’ve saved that guy’s life like’...If it wasn’t for you, you really did, saved his life, well done’. Ken that, I got the big heid after that, you know? You know what I mean? There’s him telling me I could do his job, you know that type thing.”

‘Andy’, 45-54 years old, injecting > 10 years
4a. Did the NNP have an impact on opioid-related overdose?

Opioid-related deaths, Scotland, 2000-2016

Source: NRS(2017)
4b. Did the NNP have an impact on opioid-related overdose?

Percentage of opioid-related deaths within 4-weeks of prison release

- 2006-10: 9.8%
- 2011-13: 6.3%
- 2014-15: 3.9%

Source: ISD (2016)
4. Did the NNP have an impact on opioid-related overdose?

**Percentage of opioid-related deaths within 4-weeks of hospital discharge**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-10</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-13</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ISD (2016)
5. What are the priorities for the NNP in Scotland moving forward?

• Sustain momentum!
• Broaden supply settings
  – Hospital
  – GPs
  – Community pharmacy
  – Peers
• Nuanced evaluation
  – Tailored outcomes
  – Lived experience
Thank you

andrew.mcauley@nhs.net
@arjmcauley

References

McAuley, A., Munro, A., & Taylor, A. (2017). “Once I’d done it once it was like writing your name”: Lived experience of take-home naloxone administration by people who inject drugs. Submitted.


