

Policy Evaluation of Michigan's Statewide Naloxone Standing Order

Stakeholder Survey Method and Key Findings

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Calvin University Center for Social Research



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Background and Purpose

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) received a grant from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to better understand and address the opioid crisis in Michigan. As part of the grant, the Calvin University Center for Social Research (CSR) conducted an evaluation of Michigan’s statewide naloxone standing order, focusing on its implementation and impact in Kent County, Michigan. The naloxone standing order allows people to get naloxone at participating pharmacies without an individual prescription. Naloxone, better known by the brand name Narcan, is a drug that can prevent death in the case of an opioid overdose.

CSR identified eight indicators of success for the naloxone standing order through interviews with 11 key informants and focus groups with 29 stakeholders. These indicators are listed in in **Table 1**. Before acquiring existing data sources and designing new evaluation tools to measure these indicators of success, we asked Kent County stakeholders to rate the actual and potential impact of the naloxone standing order on the indicators.

Table 1 Indicators of success of the naloxone standing order and their data sources

#	Indicator of success	Data source(s)
1a	Pharmacy involvement: Enrollment in SO	Naloxone Standing Order Report (MDHHS)
1b	Pharmacy involvement: Pharmacist training	Pharmacist survey
1c	Pharmacy involvement: Pharmacists recommending naloxone	Pharmacist survey
2a	Pharmacist awareness of the SO, OD symptoms, & naloxone administration	Pharmacist survey Pharmacy secret caller study
2b	Pharmacist stigma about opioid use and having naloxone	Pharmacist survey Pharmacy secret caller study Community survey
3a	Public awareness of naloxone, the SO, OD symptoms, & naloxone administration	Community survey
3b	Public stigma about opioid use and having naloxone	Community survey
4	Naloxone prescriptions filled through SO	Naloxone Standing Order Report (MDHHS)
5	Rate of people who keep naloxone on hand	Community survey
6	Successful reversal	None
7	Opioid overdose death rate	Michigan Resident Death File (MDHHS)
8	Comprehensive and standardized data collection and reporting	% of indicators 1-7 with a data source

The stakeholder survey had three goals:

1. To gather information about the indicators of success for the standing order and barriers to its success.
2. To seek feedback on a draft flowchart of Michigan's naloxone standing order.
3. To build a network map to learn how organizations have and could work together in addressing the opioid epidemic in Kent County.

Method

Survey Design

The survey content was designed specifically for Kent County stakeholders for two primary reasons:

1. Several potential survey respondents had previously participated in an interview or focus group through which the indicators of success were identified and the standing order flowchart was designed.
2. Survey respondents were asked to rate the level of collaboration between their organization and other organizations that were affiliated with the Kent County Opioid Task Force (KCOTF) or were working to address the opioid crisis in Kent County, Michigan.

The [survey](#) can be viewed online. The survey was reviewed and approved by the Calvin University Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Participant Recruitment

All people who were on the KCOTF mailing list were invited to participate. A few hours prior to sending survey invitation emails, we presented our project at a bimonthly meeting of the KCOTF. In our presentation, we reminded attendees about our project, listed the indicators of success, walked through the standing order flowchart, and shared an example network map. We explained that we would be inviting attendees to take a survey via email later that day.

One hundred seventy stakeholders who have been involved with the KCOTF were invited to take the survey. Fifty-two people completed the survey from November 2020 to January 2021, yielding a 30.6% response rate.

Data Visualizations & Network Map

[Interactive data visualizations](#) of the study's results can be viewed on Tableau Public. A [network map](#) that illustrates the partnerships among Kent County organizations working to address the opioid crisis can be viewed online.

Key Findings

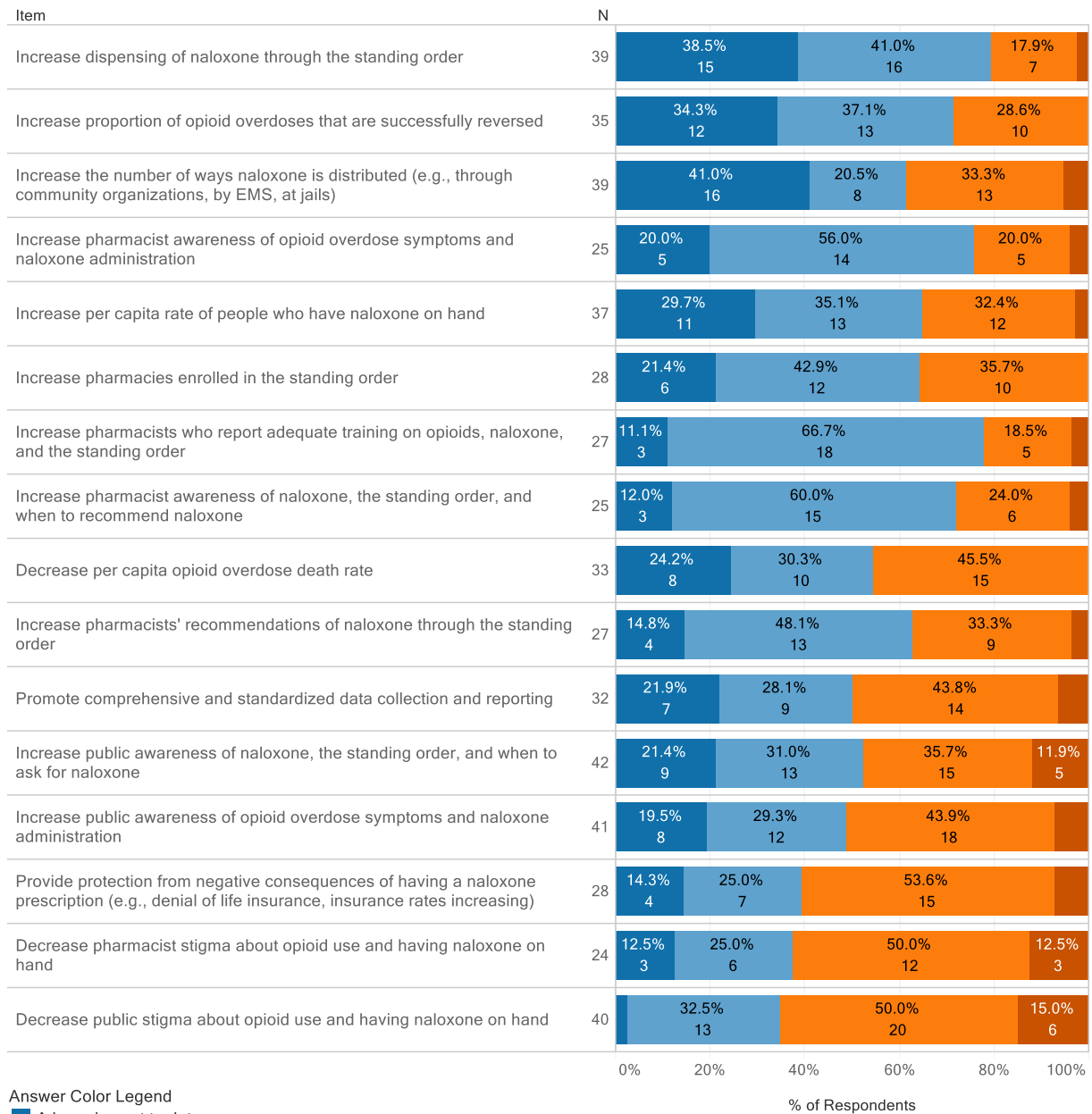
Impact of the Standing Order on Indicators of Success

Respondents rated the level of impact the naloxone standing order has had on each indicator of success. The results for each indicator are shown in **Figure 1**, with indicators sorted from greatest impact to least impact. Some respondents indicated that they *don't know* the level of impact of the standing order on a given indicator; these *don't know* responses are omitted from **Figure 1**.

Respondents indicated that the standing order had the largest impact on *increasing dispensing of naloxone through the standing order*, with nearly 40% of respondents indicating that there had been a *large impact* of the standing order on this indicator. Four of the five indicators rated as having the least impact were related to awareness and stigma. For example, about two-thirds of respondents reported that the standing order had *no impact* or a *small impact* on *decreasing public stigma about opioid use and having naloxone on hand*.

Figure 1 Impact of the standing order on indicators of success

Actual Impact: To what extent has Michigan's statewide naloxone standing order had an impact on each of the following indicators? For this question, think about the current impact the standing order has already had.

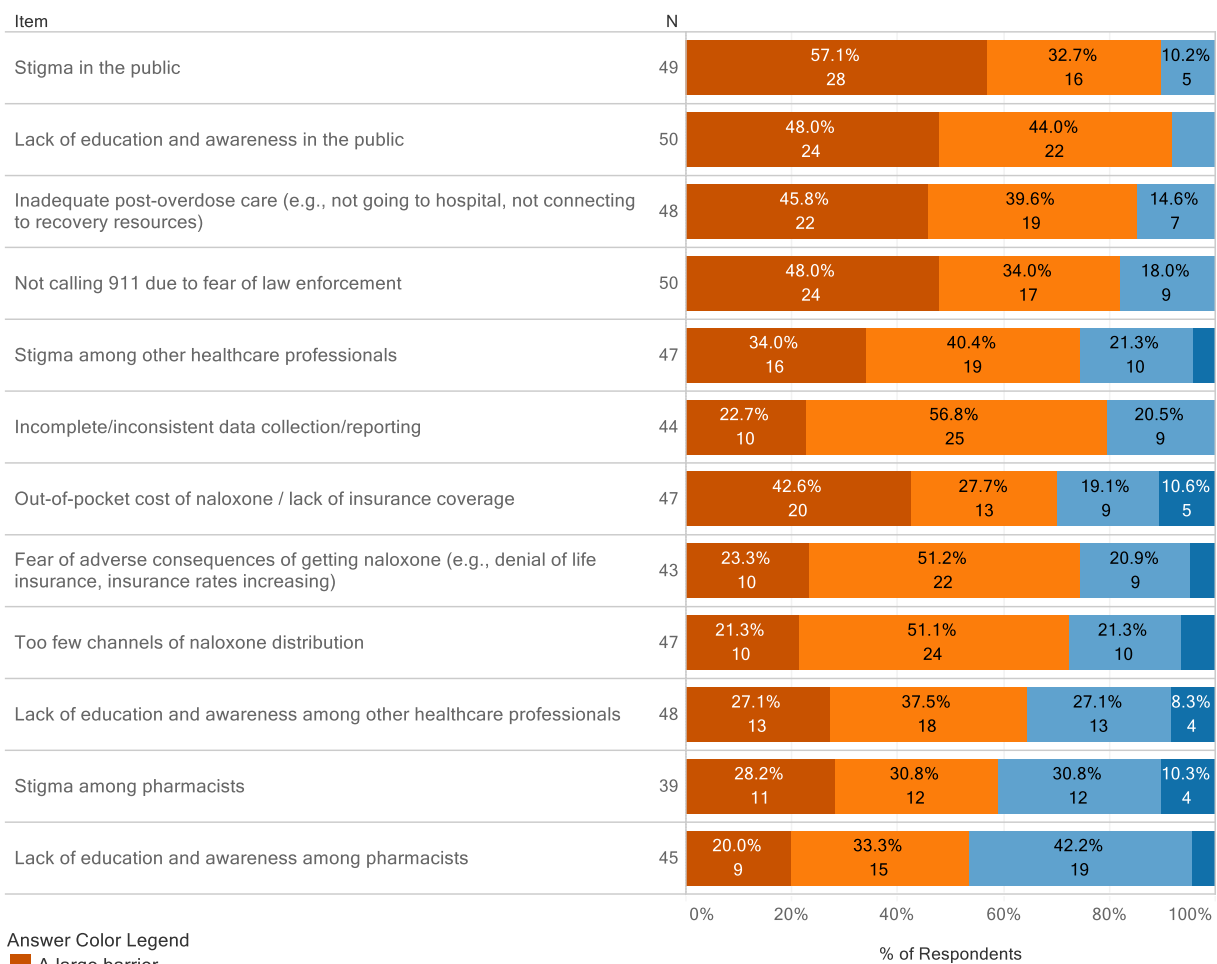


Barriers that Keep the Standing Order from Achieving its Full Potential Impact

Next, respondents rated several potential barriers that could be preventing the standing order from achieving its full potential impact. These barriers are shown in Figure 2 and are rated from largest to smallest barriers. The preponderance of orange in Figure 2 reflects the fact that 50-90% of respondents reported that each barrier was *moderate* to *large*. Respondents rated public stigma and lack of public awareness as the largest barriers, whereas stigma and lack of awareness among pharmacists were the smallest barriers.

Figure 2 Barriers that keep the standing order from achieving its full potential impact

Barriers: In your opinion, to what extent is each of the following a barrier that is keeping the standing order from achieving its full potential impact?



Answer Color Legend
■ A large barrier
■ A moderate barrier
■ A small barrier
■ Not a barrier

Network Map of Kent County Stakeholders

Finally, respondents rated the level of collaboration between their organization and each of several dozen organizations that also are working to address the opioid crisis in Kent County, Michigan. Level of collaboration was reported on a scale from 1 (*not at all*) to 4 (*a lot*). If multiple individuals from the same organization completed the survey, collaboration ratings were averaged across these respondents.

We used Kumu software to create an interactive network map based on these results. The screenshot in **Figure 3** shows collaborations between organizations that were rated as 3 or higher on the 1-4 scale. Each circle represents an organization, and the color of circles reflects the organization's primary focus. Connections can be thought of as rubber bands. Thicker and shorter connecting lines represent more collaboration between organizations. Thinner and longer connecting lines represent little or no collaboration between organizations.

A [network map](#) that illustrates the partnerships among Kent County organizations working to address the opioid crisis can be viewed online. The network map can be used to identify potential silos and opportunities for new partnerships among organizations.

