

# Intranasal Naloxone Training for Probation and Parole Officers

## *Officers' perceptions of their safety and of the utility of naloxone*

**Agency:** Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC), Probation and Parole District 4

**Trial Duration:** 05/02/17–08/12/17

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### Context

The opioid crisis presents challenges for probation and parole officers given their contact with clients with opioid-use disorder. Training on, and distribution of, naloxone kits for reversing opioid overdose was tested to determine whether officer confidence in dealing with potential opioid overdose situations and perceptions of personal safety increased.

### Key Finding

There was no difference in officers' perceived safety when meeting with clients with substance-use disorders, and no difference in their views on the utility of naloxone. Those given training and naloxone kits reported feeling less stressed during pat searches and perceived less need for additional training compared to the control group.

\*BetaGov trains agency personnel to become research-savvy "Pracademics" who lead trials.

### Background

The national opioid crisis has presented increased challenges for probation and parole officers, given the large numbers of substance-using clients and the increased likelihood of opioid-related problems in their caseloads. A growing number of agencies are equipping staff with naloxone and training them on its use to prepare them for responding to opioid overdose. The Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC) tested whether providing naloxone training and kits improved perceptions of safety and wellbeing.

### Trial Design

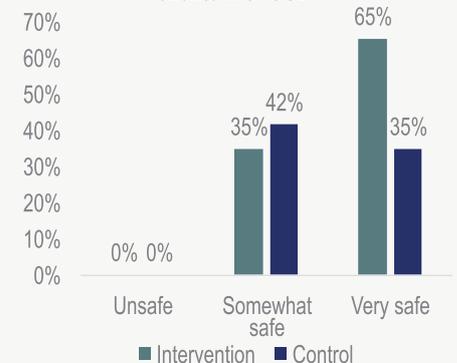
Districts were matched on population and geographical characteristics and randomly assigned to condition. A total of 154 officers (intervention n=90, comparison n=64) participated. Officers in the intervention group were given naloxone kits and trained on proper use. Officers in the control group maintained practice-as-usual. All other practices and procedures remained identical between the groups. Surveys were administered to both groups to collect perceptions about opioid use and overdose, personal safety, and wellbeing.

### Results

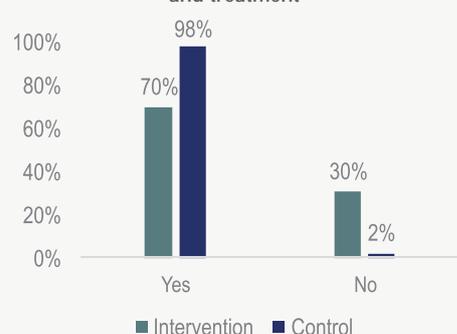
There was no association between participating in naloxone training and an officer's perceived safety when meeting with clients who have substance-use disorders, or in their perceived level of comfort in administering naloxone for an overdose. There was also no association between participating in naloxone training and an

officer's views on whether naloxone is a promising solution for opioid overdose. Those given training and naloxone kits reported feeling less stressed during pat searches and perceived less need for additional training compared to the control group.

Perceived safety during office visits with clients with SUD



Need more training on opioid use, overdose and treatment



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