

Testimony SB954 Overdose Response Program – Opioid Overdose Reversal Drugs – Choice of Formulation and Dosage

Ohio was the first state to allow access to all forms of naloxone in August of 2021. We did our best to learn about all forms, concerns raised and inform our community members and partners about all options available. In preparation for expanding access to all forms we began surveying naloxone use in both our online orders and community distribution programs. We learned how many doses were being used based on the type of administration and we were able to consider the circumstances of the overdose event in these instances. We saw a gradual increase in orders for higher dose naloxone as it became known to partners and those we serve. It is still premature to call this a trend, but it continues to be clear that nasal delivery is the preferred method of administration overall. Nonetheless, a substantial minority of people preferred IM. This suggests that the continued availability of all forms of naloxone is important. **We promote total autonomy of choice to all forms of FDA approved naloxone.** We also learned most people used naloxone as per the directions. However, from our two surveys prior to the introduction of higher dose we learned about 1/4 of the online respondents and 1/3 of the HRO community distribution respondents **reported using 3 or more doses.** Due to the adulterated drug supply. It is not just those who intentionally use opioids experiencing opioid overdoses. Across the board we have seen a decrease in cost for ALL forms of naloxone since the market expanded. The price of naloxone has fallen by half in less than a year. Ohio plans to use these savings and regulatory changes to improve getting this life-saving drug to people who need it most. In 2022 we distributed over 42k naloxone kits. Less than a year ago a box of 4mg NS was \$75. At current prices, the cost of the 42k naloxone kits shipped by Harm Reduction Ohio is about \$1.4 million, down from \$2.7 million under the old prices.

Finally, almost all of the people receiving naloxone in the two surveys survived their overdose. While this may be partly due to sample selection bias, it also makes it clear that widespread distribution of and training about administering naloxone **of any form** at a lower cost is an important tool in reducing deaths from accidental drug overdoses.

Naloxone does not seem to create life-threatening side effects, even at higher doses.

Thank you

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