

# THE IMPACT OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH OPIOID OVERDOSE ON KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS PATIENTS WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS



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## Introduction

### Background

2018 Overdose Deaths (CDC)

Total overdose deaths

67367

Opioid overdose deaths

46802

Other substance overdose deaths

20565

- Naloxone is an opioid receptor antagonist that can be used to reverse the effects of opioid overdose. Medical students may take a naloxone training course to learn how to administer naloxone
- Students and physicians often encounter patients with substance use disorders (SUDs) in clinical settings, but most don't feel equipped to treat these patients (Tobin *et al.*, 2018; Moses *et al.*, 2020)
- Currently, there is no standardized curriculum for opioid overdose treatment & prevention (Morreale *et al.*, 2020)

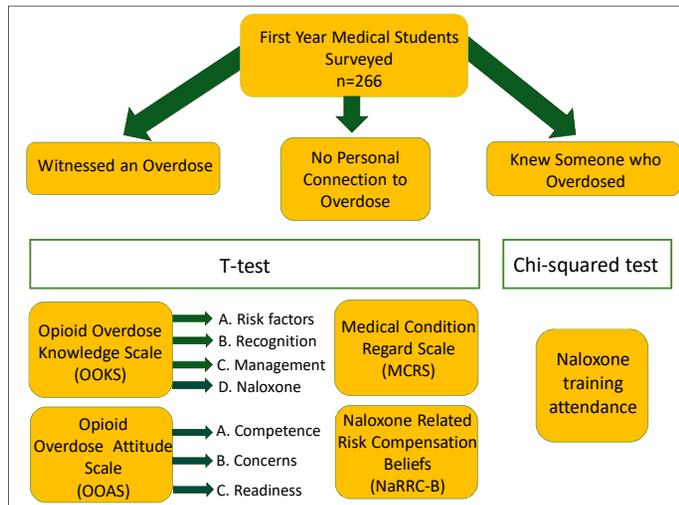
### Previous Research

- 4<sup>th</sup> year medical students with clinical experience were more knowledgeable about opioid overdoses and naloxone use compared to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students without clinical experience
- 4<sup>th</sup> year medical students demonstrated a decreased willingness to treat patients with SUDs
- 1<sup>st</sup> year students with clinical experience felt more competent in their ability to help and had fewer concerns about intervening in an overdose situation

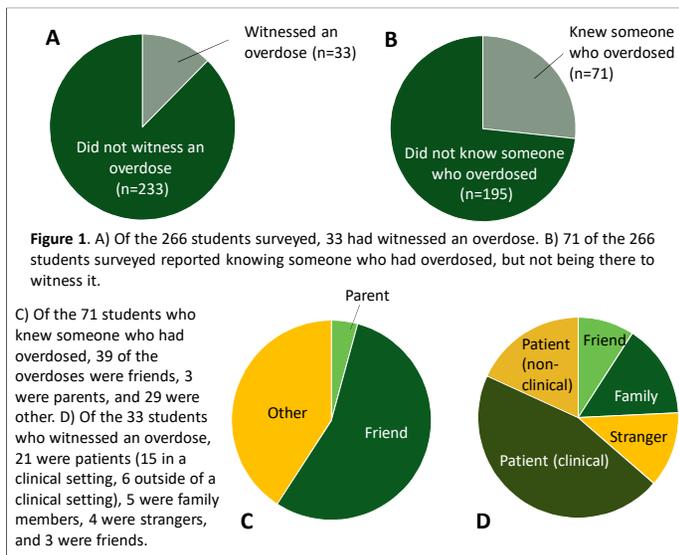
### Objective

Determine whether personal experience with opioid overdose influences knowledge of and attitudes towards patients with SUDs

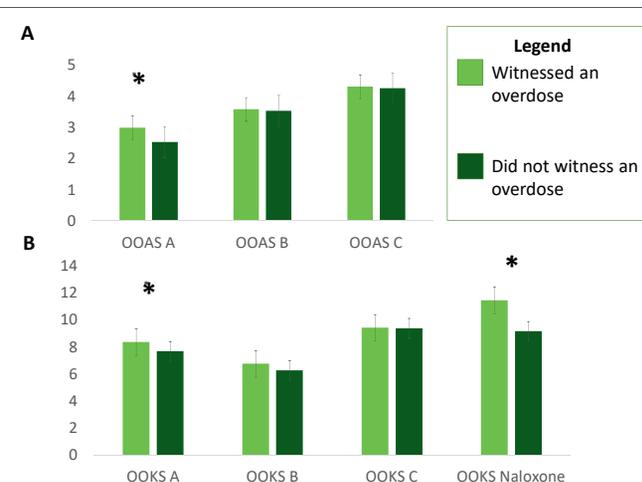
## METHODS



## RESULTS



## RESULTS



**Figure 2.** A) Students who had witnessed an overdose reported feeling more competent in their ability to help in an overdose situation (OOAS A) than students who did not witness an overdose. They did not report increased readiness (OOAS C) or fewer concerns about intervening (OOAS B). B) Students who had witnessed an overdose had greater knowledge of opioid overdose risk factors (OOKS A) and naloxone (OOKS Naloxone).

## CONCLUSIONS

- Students who witnessed an overdose were more knowledgeable about overdose risk factors and naloxone use compared to students who had not
- Students who witnessed an overdose reported feeling more confident in their ability to help in an overdose situation than students who had not witnessed an overdose
- Students who had witnessed an overdose were more likely to attend naloxone training than students who did not witness an overdose (21.2% vs. 6.0%;  $\chi^2=7.22$ ,  $p=0.007$ )
- Most students who witnessed an overdose did so in a clinical setting, highlighting the importance of clinical experience in developing a standardized curriculum for substance use disorder treatment and prevention for medical students

### References

Tobin H, Klimas J, Barry T, Egan M, Bury G. Opiate use disorders and overdose: Medical students' experiences, satisfaction with learning, and attitudes toward community naloxone provision. *Addict Behav.* 2018 Nov;86:61-65. doi: 10.1016/j.addbeh.2017.11.028. Epub 2017 Nov 22. PMID: 29198489.

Tabitha E. Moses, May Chammas, Rafael Ramos, Eva Wainee & Mark K. Greenwald (2020) Incoming medical students' knowledge of and attitudes toward people with substance use disorders: Implications for curricular training, *Substance Abuse*, DOI: 10.1080/08970777.2020.1843104

Morreale, M.K., Balon, R., Aggarwal, R. *et al.* Substance Use Disorders Education: Are We Heeding the Call?. *Acad Psychiatry* 44, 119–121 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40596-020-01204-1>