

Appendix 7: Public Input Insights

Training

While our recommendations did not address training, those who participated in the public input consultation sessions reported that it was an important topic to consider. Participants reported that the following points are important considerations when developing training for THN programs:

- People who use drugs need to be included in the development of training
- Training should be standardized across the country so that there are not significant differences in overdose response depending on where you are
- Indigenous communities should be included in the development of training
- Overdose response should be taught in a way that doesn't exclude those with darker skin tones (for example: teaching that lips turn blue in an overdose prevents responders from assessing the health status of people with darker skin)
- Training should emphasize issues of consent. There were reports of people administering naloxone to those who were verbally declining suggesting both issues with respect of bodily autonomy as well as an understanding of when naloxone is needed
- Training should take into account the knowledge and skillset of the individual. Obligatory minimum length of training is a barrier to participation of experienced responders
- More education on how to prevent precipitating overdose should be offered
- More training should be offered on aftercare both for the person experiencing overdose and for the responder. People experiencing overdose need kind and calm support
- Training should occur using the equipment that will be available in the field (specifically breathing masks)
- Separate training should be provided for basic and advanced overdose response. Basic training can focus on speed while advanced training can incorporate concepts like naloxone titration
- People should be financially compensated for participating in training. They act as first responders and training interferes with their ability to earn money through other avenues
- Youth should be engaged in naloxone education

Accessibility of Naloxone

Some jurisdictions reported regularly running out of naloxone for extended periods. In some areas the number of kits that a person can pick up is limited. Participants in rural communities reported extreme stigma when picking up naloxone and some agencies reportedly throw away naloxone since they do not support harm reduction. While many public input participants supported our recommendations, they also expressed that availability of naloxone needs to be improved in Canada.