



## The Naloxone Program – Backgrounder

In response to a growing number of opioid overdose deaths in this region, the Middlesex-London Health Unit, Regional HIV/AIDS Connection, London InterCommunity Health Centre and the London Area Network of Substance Users partnered to develop an opioid overdose prevention program. The partnership's intention is to reduce the number of opioid-related deaths in London and Middlesex County.

Community naloxone distribution has been a central component of opioid overdose prevention programs in many communities around the world where overdose-related deaths occur. Such deaths often occur when someone overdoses while they are alone, or when those present don't know how to respond, or are reluctant to call 911. These programs provide individuals who are at risk of opioid overdose with basic lifesaving skills, including how to administer a medication called naloxone when someone has overdosed. Following instruction, trainees are provided with a pocket-sized overdose prevention kit which includes two ampoules (containers) of naloxone, syringes, instructions for administering the naloxone, and a training certificate. The importance of calling 911 for all overdoses is stressed during the training. Since community naloxone distribution programs started, the lives of thousands of opioid overdose victims have been saved.

London and Middlesex County's opioid overdose prevention program, called simply The Naloxone Program, will be operated by the partnership. Training and education will be provided at several locations operated by the Middlesex-London Health Unit, Regional HIV/AIDS Connection and the London InterCommunity Health Centre.

### Resources

- Community-Based Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs Providing Naloxone — United States, 2010. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, February 17, 2012 / 61(06); 101-105.
- Evaluation of the Take Home Naloxone Demonstration Project. Professor Trevor Bennett and Dr Katy Holloway/ Centre for Criminology, University of Glamorgan. Welsh Assembly Government Social Research, 2011
- Stopping Overdose: Peer-Based Distribution of Naloxone. Roxanne Saucier, Open Society Foundations Public Health Program. March 2011