

# Healthcare Providers and Patients Perceptions of Narcan Kit Administration in the Emergency Department Setting

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## Purpose

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study was to identify patients and providers perceptions of Narcan kit administration and the adequacy of education to address this healthcare crisis.

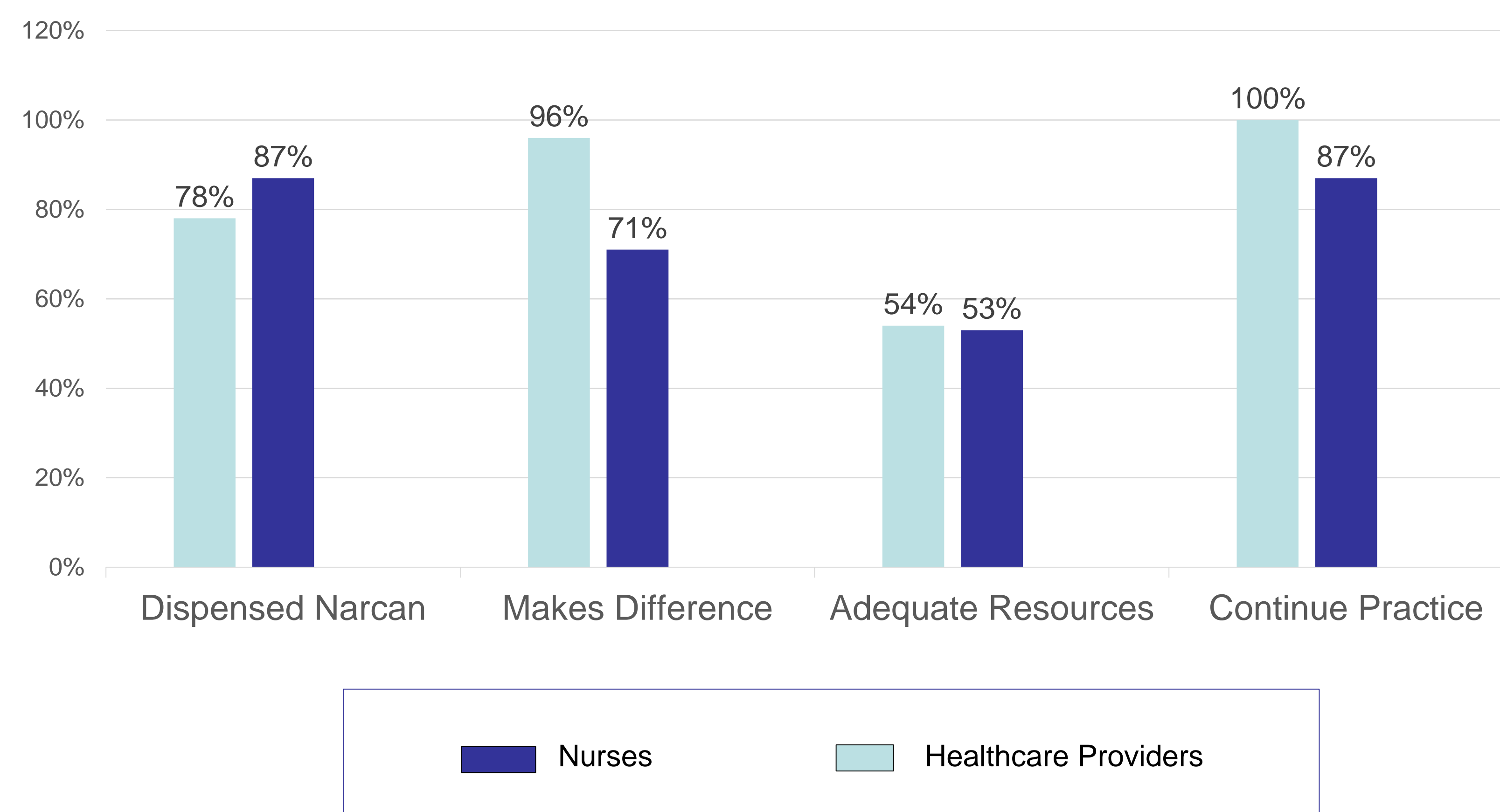
## Background

- A significant number of patients seen in the Emergency Department (ED) are at risk for opioid overdose and the ED is an ideal location for interventions to address this healthcare crisis (Ellison et al., 2016).
- Research suggests that while providers support Narcan prescription and feel it is a good public health action to address accidental overdoses, there are many concerns related to this treatment (Dwyer et al., 2015; Green et al., 2013; Neale & Strang, 2015).
- Main concerns included:
  - Need for proper education such as overdose prevention, limited duration of Narcan, the need to call 911.
  - Availability of Narcan allows for riskier drug use and should not be the emphasis of treatment and follow up in the community is necessary.

## Methods

The study utilized a mixed-methods approach. The study was approved by the Partner's Healthcare IRB. Seventy percent of the healthcare providers (MD's & PA's) and 38% of the nurses and nurse practitioners working in the ED at Brigham & Women's Faulkner Hospital (BWFH) completed the survey. Ten patients who had received a Narcan kit responded to their survey.

## Results: Healthcare Provider & Nurses Perceptions



## Results: Patients Perceptions

- ❖ First time overdosing: 33% yes
- ❖ Given Narcan before: 67% yes
- ❖ Given Narcan kit before: 50% yes
- ❖ Enough education: 83% yes
- ❖ Enough resources: 100% yes
- ❖ Sold Narcan kit: 17% yes
- ❖ Feel safer using: 50% yes

## Discussion

- Healthcare providers & nurses felt that this practice prevents accidental overdoses, saves lives, harm prevention, and have seen it work.
- Healthcare providers and nurses felt that more education and resources for the patients need to be developed, as well as better access to rehabilitation facilities, referral and follow-up, additional detox beds at BWFH, increased interdisciplinary involvement, and more outpatient programs.
- The nurses had reluctance for dispensing Narcan kits for the following reasons: patients and visitors not always interested, kits are being sold, free medications for other diseases should be dispensed, supporting bad habits, and it does not control the overdoses.
- Limitations: Small sample size for patients; not enough study staff to cover all shifts.

## Conclusion

Providing Narcan kits in the ED is a practice that needs to be continued. Further education and resources for patients were developed. Narcan kits are more readily available in the community. Similar to the literature, patients did report that receiving Narcan kits made them feel safer to use heroin.