

## **Overdose prevention through harm reduction for rural areas**

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**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** This poster is geared towards providers, pharmacists, administrators, and policy makers in rural areas who may interact with people who inject drugs (PWID). The goal of this poster is to educate these professionals and encourage them to assist PWID with o

**ABSTRACT:** PWID in rural areas face barriers to harm reduction programs that provide access to overdose prevention. They often have limited financial means and difficulty traveling to access medical care, as well as a greater risk of death during overdose due to slower emergency response times. Naloxone is an opiate reversal agent that blocks the effects of opiates in the central nervous system, and can save a person from an opiate overdose. In 2016 the Oregon Board of Pharmacy permanently ruled that individuals who complete OHA approved training may administer Naloxone to an individual experiencing an opiate overdose. This lead to HIV Alliance training individuals to administer Naloxone through our harm reduction program. Our poster will explain how harm reduction works, demonstrate a need by showing the number of PWID who have to travel for our services, the number of overdoses our clients have witnessed, the number of overdoses reversed since the beginning of our Naloxone program, and information about the number of growing overdose deaths in Oregon. In addition there will be information about the challenges harm reduction faces in rural areas.

### **OBJECTIVE(S):**

- Describe how naloxone works to reverse opioid overdose
- Identify the challenges PWID face when accessing harm reduction and overdose prevention programs in rural areas

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