

Initiating Naloxone Distribution: *Lessons from the first program*



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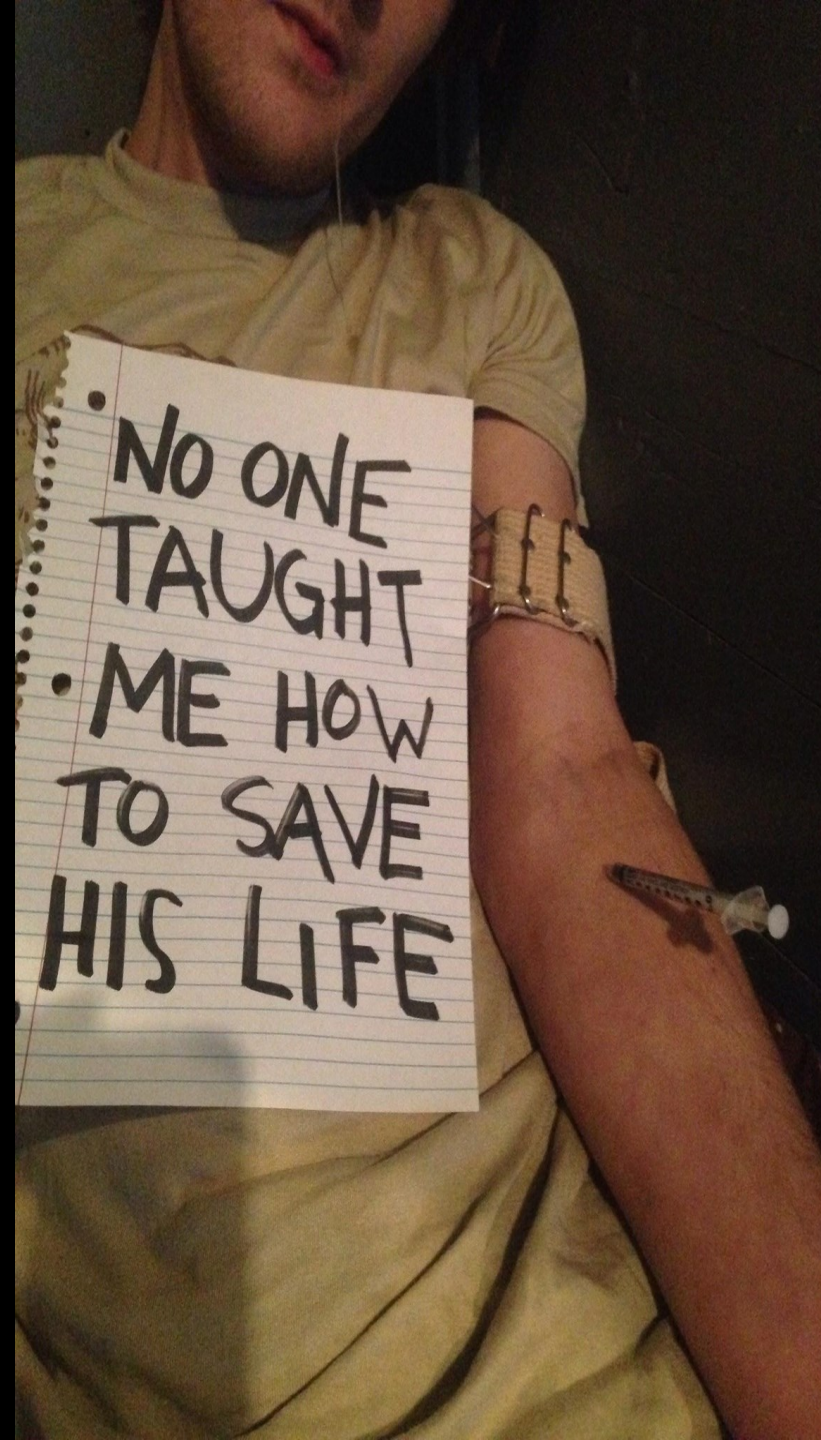
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The Context...



Even more context...

I'm thinkin', 'Oh, my god, I'm going to jail. Oh, my god, my friend's gonna die.' Stuff like that.

I'm worried about him, I don't want him to die, but yet I'm looking at the legal aspect. I got, like, 20 bags of dope in the car. I don't want to go to jail.



**Low-threshold
Participant-centered
Integrated since 1991**

Overdose Prevention at CRA: The Beginning; 1995-1996

The Inspiration



The Trailblazer

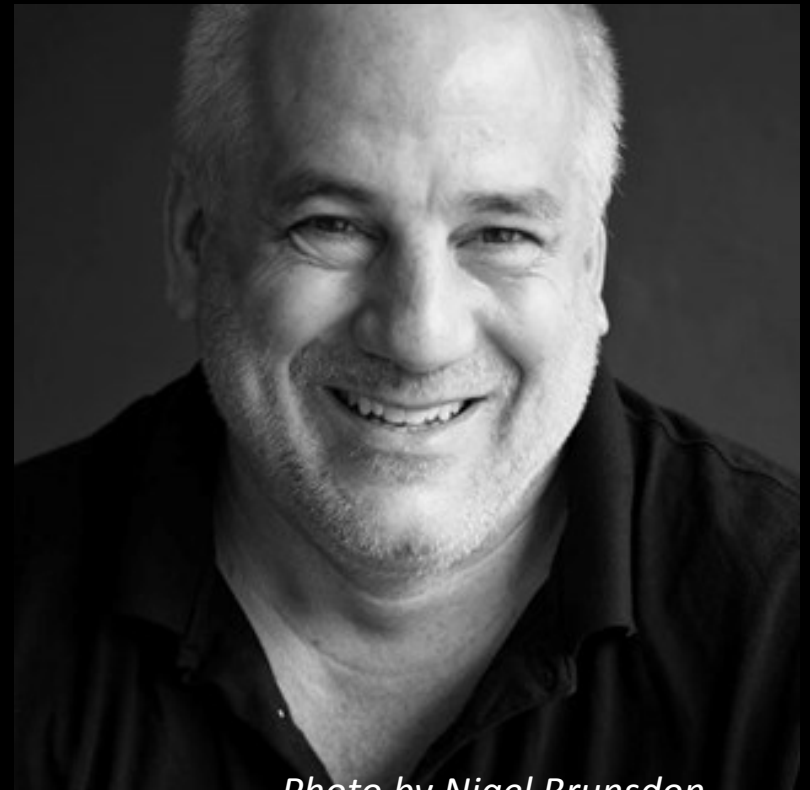


Photo by Nigel Brunson

- Overdose rates began to rise
- An informal survey of CRA participants found they witnessed an average of 3 opiate overdose events, one of them fatal





Focus Groups:
Participant Genius in Action

The Early Years



- Focused on the welfare of...
- Centered on an intensive training
- Did not operate 'outside the law'
- Established medical precedent: IM Glucagon & IM Epinephrine

Motivation for positive change



- Successful reversals
- Ease of use
- Early DPA Conference – reached ~ 100 people
- Published literature – Burris et al 2001

Photo credit: Nigel Brunson

The Rollout

- All CRA operatives trained to dispense naloxone and educate participants
- Standing orders initiated 2001
- Model and materials shared widely



Tools for Dissemination



about naloxone:

- is **not** a Scheduled Drug – it has no potential for abuse
- can cause withdrawal in a person with a habit
- withdrawal can harm someone
- more than one shot may be needed to stop overdose
- overdose may return when naloxone wears off (about one hour)

about

Naloxone is a medication prescribed for the reversal of opiate intoxication. The person possessing naloxone has been trained in its safe usage and has demonstrated competency in managing opiate/heroin overdose situations.

This program is designed to reduce the nearly 500 opiate-related overdose deaths in Chicagoland each year. Your cooperation is appreciated.

things to do in recognizing and responding to an opiate/heroin overdose using naloxone

is also called Narcan®

is a pure antidote to opiates including heroin – it reverses the effects of heroin for about an hour

does not eliminate heroin








has no effects of its own using it without having opiates in you is like injecting water.

For more information, please contact:

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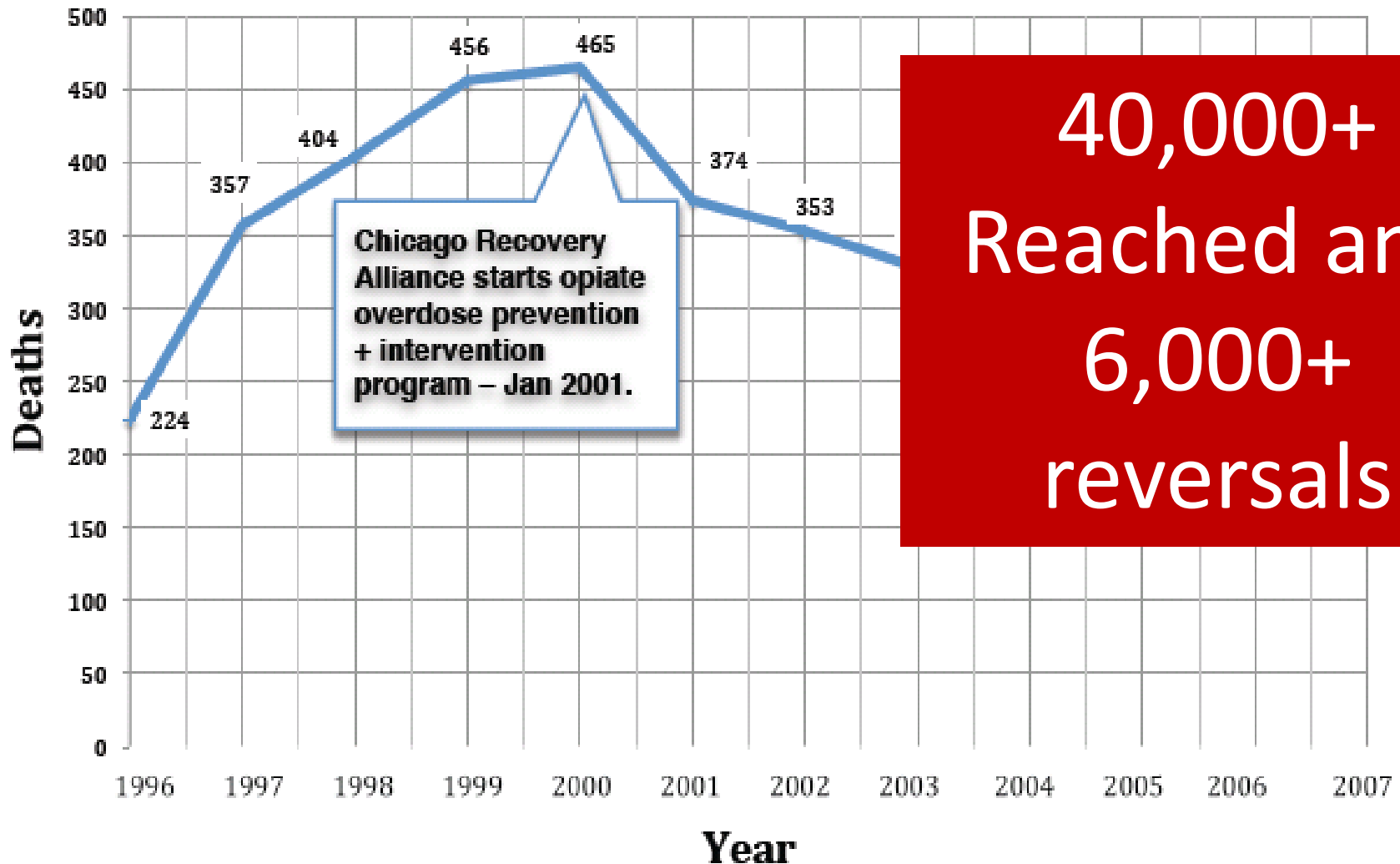
things to do with an opiate/heroin overdose

-  **Stimulation**
can they be awakened?
-  **Call for help**
if the person is not responsive
-  **Airway**
make sure nothing is inside the person's mouth stopping the breathing
-  **Rescue breathing**
breathe for them – two quick breaths every five seconds
-  **Evaluate**
are they any better? can you get naloxone and prepare it quick enough that they won't go for too long without your breathing assistance?
-  **Muscular injection**
inject 1cc of naloxone into a muscle
-  **Evaluate+support**
is the person breathing on their own?
is another dose of naloxone needed?
Naloxone wears off in 30-90 minutes.
Seek help and comfort him/her so he/she will not use any more drug until the naloxone wears off.



Heroin-related Overdose Deaths in Cook County 1996 - 2007

Source: Cook County Medical Examiner's Office



If you build it, they will come.

Naloxone Overdose Reversal Kit



Legally distributed-
under Illinois Statute

20 ILCS 301/5-23



1996

\$1.60

Primary Challenge:

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2008 Hospira

CRA's Annual Naloxone Costs at Direct-from-Manufacturer pricing?

Current Cost to Consumers at Walgreens?

Occasional Shortages



Pfizer
acquires
Hospira

System-Level Challenges

- Still largely in the realm of lay people and renegade physicians!
- Physicians not empowered to provide evidence-based care (PDMPs, targeting, etc.)
- Overdose missing from provider-patient dialogue
- Pharmacy Cost / Access
- OTC?
- Co-prescription?

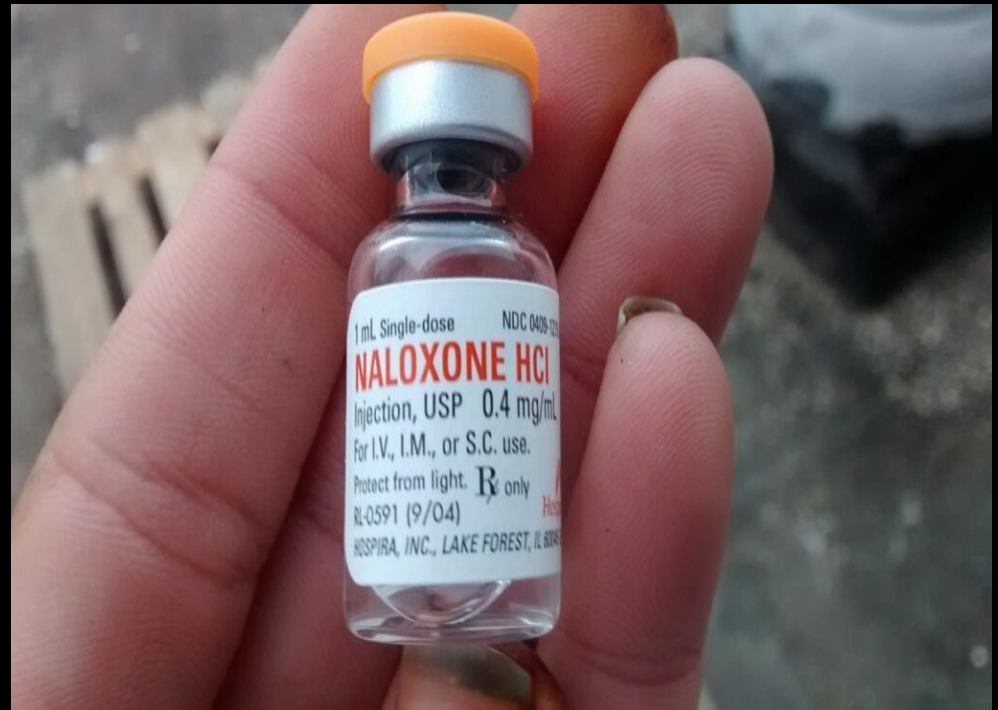
Take Home Message #1

Removal of
Moralizing and
Institutionalized
Fear



Take Home Message #2

Work toward
system level
change, but don't
wait for it to
happen! (what
John Strang said)



"There is nowhere else that I can get this and I have used it to save someone's life- that's important."

Take Home Message #3

Use Funding
Wisely...
Rank Priority
Groups



"This has helped me when I've been ODing and I have used it with other people. I want to live so that I can keep playing my music and live a long life."



Take Home Message #4

Lifesaving
Empowerment
at Home

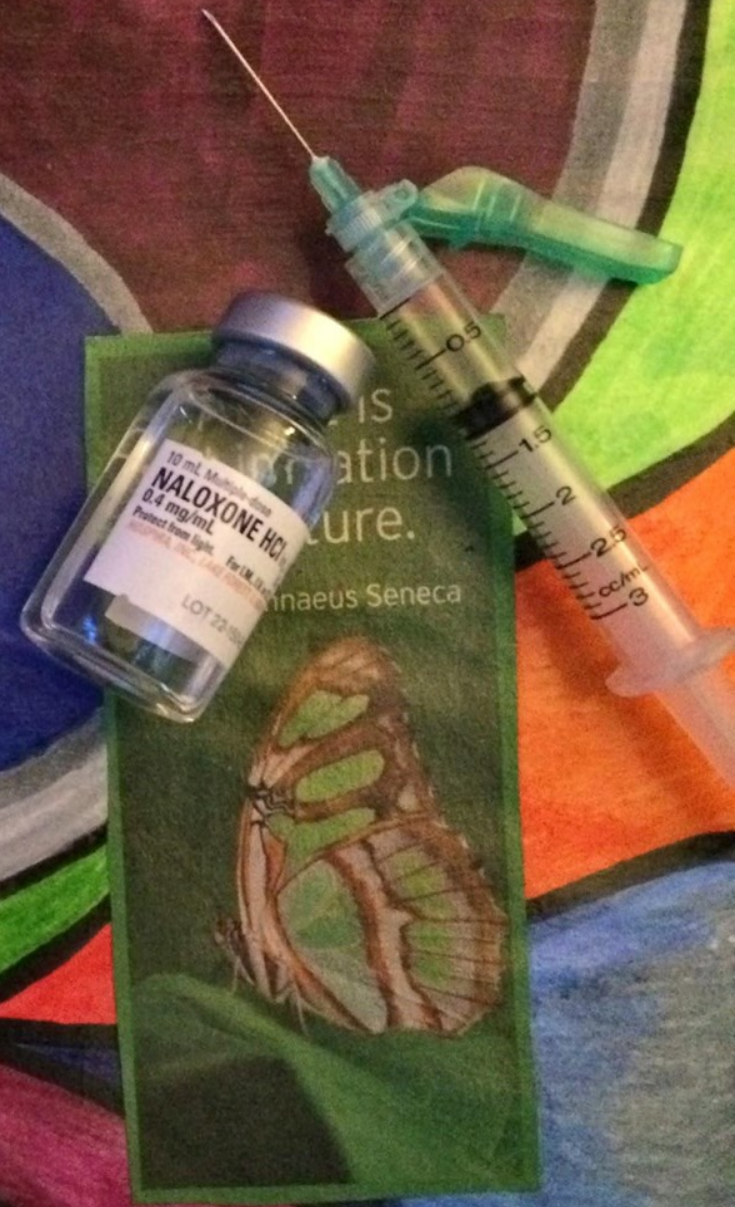
Take Home Message #5

Keep it Simple
(Everything)



IN SHORT...

Value life over
abstinence



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