

Overdose Detection Sensors Acceptability Among Commercial and Nonprofit Organizations in Rhode Island

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- Ju Park, PhD
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► Collaborators

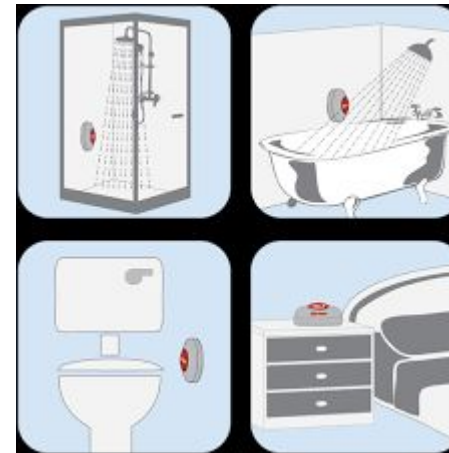
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Background: Bathroom Sensors

- ▶ Solitary use is responsible for majority of overdose deaths
- ▶ Overdose is 100% reversible if a responder issues naloxone in time
- ▶ Developed by the Brave Co-op from Vancouver, Canada
- ▶ Detects absence of micro movements (respiratory distress)
- ▶ Designed for single occupancy bathrooms
- ▶ Alerts via text or phone call to a designated responder once an absence of movement is detected
- ▶ Facilitates quicker response times to reverse effects of overdose

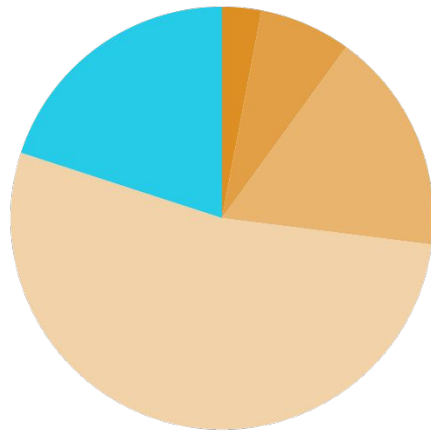


Methods

- ▶ **100 surveys completed** since January 2023
- ▶ Surveys generally took **15-20 minutes** to complete
- ▶ Those who completed surveys were reimbursed with **\$20 cash**
- ▶ Surveyed in overdose hotspots across **8 townships**
- ▶ Categories of sites approached were **any public indoor space where overdose may occur** which included but not limited to: food service, housing/medical facilities, retail establishments, gas/service stations
- ▶ Survey topics: feasibility, acceptability, and perceived effectiveness

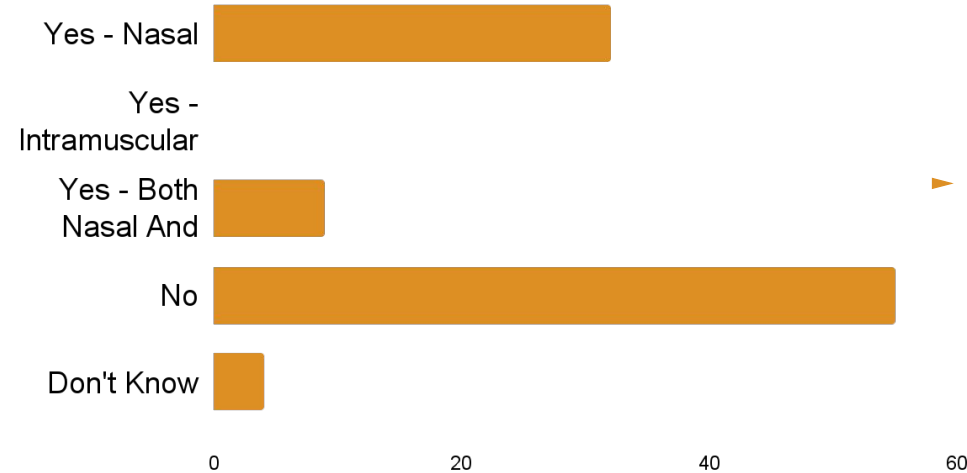
Results

Comfortability With Installation



● Strongly Disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree nor disagree
● Agree ● Strongly Agree

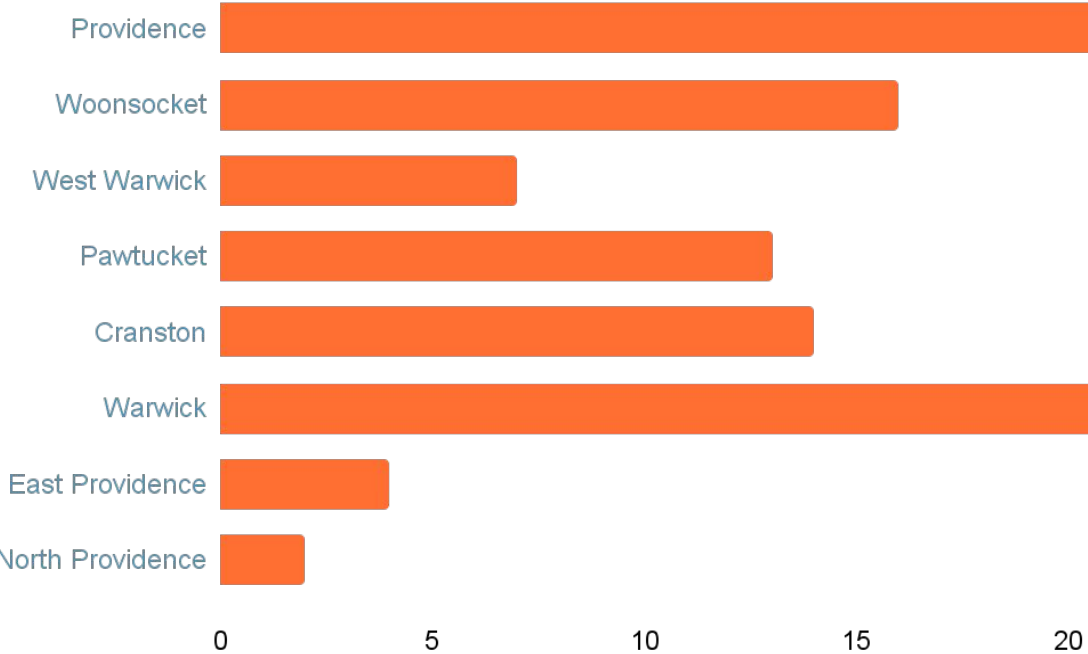
Narcan Availability



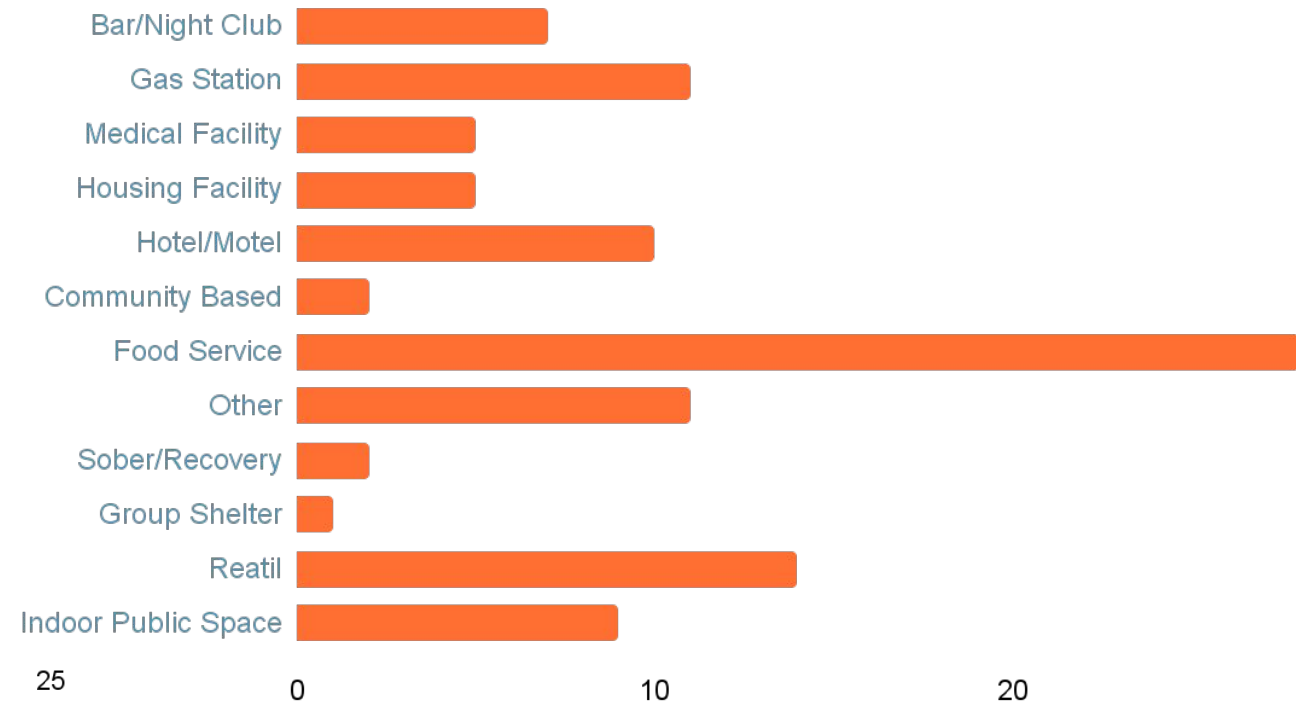
- ▶ **66% of respondents agreed that sensors could be effective at preventing overdose death at their site.**
- ▶ **63% reported having no standardized procedures in place to respond to an overdose on site outside of naloxone.**
- ▶ **57% expressed interest in being considered for a pilot of devices at their site.**

Results: Demographics

Townships



Site Type



Diversity Equity and Inclusion

Our surveys have targeted areas in the state of Rhode Island where drug overdose rates have been recorded to be significant hotspots for this activity. These neighborhoods that have been affected the most are also communities predominantly comprised of people of color. Our work in addressing the issue of overdoses in these communities can hopefully help bring equity for substance use health care and harm reduction practices.

Conclusion and Next Steps

- ▶ OD tech are welcomed at most locations **(73%)**
- ▶ The sensors should be paired with naloxone training and distribution to maximize effect
- ▶ Most organizations **do not have staff trained** in OD detection, training is needed
- ▶ Currently have a clinic interested to investigate adoption in clinical settings
- ▶ We will be shifting to administering **100** similar surveys to people who use drugs to ask about the sensors

Thank you!

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