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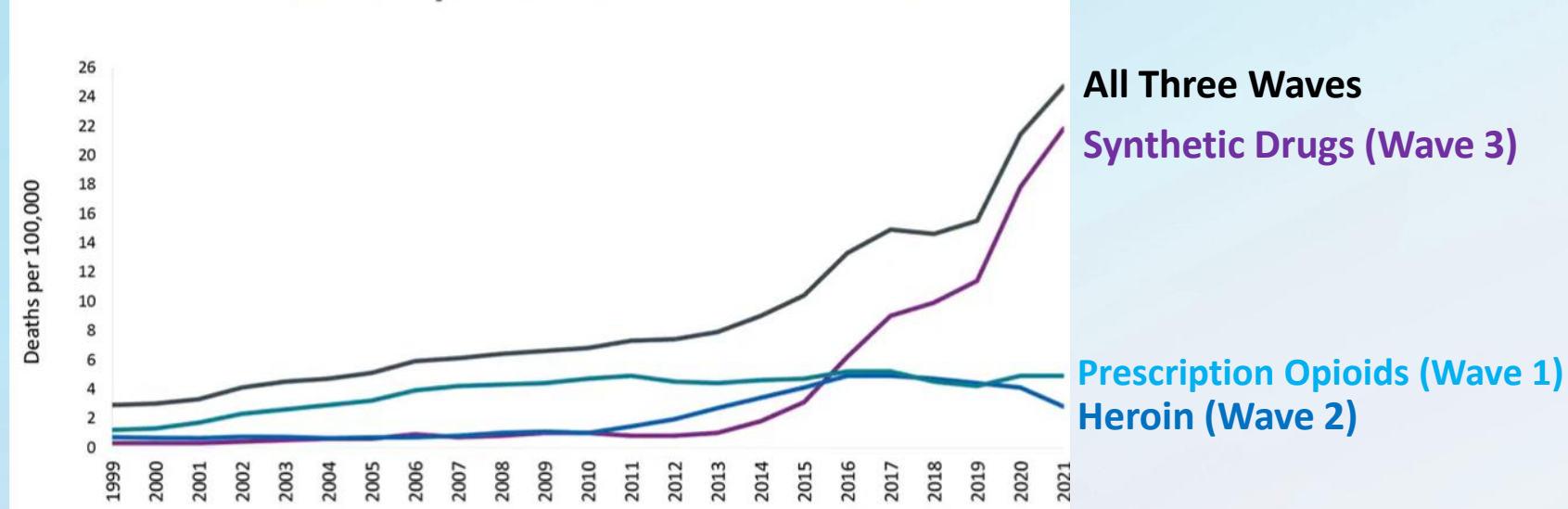
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# Getting Narcan to Post-Partum Patients with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) at Time of Discharge

## Introduction & Objective

- Narcan is a medication that can prevent and reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when administered and has a 93% success rate.
- Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) is working to provide Narcan to postpartum patients with opioid use disorders (OUDs) before their discharge.
- Since the turn of the century, the number of people who suffer and die from OUDs has risen dramatically. From 1999 to 2021, 645,000 people died from opioid overdoses and 75% of all drug overdoses in 2022 were from opioids.

### Three Waves of Opioid Overdose Deaths



- Opioids have also begun affecting an increasing number of pregnant and postpartum patients. From 2010 to 2017, the number of pregnant people with opioid-related diagnoses at delivery increased by 131%. In 2018, accidental poisonings were responsible for 51% of PA maternal deaths.
- This shows that OUDs are a major issue among postpartum patients and why it is essential to get Narcan to them at discharge.

## Methods

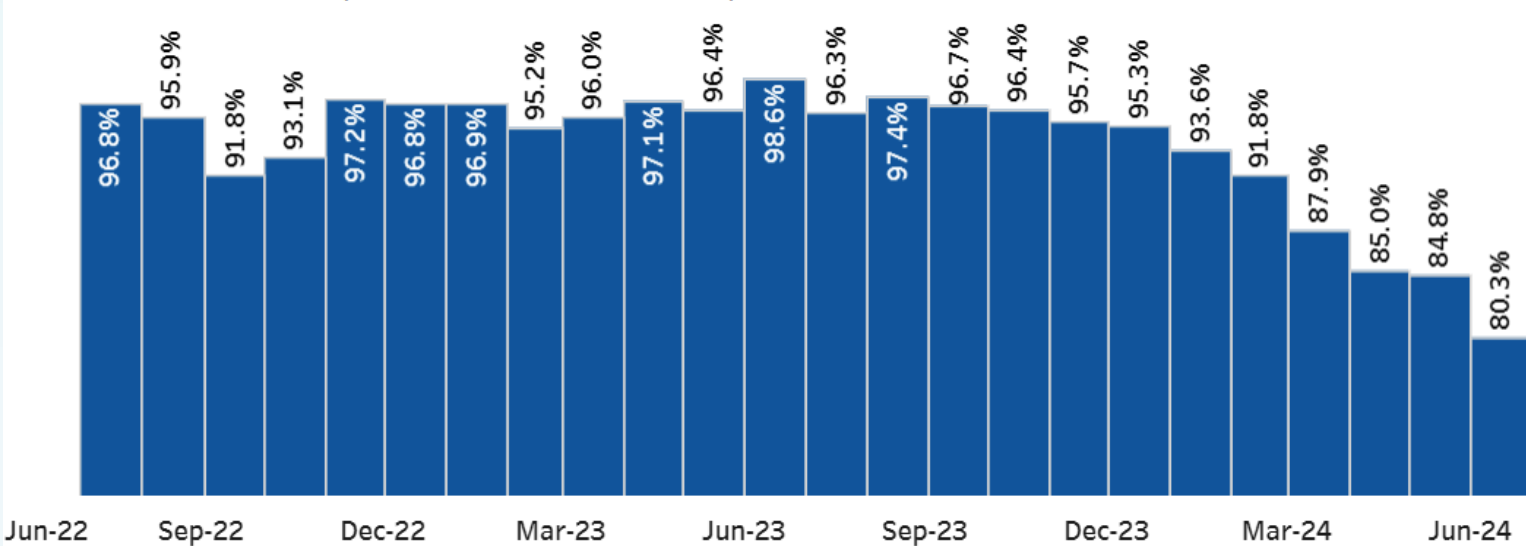
- Identify** the issues with getting Narcan to postpartum patients at discharge from different sources
- Analyze** LVHN data and current procedures to determine what is already working and what can be improved at LVHN
- Develop** potential solutions to increase the rate of patients leaving with Narcan and lower the number of preventable deaths

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## Results

- Narcan is an over-the-counter product meaning that it is not covered by many insurances and costs \$45 per kit from online retailers.
- To get Narcan to patients at discharge, the current protocol is to provide a single spray for free if Narcan is not covered by their insurance. It would then be billed under the LVHN Naloxone fund which runs through the rest of 2024.
- This becomes an issue in 2025 for getting Narcan to patients at discharge as one prescribed kit costs \$144.
- Another important step is to develop formal Narcan education processes as none currently exists within LVHN.
- Staff should be educated on the importance and process of getting Narcan to patients. LVHN should also develop a script to explain to patients Narcan's lifesaving abilities and how to administer it.
- The necessity for instituting new education processes is demonstrated on the Prenatal Education graph from the Prenatal Substance Abuse Dashboard.
- There should be a new field for all OUD patients which marks if they were offered Narcan and if they accepted it.
- If they do not accept, note the reasoning to offer it at follow-up visits.
- LVHN can then keep track of who has received Narcan and prevent overdoses.
- LVHN can give QR code stickers with Narcan information on them, which will be helpful for getting Narcan education to patient's loved ones who may need to administer it during an overdose.

### Prenatal Education (Based on Episode Start Date)



- Graph of prenatal education statistics from June 2022 to June 2024 from the Prenatal Substance Abuse Dashboard

## Next Steps

- There is still much work to be done to fully develop and conceivably incorporate these ideas into LVHN's current system.
- Getting 2025 funding for Narcan is also essential. Much work has been done towards this goal, with a meeting scheduled for August to discuss the issue.

## Conclusion

- Opioid overdose deaths, especially among postpartum patients, are extremely high without any signs of significant decline.
- It is important to get Narcan to patients with OUD at discharge to ensure their survival if they overdose.
- While LVHN has made many steps to get people Narcan, there is still much work to be done.

Narcan Instructions:



References:

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