

# “Like just another prescription”: Barriers and Facilitators to Community Pharmacy Based Naloxone and Non-Prescription Syringe Access”

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## RESPOND TO PREVENT

- Respond to Prevent (R2P) is a four-state randomized control trial funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).
- R2P was implemented in two large pharmacy chains in **176 sites** in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Washington.
- The goals of R2P was to improve a wide range of public health approaches that include **naloxone dispensing, syringe safety and prescribing buprenorphine**.

## PURPOSE of this study

- To understand the experiences of people purchasing naloxone & non-prescription syringes at participating R2P pharmacies, and to identify barriers & facilitators to access.

## METHODS

- **Purposive Sampling.** Participants recruited November 2020 to November 2021.
- **Data Collection.** 32 interviews conducted immediately following participant pharmacy visit to ask about their experiences purchasing naloxone and syringes.
- **Thematic analysis.** Six-step iterative process: (1) data immersion; (2) codebook development; (3) testing the reliability of codes; (4) coding all data; (5) connecting codes and identifying themes; (6) validating themes

## RESULTS

- Patients utilized naloxone signage and reinforced the need to **advertise naloxone onsite**.
- Participants appreciated when staff were professional and **treated them with respect**.
- Patients valued a **positive initial touchpoint** with pharmacy staff.
- Patients appreciated when the pharmacist **tailored** their naloxone counseling sessions and **created space** for questions
- **Remaining challenges included:** structural barriers, lack of visible materials, disrespect by and inadequate knowledge and support from some pharmacy staff.

## Patient Perspectives

“You know, what surprised me was the pleasantry, actually. What surprised me was that I wasn’t looked at funny. That I wasn’t double talked. Like, what did you say? I wasn’t treated like that. ...And I felt very comfortable. I think they [pharmacy staff] handled that part very well.”  
– *Massachusetts participant*

“The counseling afterwards, it was straightforward, spot on. It was direct. She knew what she was doing, that’s for sure. And the awareness that she gave me on it actually gave me more information than what I already knew about the drug. The counseling or training was actually only about 10 minutes long. It was very direct and straightforward. She asked me few questions about what she had told me. And whenever I replied back to her, she was very happy at the fact that I was able to speak back to her what she had told me. And she was confident that I’d be able to do what I needed to do with it.”  
– *Oregon participant*

## Questions?

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