

# THE COLUMBUS-ATHENS SCHWEITZER FELLOWS PROGRAM

Purpose: To facilitate service projects to benefit the Columbus and Athens communities, and simultaneously develop emerging professionals who have the skills to address unmet health-related needs throughout their careers.

**THE ALBERT SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIP**  
Addressing Health Disparities by Developing Leaders in Service

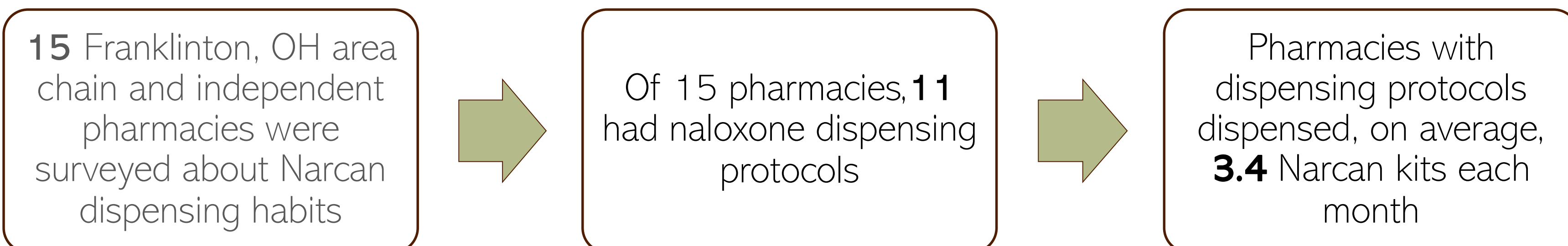
“Start early to instill in your students awareness that they are on this earth to help and serve others; that is as important to pass on to them as knowledge.”

—Albert Schweitzer, PhD, MD

## Access & Attitudes: Naloxone Utilization in Pharmacies

Community education to improve awareness of naloxone dispensing protocols in Columbus

### Preliminary Naloxone Utilization Data



### Background

- Unintended overdose is the leading cause of death in Ohio
- Naloxone can be acquired without a prescription for little to no cost at almost any local pharmacy
- The US Surgeon General advises *everyone* to carry naloxone

### Outreach

#### Target Population

- Family and friends of active drug users,
- People in recovery who may be at risk for relapse,
- Community members in affected neighborhoods,
- Healthcare providers

#### Educational Programming

- Why people should carry naloxone,
- Where and how to obtain naloxone,
- Where to dispose of unused prescription opioids,
- Overdose risk factors and warning signs.

#### Community Partners

- Equitas Health (pharmacies, dental clinics)
- Star House (homeless youth drop-in center)
- Columbus Public Health: Health Literacy Committee
- Ohio Reformatory for Women
- Huckleberry House (youth resource center)
- Land Grant Brewing

### Lessons Learned

#### Project Impact

- Reaching diverse community populations, from homeless youth to healthcare providers
- Participants reported increased likelihood of obtaining naloxone, or went home with naloxone that day
- Tapping into existing community resources

#### Engagement Challenges

- Un- or underinsured have diminished ability to obtain naloxone from pharmacies
- Diversifying community engagement leads to inconsistent programming and difficulty meeting varied needs of specific sites
- Indirect or anecdotal measures of success or quality

### Acknowledgements

We could not have implemented this project without the help and feedback of our academic mentor, **Jennifer Rodis**, our site mentors at Equitas Health, **Nick Saltsman** and **Phil Pauvlinch**, our community partner, **Sam Masters**, and all of the engaged members of our community!



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