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Non-fatal overdose amongst opiate users in Wales:

Review process and findings 2015-2017

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Aim and rationale

'Reduce the number of substance misuse related deaths and non-fatal drug/alcohol poisonings in Wales', measured specifically in relation to drugs by:

- i. Reduction in the number of substance misuse related deaths*
- ii. Decrease in hospital admissions for poisoning with drugs*

- Research to inform:

- Questionnaire (n=661) - Prevalence of non-fatal overdose^{1,2}
- Qualitative interviews³ (n=55 subset of above) – Nature and circumstance of overdose events – evidence from 107 overdose events

1. Holloway KB, Bennett TH and Hills B. Non-fatal overdose among opiate users in Wales: A national survey. *Journal of Substance Misuse*, 2016; 21(15): 471-477.

2. Bennett, T.H., Holloway, K., & Bird, S. (2014a). Does take-home naloxone reduce non-fatal overdose? *The Lancet*, 383, 124-125.

3. Holloway KB & Hills B. A Qualitative Study of Fatal and Non-fatal Overdose among Opiate Users in South Wales



Findings quantitative (N=661)

- 47% of respondents reported having OD'd at least once in their lives
- 15% had OD'd in the last year
- Of those that had overdosed:
 - Average no. ODs in last year = 2
 - 95% ODs accidental
 - 96% from injecting opiates
 - 66% of events ambulance was called
 - 40% of events naloxone administered
 - 27% of events CPR used

Can we plan based on this evidence?

If:

- Estimated 25,000 problematic opioid users in Wales⁴
- Of which 9,671 opioid PWID⁵ (in regular contact with NSP)
 - If 15% annual overdose - average 2 OD per annum
 - 66% ambulance/hospital then...
 - could expect around 1915 admissions per annum....

4. EMCDDA definition: 'Problem drug use' is defined by the EMCDDA as 'injecting drug use or long duration or regular use of opioids, cocaine and/or amphetamines'.

5. Public Health Wales. Harm Reduction Database Wales – Needle and Syringe Programme 2015-16. Available at:

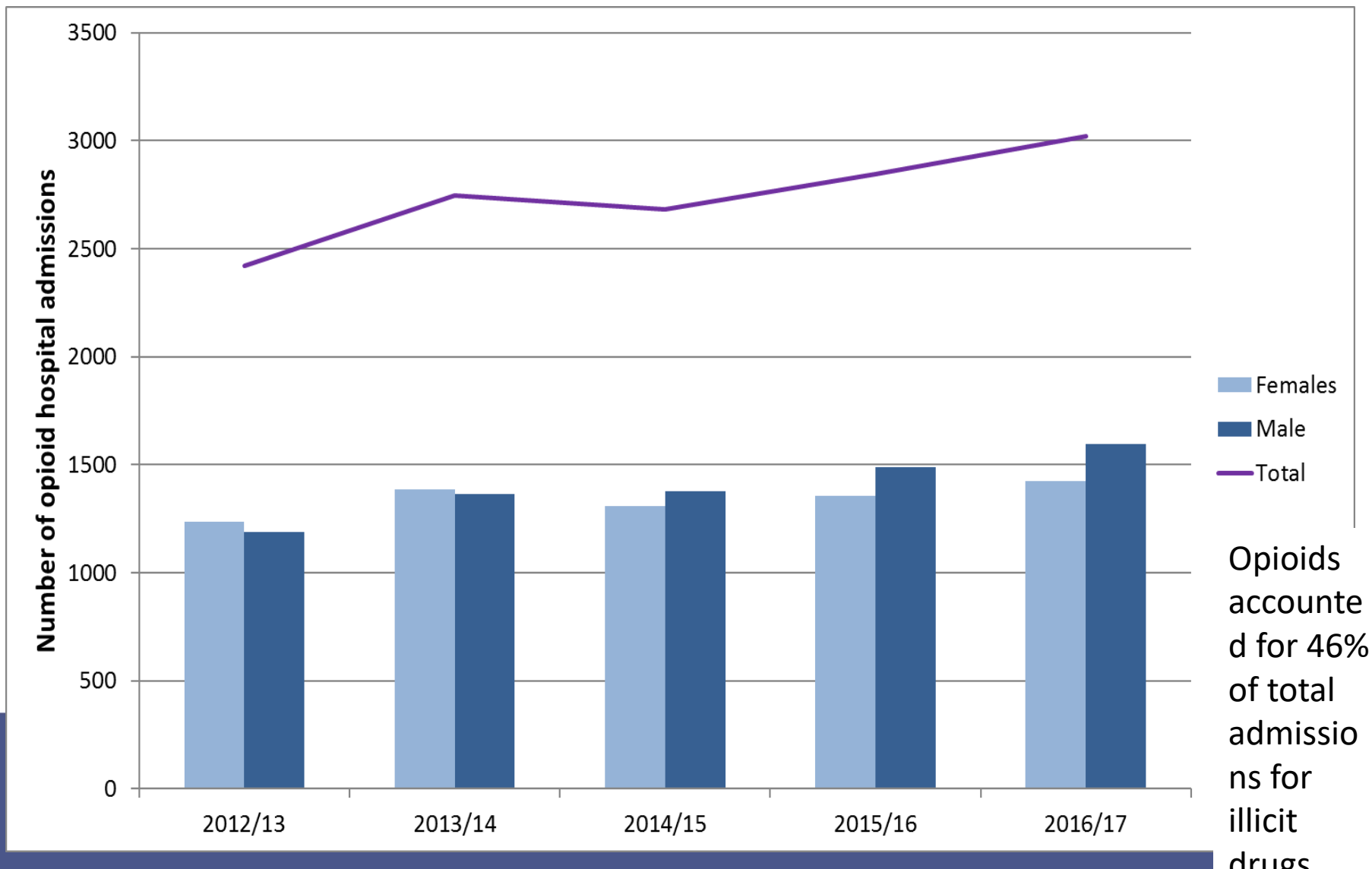
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/888/HRD%20Report%202015-16%20FINAL%20AMENDED%2028%20Dec1.pdf>



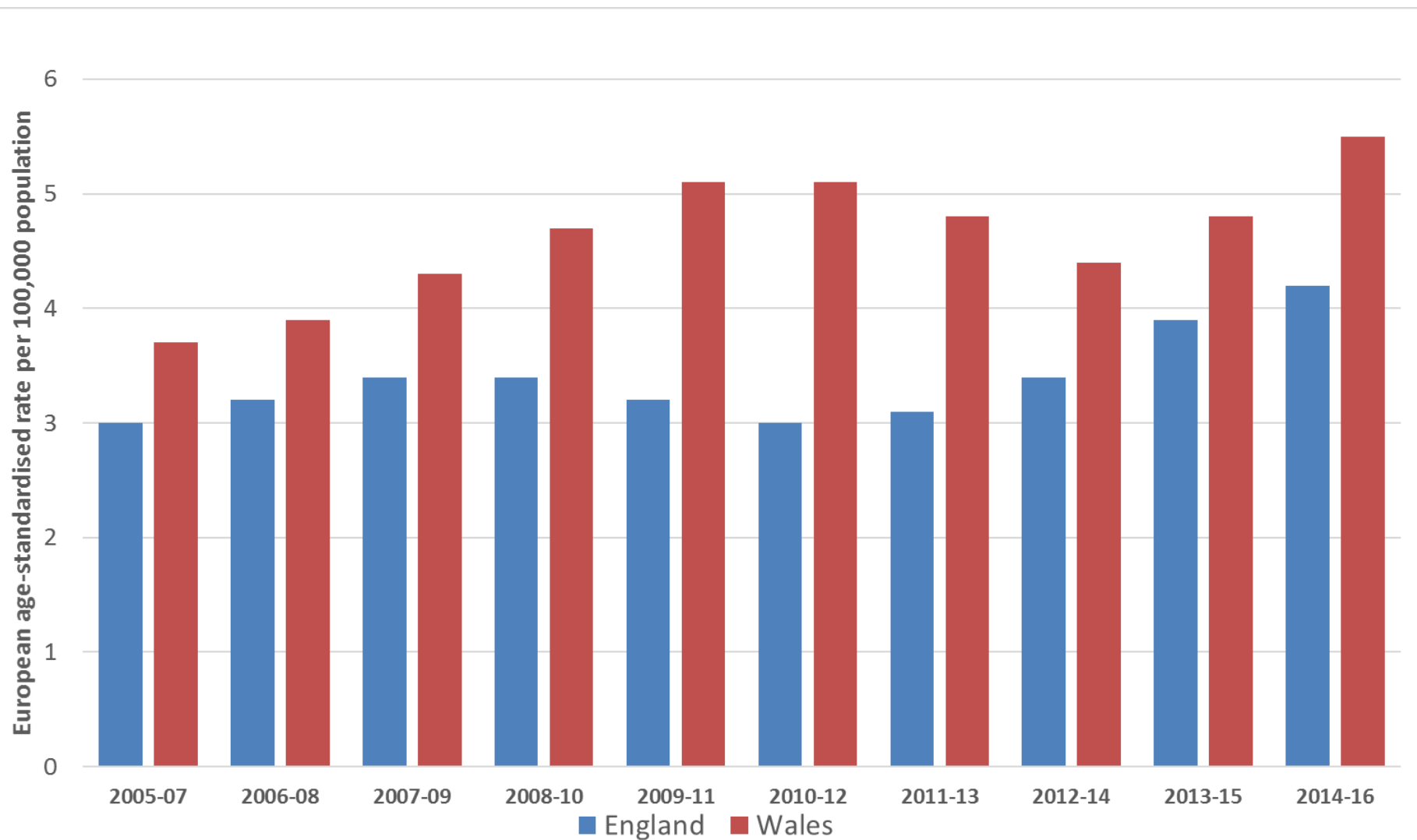
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Number of hospital admissions for opioid poisonings Wales 2012/13 to 2016/17

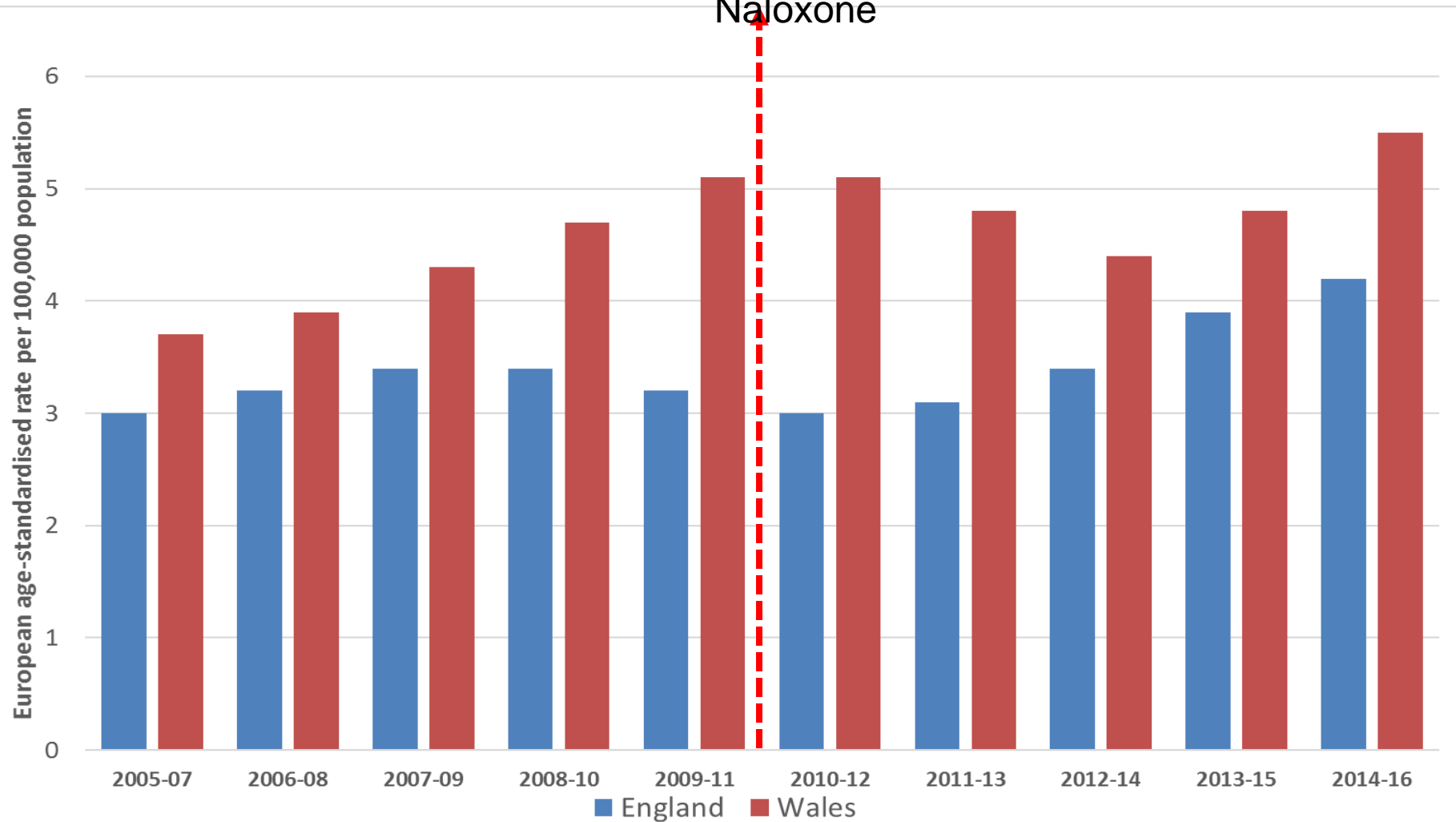


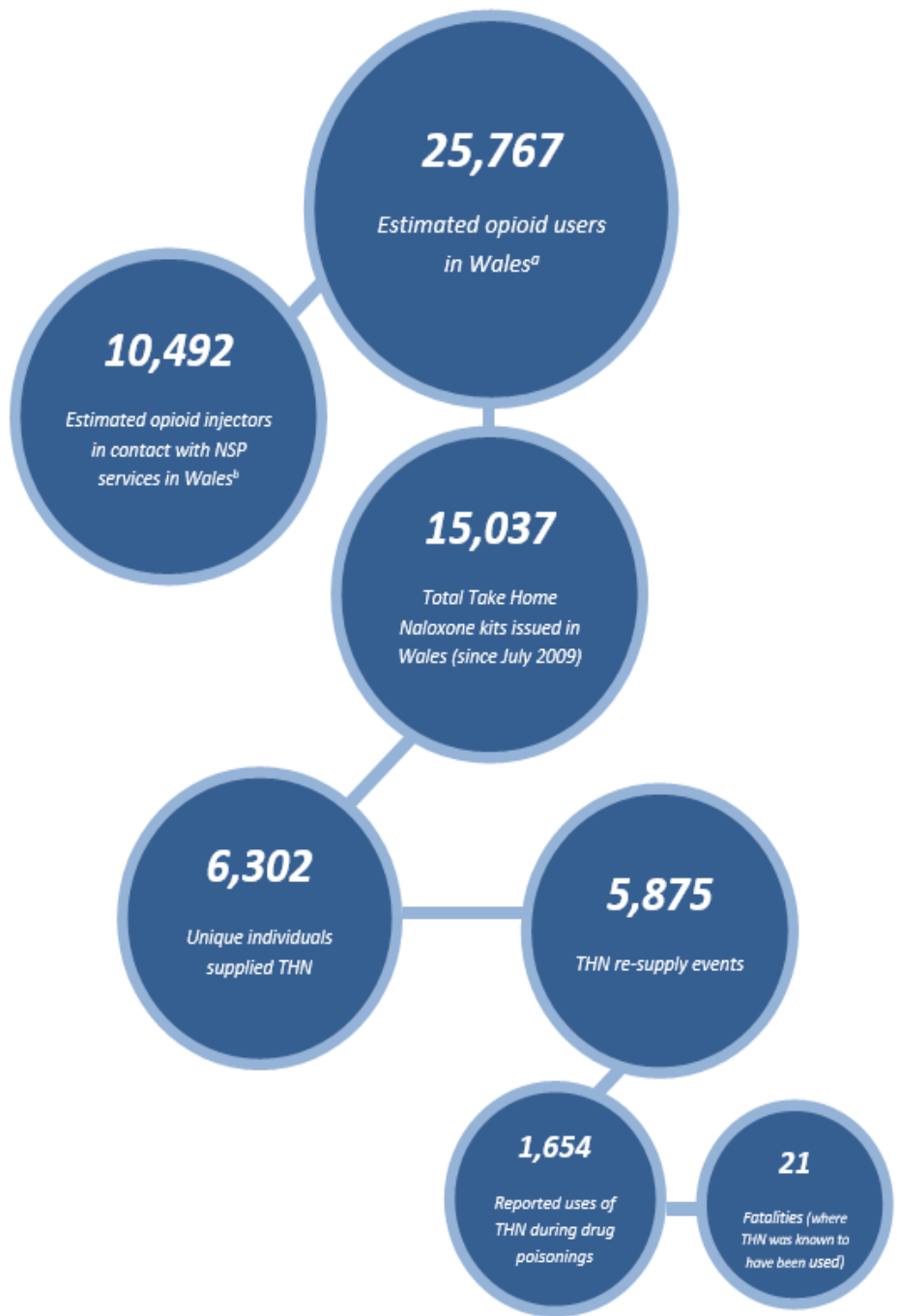
Fatal drug poisonings 2005-2016



Fatal drug poisonings

Full implementation of Take home Naloxone





- 40% increase in provision on previous year
- THN was reportedly used in 589 drug poisoning events during 2016-17
- Outcome was reported for 92%
- Fatalities occurred in less than 1 per cent of cases.
- If 1600 opioid non-fatal poisonings, coverage = 36.8%



Findings qualitative (N=55)

Characteristics:

82%	male
34	mean age (18-54)
100%	ever used heroin
95%	ever injected
71%	currently in treatment
78%	ever in prison

1. Holloway KR, Bennett TH and Hills R. Non-fatal overdose among opiate users in Wales: A national survey. *Journal of Substance Misuse*. 2016; 21 (5): 471-477

2. Bennett, T.H., Holloway, K., & Bird, S. (2014a). Does take-home naloxone reduce non-fatal overdose? *The Lancet*, 383, 124-125.

3. Holloway KR & Hills R. A Qualitative Study of Fatal and Non-fatal Overdose among Opiate Users in South Wales



Harm reduction and OD experience

Variable	N	%
THN training	43	78%
Ever had a THN kit	36	65%
Ever used THN kit	17	31%
Used THN kit multiple times	6	11%
Currently got a THN kit	20	36%
OD ever	44	80%
Multiple OD	36	65%
Witnessed OD	51	93%
Witnessed fatality	19	35%

1. Holloway KR, Bennett TH and Hills R. Non-fatal overdose among opiate users in Wales: A national survey. *Journal of Substance Misuse*. 2016; 21 (5): 471-477

2. Bennett, T.H., Holloway, K., & Bird, S. (2014a). Does take-home naloxone reduce non-fatal overdose? *The Lancet*, 383, 124-125.

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Process – non-fatal drug poisoning reviews

Wales Accord on the Sharing of Personal Information

Information Sharing Protocol for Reducing fatal and non-fatal drug related poisoning (Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend)

Version: Final Reviewed 2015

15 Appendix C – Overdose Information Response Sheet

NON-FATAL DRUG RELATED POISONING

RESPONSE SHEET

Name of individual (aliases if known)			Date of birth		
Address			Location of overdose		
Date of overdose	Substance/s used		No of previous reported overdoses if known		
	Substance/s at scene				
Naloxone Administered			By whom		
Living arrangements			Ethnicity		

Name of person completing information		Agency	
Is this individual currently known to your agency? (please tick)			
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
If yes, who is their keyworker?			
When were they last seen by your agency?			

If they are not currently known to your agency, is the individual previously known to your agency? (please tick)	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, when were they last known to your agency?	
Are you able to contact the individual to offer overdose awareness information and naloxone training?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you know if this individual has received naloxone training?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please provide any known details (e.g. date trained, agency delivering training etc.)	
Any involvement of the criminal justice system (if know)	
Any other comments	
Date of completion	

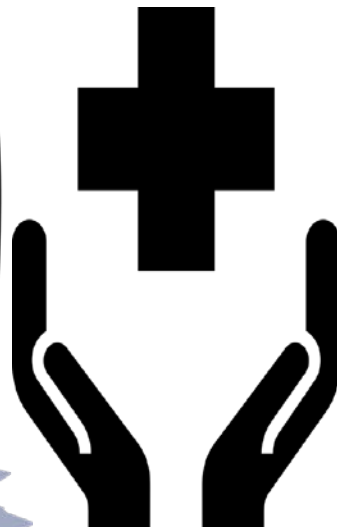
Please return via email to:

The Case Review Coordinator
(cdat.neath@abmucymru.cjsm.net)

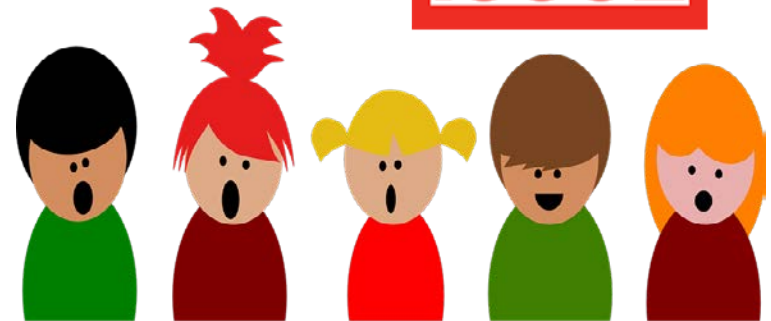


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Non-fatal review process

Drug Poisoning Reviews

June 2014 –
December 2016

Fatal Drug Poisoning Reviews

Implemented in all
Health Boards

196

Fatal Drug Poisoning
Reviews Conducted

81% Male

36 Years (Median age)

6% Under 25 years age

54% homeless / living in
non secure housing

Non-Fatal Drug Poisoning Reviews

Implemented in 4
Health Boards

342

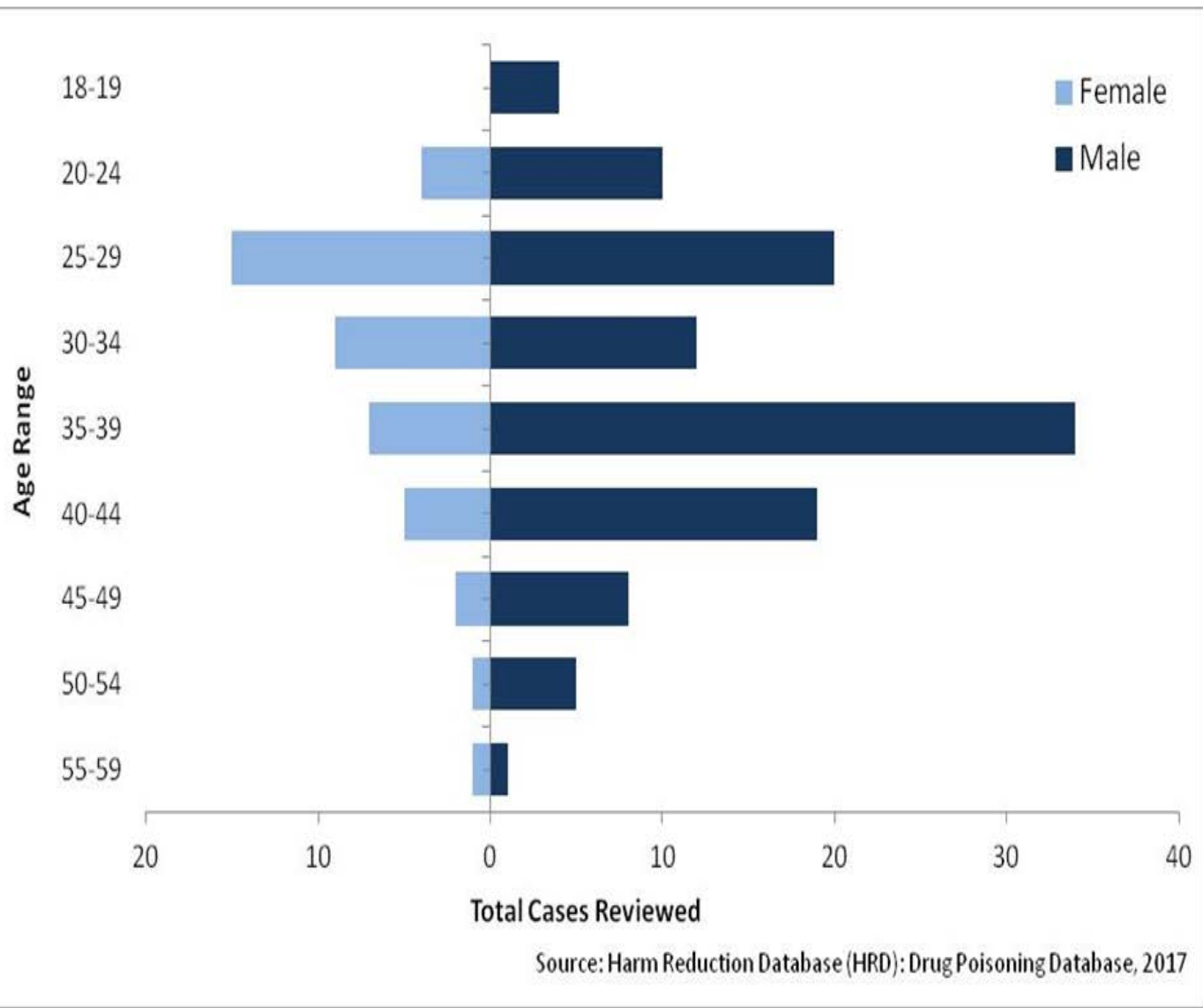
Non-Fatal Drug
Poisoning Reviews
Conducted

80% Male

33 Years (Median age)

16% Under 25 years age

47% homeless / living in
non secure housing



Contact with services (in last 6 months)

- 66.9% - in contact with services:
- 14.6% - known to but no contact with services

BUT

- 18.5% - not known to any relevant services

1/3



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Thank you



Josie.smith@wales.nhs.uk

[www.publichealthwales.co.uk/substance misuse](http://www.publichealthwales.co.uk/substance_misuse)