RACIAL/ETHNIC DIFFERENCES IN RECEIPT OF NALOXONE DISTRIBUTED BY OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN NEW YORK CITY

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Objectives:
We evaluated racial/ethnic differences in the receipt of naloxone distributed by opioid overdose prevention programs (OOPPs) in New York City (NYC).

Methods:
We used naloxone recipient racial/ethnic data collected by OOPPs from April 2018 to March 2019. We aggregated quarterly neighborhood-specific rates of naloxone receipt and other covariates to 42 NYC neighborhoods. Disparities were evaluated using a multilevel negative binomial regression model in which we conducted bivariable and multivariable analyses to assess the relationship between neighborhood-specific naloxone receipt rates and race/ethnicity. Race/ethnicity was stratified into four mutually exclusive racial/ethnic groups: Latino, non-Latino Black, non-Latino White and non-Latino Other. We also conducted racial/ethnic-specific geospatial analyses to assess whether there was within-group geographic variation in naloxone receipt rates for each racial/ethnic group.

Results:
In the 42 NYC neighborhoods, non-Latino Black residents had the highest median quarterly naloxone receipt rate of 41.8 per 100,000 residents, followed by Latino residents (22.0 per 100,000), non-Latino White (13.6 per 100,000) and non-Latino Other residents (13.3 per 100,000). In our multivariable analysis, compared with non-Latino White residents, non-Latino Black residents had a significantly higher receipt rate (aRR=2.10 [95% CI=1.54-2.85]) and Latino residents had a non-significantly higher rate (aRR=1.11, (95%CI=0.85-1.43). However, non-Latino Other residents had a significantly lower (aRR=0.79, [95%CI=0.67-0.92]) naloxone receipt rate than their non-Latino White counterparts. In the race/ethnicity-specific geospatial analyses, both Latino and non-Latino Black residents had the most within-group geographic variation in naloxone receipt rates compared to non-Latino White and Other residents.

Conclusion:
This study found significant racial/ethnic differences in naloxone receipt from NYC OOPPs. We observed substantial variation in naloxone receipt for non-Latino Black and Latino residents across neighborhoods, indicating relatively poorer access in some neighborhoods and opportunities for new approaches to address geographic and structural barriers in these locations.

There are no conflicts of interest for any authors.