

A peer mentor describes Narcan education and training as a “second chance,” calls for more access.



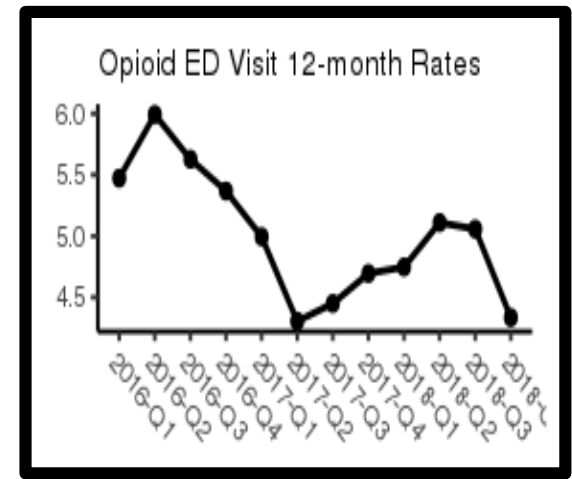
“It takes a community working together to solve a community epidemic.”

The clients at the methadone facility at the Central Valley Clinic in San Jose all meet with Jack Amato, a peer mentor, who uses his past experiences with substance use disorder to help those who are currently struggling with opioid use disorder or who are in recovery. “I provide input from an addicts point of view,” said Jack during an interview. He is also a volunteer for the local opioid coalition, Santa Clara County Opioid Overdose Prevention Project (SCCOOPP).

By passing out Narcan kits to the public, he hopes to see an end to the “overwhelming” epidemic. According to Jack, “the opioid crisis can seem like an overwhelming problem, but we can tackle it together.”

“Passing out Narcan helps people save lives.” According to Jack, clinicians and first responders are making great strides in getting trained for an opioid overdose. He believes that all medical staff in the County of Santa Clara should be Narcan trained and that Narcan should be readily available to all staff members. Luckily, the County of Santa Clara obtained a new grant which has made it easier for the coalition to supply medical staff with kits.

This chart (right) from the California Department of Public Health’s Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard shows that ER visits for opioid related overdoses in Santa Clara County have been declining since 2016.



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