



emcdda

Factsheet GERMANY

This factsheet is part of the EMCDDA [Take-home naloxone – topic overview](#)

General information	Geographical coverage	19 cities in 7 Länder: Augsburg, Berlin, Bielefeld, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Freiburg, Ingolstadt, Kehl, Konstanz, Mannheim, Munich, Münster, Nuremberg, Pforzheim*, Regensburg, Saarbrücken, Tübingen and Ulm.
	Type of Intervention	Mostly local initiatives; a peer-led train-the-trainer project in North Rhine-Westphalia. A state-wide project in main Bavarian cities (Augsburg, Ingolstadt, Munich, Nuremberg and Regensburg) started in 2018.
	Starting year	1998 (Berlin); scaling up only after 2016
	Settings	* low-threshold settings * prison (<i>only Bavaria</i>)

Source: DBDD (2020) Harms and harm reduction workbook Germany. 2020 Report of the national REITOX Focal Point to the EMCDDA (data year 2019/2020), in press.

* The project in Pforzheim is planned to start in 2020 (personal information from Plan B gGmbH).

Regulatory challenges	Prescription	Naloxone is only available on medical prescription. Naloxone can be prescribed to people dependent on opioids following training in its use. (see also Challenges and solutions in the country profile). Naloxone can however be issued by pharmacists based on a private (self-funded) prescription.
	Distribution	Distribution closely linked to training events at low-threshold facilities, or spaces for user self-organisation (NRW). Trainees accompanied by drug workers pick up medication from pharmacies (Frankfurt). Distribution is hampered by the unclear question of financing. Take-home naloxone programmes are not integrated into regular healthcare provision.
	Administration	In an emergency, the administration of naloxone by third parties is legally allowed under § 34 StGB (“Justifying Emergency”)

	Barriers	Only a medical doctor can prescribe naloxone, thus the involvement of a doctor- in one form or the other - in all naloxone trainings is needed, which limits the implementation of THN projects. As only people diagnosed with opioid dependency can receive a medical prescription, access to naloxone for non-users (family and friends) remains a problem.
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Medication	Product used	Nyxoid ® (mainly used product since 2018) Prenoxad® Generic injectable naloxone (Ratiopharm ® or other brand)
	Application	Nasal Injecting
	Content of THN Kit	* Nyxoid atomizer * vials of generic injectable naloxone iand required injecting paraphernalia* * pre-filled syringe with naloxone * first aid instructions, e.g. emergency telephone number, ABC * sterile cloth*
	Number of doses per kit	2 nasal dispensers per kit (sufficient to reverse 1 overdose); Naloxone vials and injecting equipment 1 pre-filled 2ml syringe (5 doses)

Distribution, refill and post-training monitoring	Distribution of THN	* on-site at low threshold agencies * at spaces for user self-organisation * in prison setting/on release * pharmacies (only with prescription)
	Mandatory training	Yes
	Content of training	* recognising overdose symptoms * overdose management * first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training * effects of naloxone * possible adverse reactions to naloxone * administration of naloxone (practicing of the skills trained)
	Training format	* naloxone peer information events for max. 5 people (up to 15 min.) conducted in low-threshold agencies or spaces for user self-organisation (North Rhine-Westphalia) * various models for naloxone training at drugs agencies (incl. mobile units) are described in online manuals, see links below.
	Content of questionnaire for refill	* reason for re-fill * description of the drug emergency/ situation * ambulance involved * outcome of emergency
	Post-training monitoring	* structured interview when client returns for re-fill (Bavaria) * structured follow-up and evaluation of THN peer information sessions in North Rhine Westphalia (1-year project), see Gesigora & Gerlach, 2019.

Performance and resources	Inception and training development	Overall state subsidy in Bavaria: 330 000 EUR over the course of 29 months (5 cities)	
	Implementation and monitoring	N/A	
	Price of THN kits	€ 45,72 nasal spray kit (2 dispensers) € 5-9 naloxone solution for injection (1 vial) (online pharmacy price) € 20-30 pre-filled syringe kit	
	Source of funding	Programme	* no specific funding available; trainings and medication is covered by general budget of the implementing facility
		Training (if different)	* specific funding for training is only available in the context of the pilot-project in Bavaria

Additional information	Project reports, evaluations and scientific papers	Dettmer, K., Saunders, B. and Strang, J. (2001), 'Take home naloxone and the prevention of deaths from opiate overdose: two pilot schemes.', <i>Bmj</i> 322(7291), pp. 895–96.
		Dichtl, A., Stöver H. and Dettmer, K. eds (2018), <i>Leben retten mit Naloxon. Erfahrungen aus Deutschland, Europa und den US</i> . Fachhochschulverlag, Frankfurt.
		Gesigora E, Gerlach R. (2019) Naloxon. Evaluation der Peer- Informations- Veranstaltungen im Auftrag von JES e.V. (available at: http://www.landesstellesucht-

	nrw.de/tl_files/Projektdatenbank/Naloxonevaluation.pdf.
Training materials	<p>Bayerische Akademie für Gesundheitsfragen und Sucht (2017), '<i>Prävention von Drogentodesfällen: Fakten , Zahlen und Beispiele aus der Praxis</i>', pp. 74. (available at http://www.akzept.org/uploads1516/BASPraeventionvonDrogentodesfaellen2017final.pdf).</p> <p>Fixpunkt (n.d.), <i>Themen_Drogennotfall und Naloxon Thematic Webpage</i>. (http://www.fixpunkt-berlin.de/index.php?id=naloxon), retrieved 13 August 2020.</p> <p>Jesse, M. (n.d.), <i>NALOXON Ein Leitfaden zur Naloxonvergabe an Opiatkonsument*innen im Rahmen niedrigrschwelliger Drogenarbeit</i>, JES Bundesverband e.V, Köln (available at http://www.akzept.org/uploads1516/NaloxonJESnrw17.pdf).</p> <p>Arbeitskreis Naloxon (2015), <i>Leben retten mit Naloxon. Ein Leitfaden zur Implementierung der Naloxonvergabe an geschulte Laien zur Überlebenshilfe bei Opiatüberdosierungen</i>, edited by A. Dichtl. akzept e.V., Berlin (available at http://www.akzept.org/uploads2013/NaloxonBroschuere1605.pdf).</p>
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