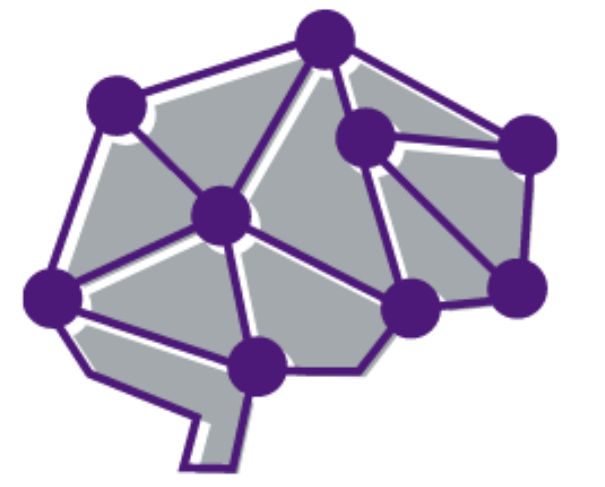




An Examination of Narcan Use and Distribution in Tarrant County

Sam Brownawell, Kayla Brownell, Mickaela Barrett, Erin Whitlow, Buse Uras, Eman Saad, Angela Rique, Stephanie Villaire, MS, Amanda L. Wiese, PhD, Jennifer Pankow, PhD, Kevin Knight, PhD

Texas Christian University, Institute of Behavioral Research, Student Overview of Applied Research Lab



Background

- Fentanyl, a powerful synthetic-opioid painkiller, is at the center of the deadliest drug epidemic in American history
- In the past year, approximately 118,000 fatalities resulted from opioid overdoses in the United States, an increase of 16% from the year prior. In Texas Overdose deaths involving fentanyl have risen over 400%, from 2019 to 2023 (UNTHSC, 2024).
- 100 times more powerful than morphine and 50 times more powerful than heroin, fentanyl has become readily available on the illicit market. As little as 2 milligrams, about the size of five grains of salt, can be deadly depending on body mass and tolerance (CDC, 2024).
- Narcan (naloxone) is an over-the-counter medication administered intranasally to reverse opioid overdoses.

Methods

Initial Survey

A survey was developed to evaluate the utilization and willingness to use Narcan in the event of an opioid overdose.

- 35 participants were recruited from the Las Vegas Trail Rise community center and Fort Worth Central Bus Station.

Follow-Up Survey

After one month, a follow-up survey was administered to assess any Narcan usage, distribution to friends or family, or acquisition of additional Narcan.

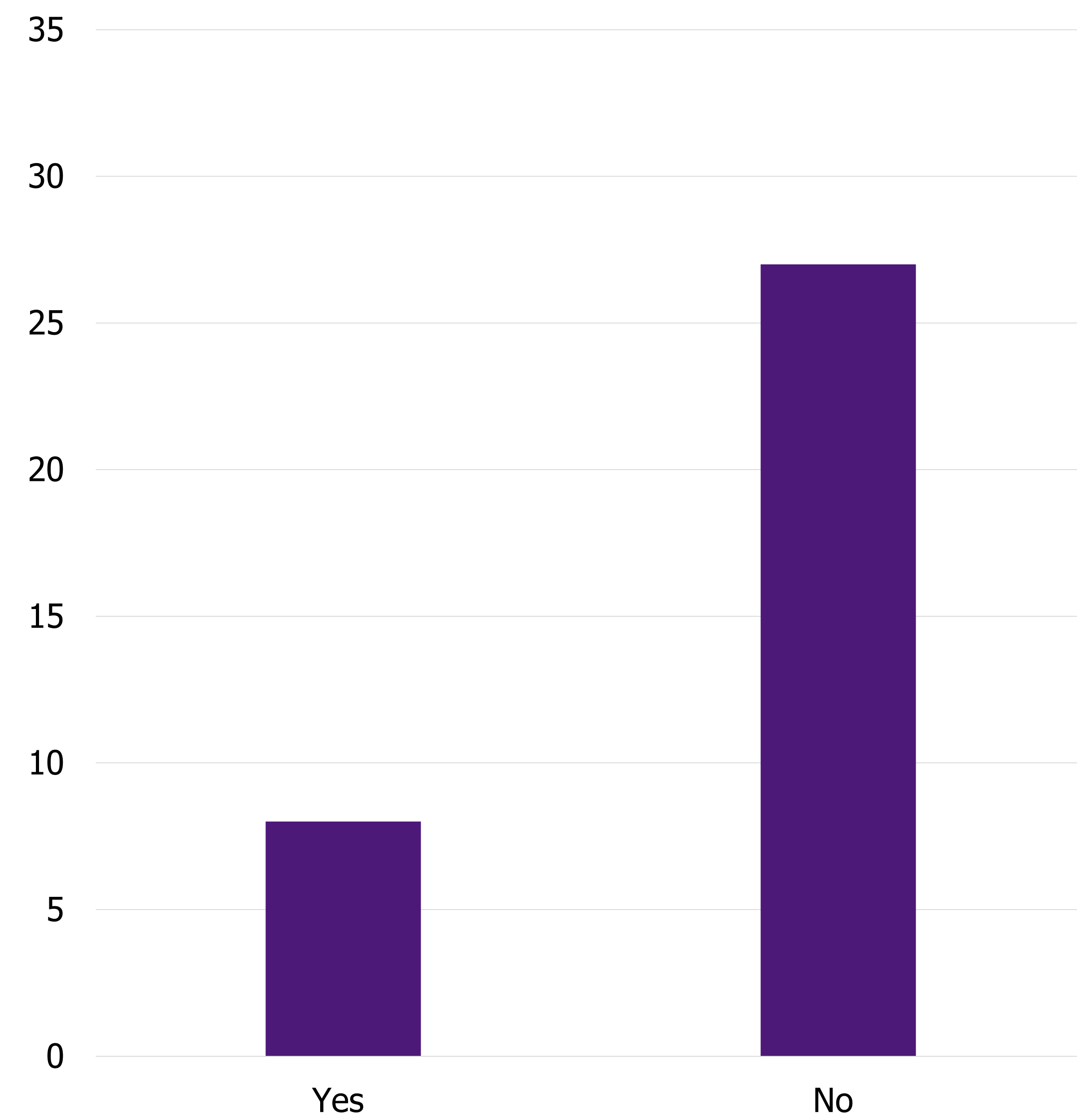
- 5 participants were given Narcan, and 2 participants completed the follow-up survey

Demographics

N = 35	
Age	
Mean	41.75
Standard Deviation	15.65
Gender	
n (%)	
Male	20 (57.1)
Female	14 (40.0)
Transgender Male	1 (2.9)
Race	
n (%)	
White	10 (28.6)
Black/African American	11 (31.4)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1 (2.9)
Other race	11 (31.4)

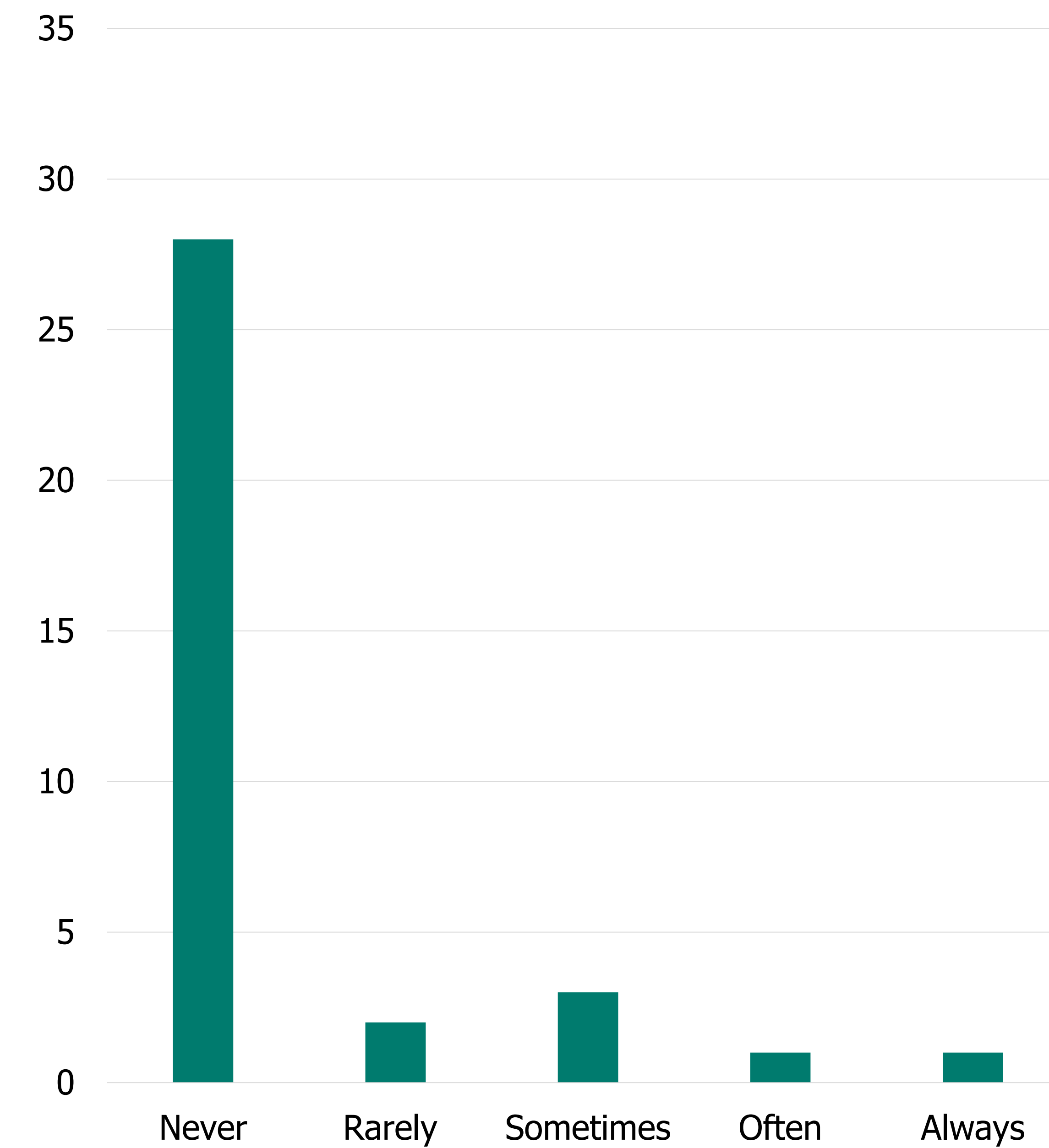
Where to Find Narcan

Do you know where to get Narcan in your local area?



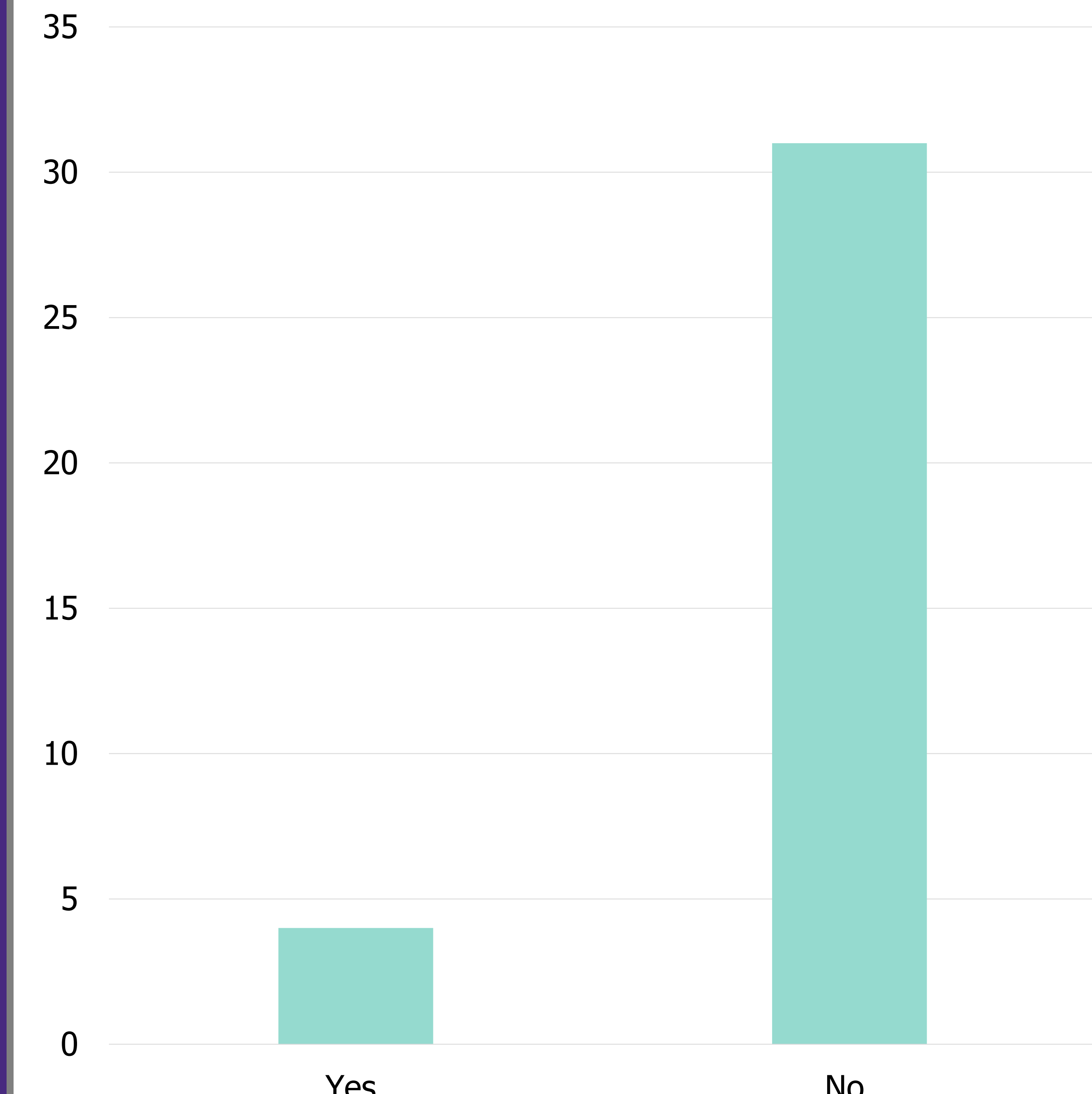
Carrying Narcan

Do you carry Narcan in your day-to-day life?



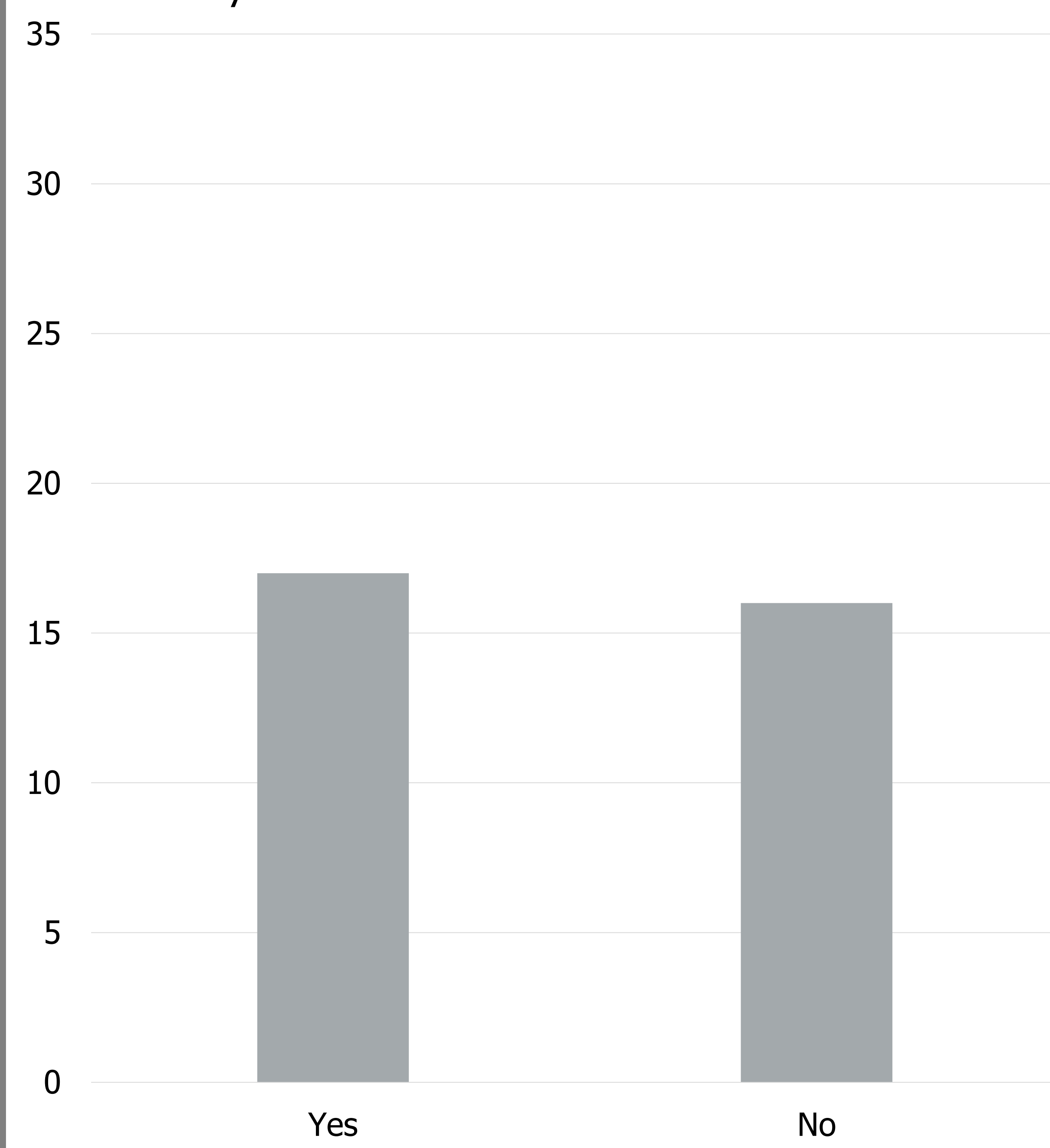
Experience Administering Narcan to Others

Have you ever administered Narcan to someone?



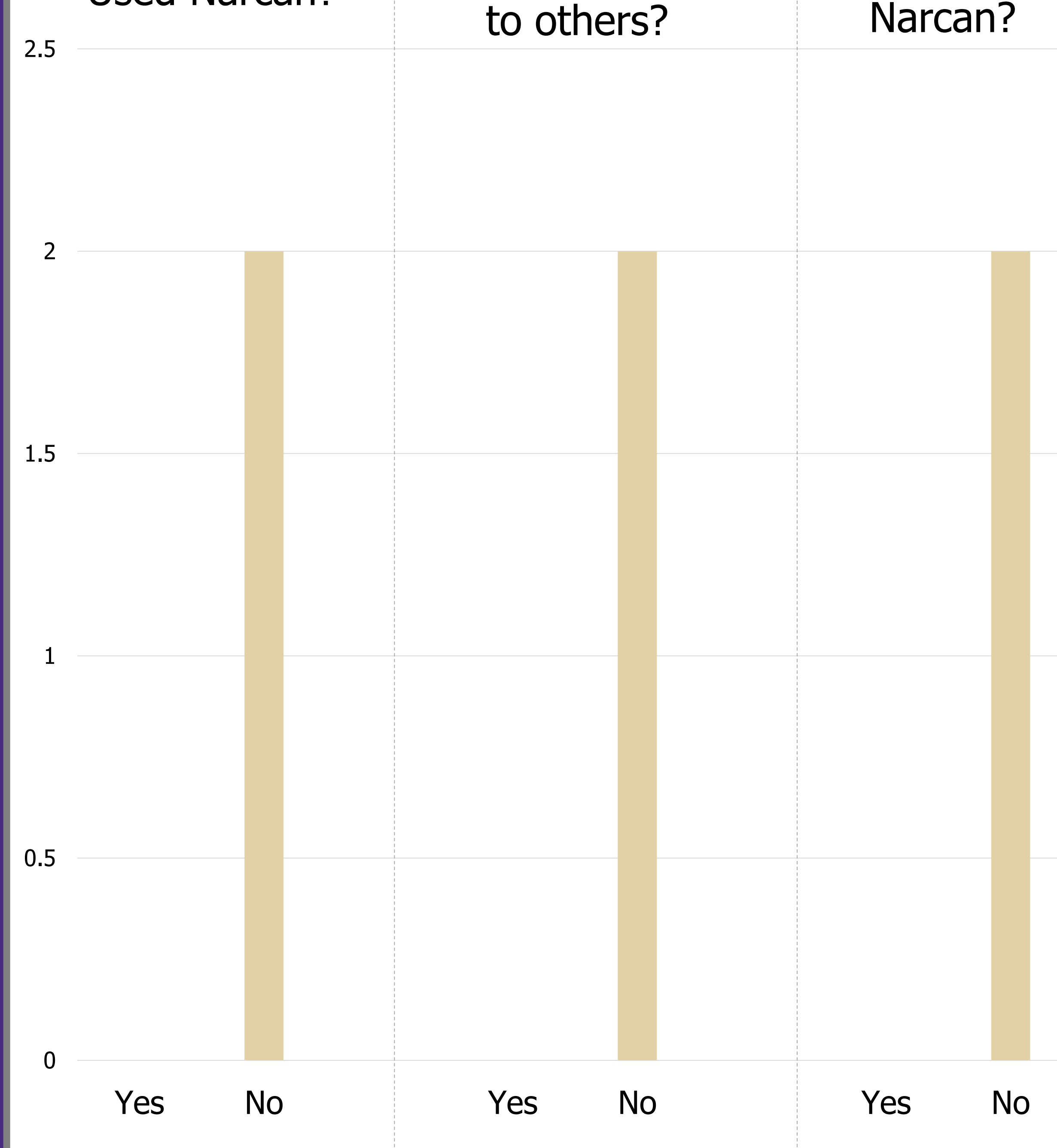
Good Samaritan Laws

Are you familiar with Good Samaritan Laws?



Follow-Up on Narcan Use

Used Narcan?	Gave Narcan to others?	Gotten more Narcan?
Yes	Yes	Yes
No	No	No



Discussion

- The majority of participants did not have experience administering Narcan, nor carrying it.
- Participants also reported a lack of knowing where to get Narcan in Tarrant County.
- No participants who received Narcan reported using it, giving it to others, or buying more Narcan.

Future Directions

- Explore the underlying reasons for stigma associated with Narcan, including perceptions of drug use, addiction, and personal risk factors.
- Examine the impact of stigma on access to and willingness to use Narcan among different populations, including individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) and their families.
- Develop and evaluate interventions aimed at reducing stigma and increasing acceptance of Narcan, such as educational campaigns, community workshops, and stigma-reduction training programs.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023, September 6). *Fentanyl facts*. <https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/index.html>

University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth. (2024, March 5). *One Pill kills*. <https://www.unthsc.edu/one-pill-kills/#:~:text=Fentanyl%20is%20100%20times%20more,person%27s%20body%20size%20and%20tolerance.>