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Harm Reduction and Common Sense

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Harm Reduction & Common Sense: Acceptability Among Commercial and Nonprofit Organizations in Rhode Island

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Background

- Drug overdose deaths in the United States continue to increase, claiming over 100,000 lives in 2022¹
- Solitary use is responsible for majority of overdose deaths
- Overdose is 100% reversible if a responder issues naloxone in time

Objective

- To understand business and nonprofit interest in overdose detection sensors to reduce overdose response times and damage done by overdoses

Results

- 68.6% of respondents agreed that sensors could be effective at preventing overdose death at their site.
- 67.6% reported having no standardized procedures in place to respond to an overdose on site outside of naloxone.
- 55.7% expressed interest in being considered for a pilot of devices at their site

Conclusions

- OD tech are welcomed at most locations (74.3%)
- The sensors should be paired with naloxone training and distribution to maximize effect
- Most organizations do not have staff trained in OD detection, training is needed
- Currently have a clinic interested to investigate efficacy in clinical settings
- Upon completion of 100 of community surveys, we will be shifting to administering 100 similar surveys to people who use drugs to ask about the sensors

Methods

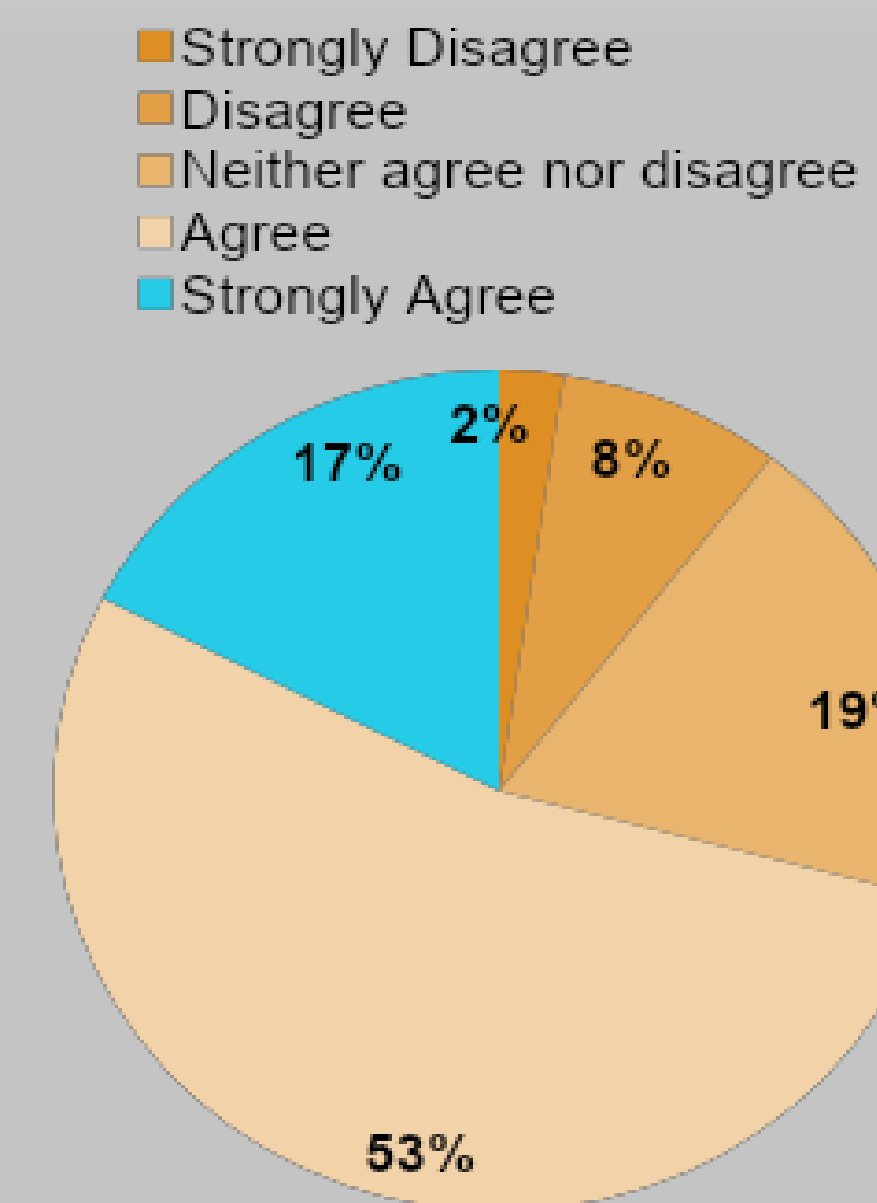
- Over 91 surveys completed since January 2023
- Surveys generally took 15-20 minutes to complete
- Those who completed surveys were reimbursed with \$20 cash
- Surveyed in overdose hotspots across 8 townships
- Categories of sites approached were any public indoor space where overdose may occur which included but not limited to: food service, housing/medical facilities, retail establishments, gas/service stations
- Survey topics: feasibility, acceptability, and perceived effectiveness

Overdose Detection Sensors

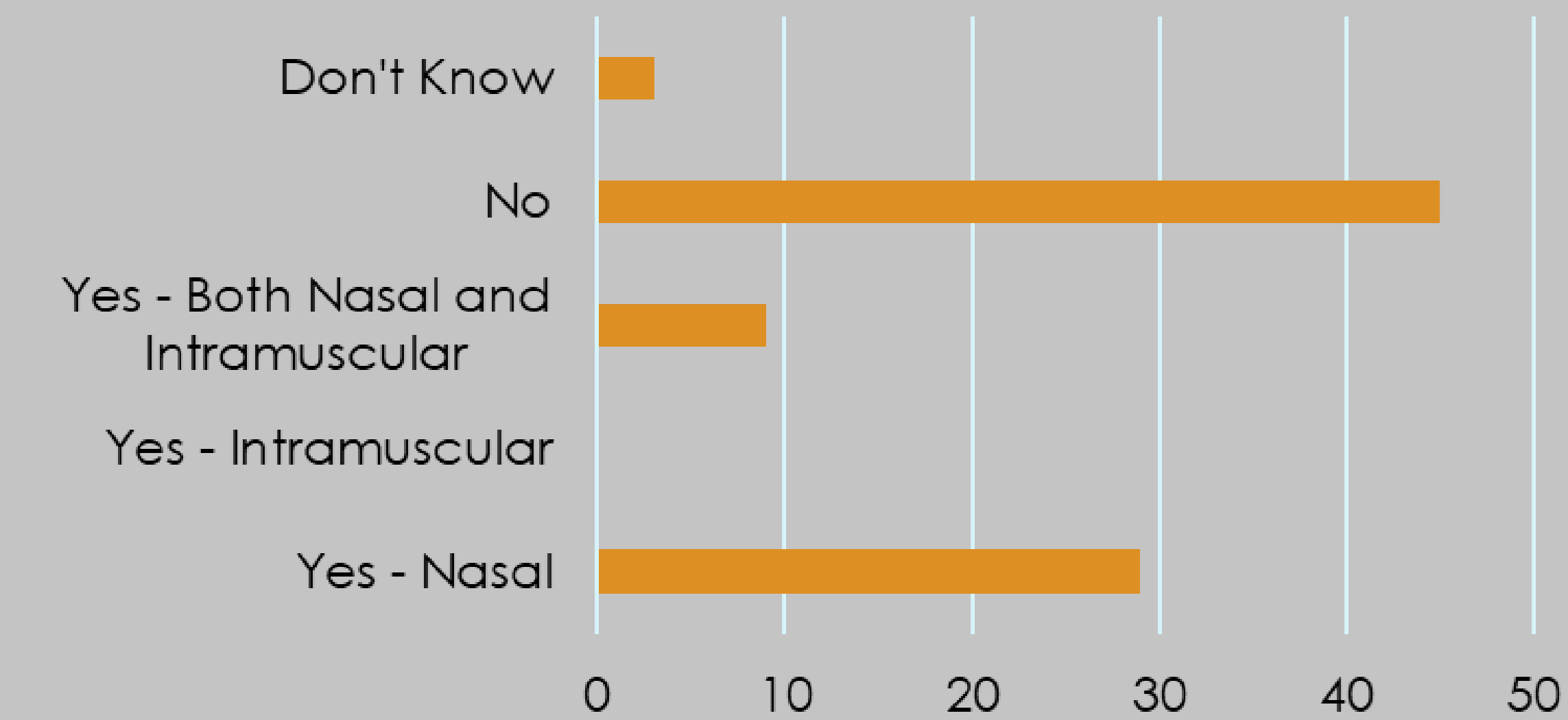
- Developed by the Brave Co-op from Vancouver, Canada
- Detects absence of micro movements (respiratory distress)
- Designed for single occupancy bathrooms
- Alerts via text or phone call to a designated responder once an absence of movement is detected
- Facilitates quicker response times to reverse effects of overdose

Results

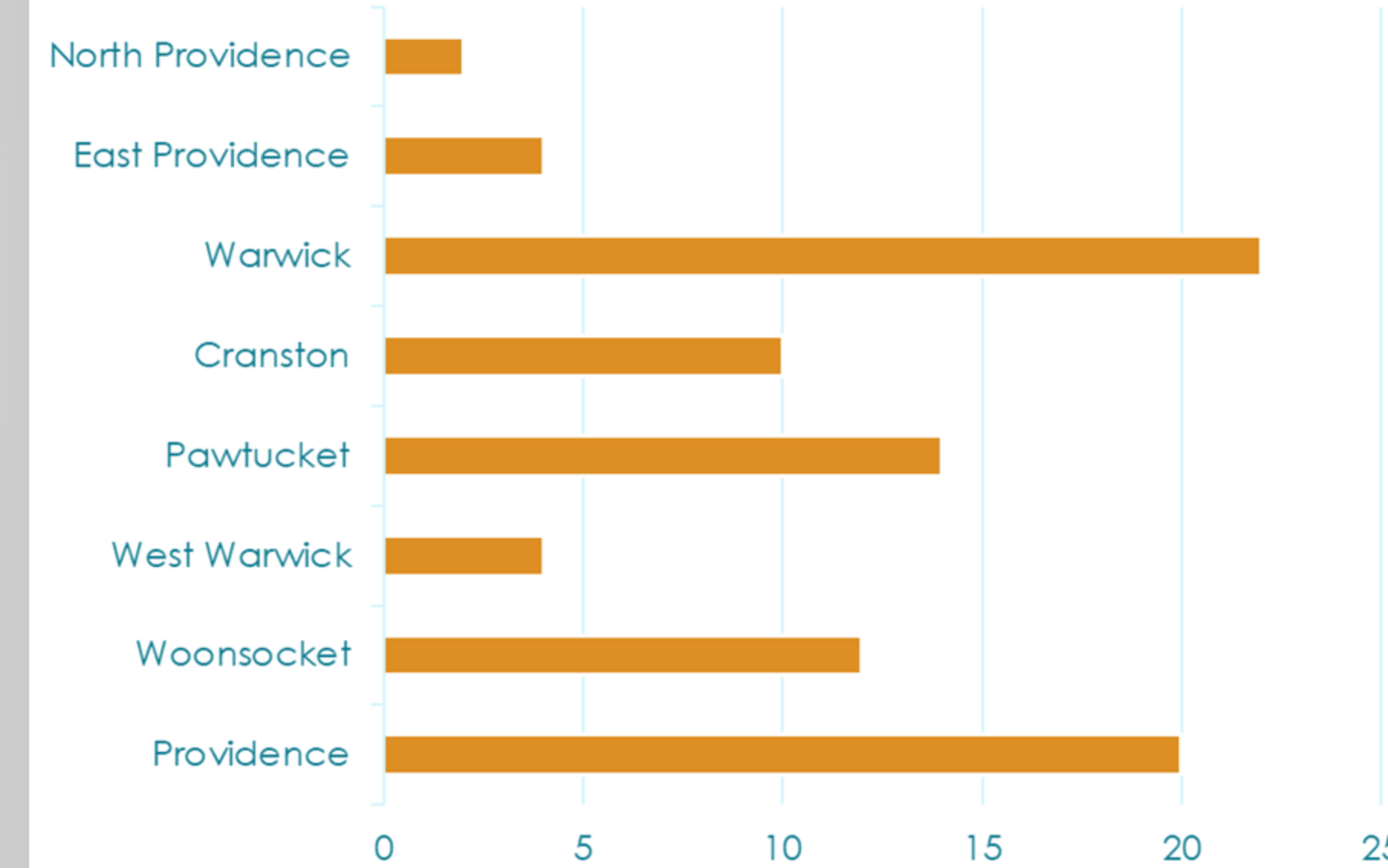
Comfortability With Installation



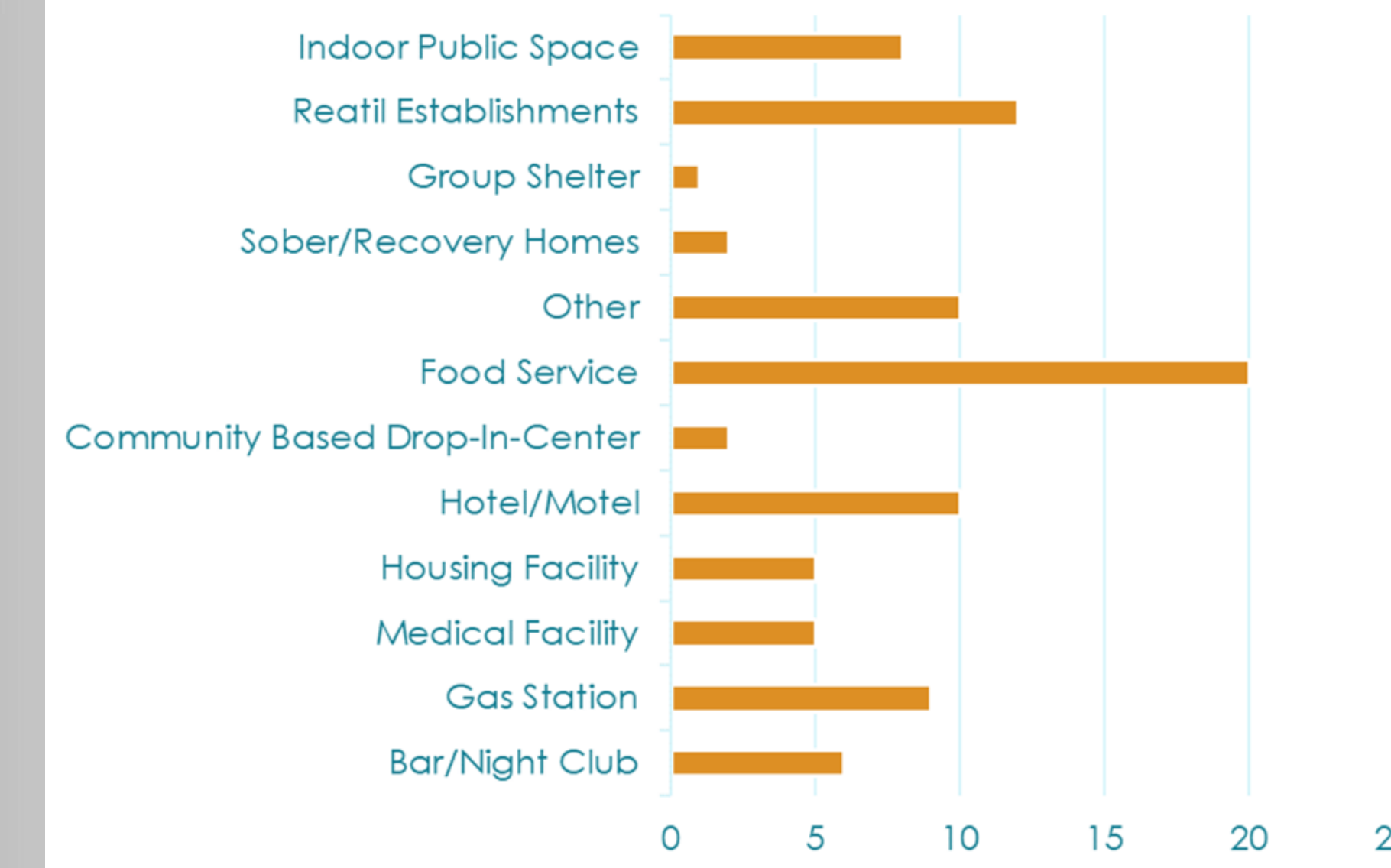
Narcan Availability



Township



Site Type



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