

Biostatistician behind bars

By design and on trial

Professor Sheila M. Bird
MRC Biostatistics Unit
University of Cambridge

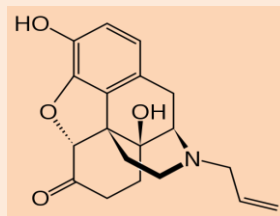


For over 100 years, the MRC Biostatistics Unit has used statistics to investigate epidemics such as tuberculosis, cigarette smoking, HIV, heroin addiction and hepatitis C. Our findings are not always popular. I will describe how research into HIV, hepatitis B and heroin injection got us barred from Scottish prisons.

Naloxone is the heroin antidote that can save lives in the event of an overdose. Record-linkage studies led us to quantify a 7 times higher risk of overdose death amongst ex-prisoners shortly after release from prison. This enabled us to mount the pilot N-ALIVE trial in England, which measures the effectiveness of naloxone take-home kits at reducing drug related deaths.

6.15pm, 29th April 2015
Mathematics and
Statistics Building
University of Warwick

Even before the N-ALIVE randomized controlled trial started in England, Scotland introduced take-home-naloxone as a funded public health policy. The 3-year results of Scotland's closely-monitored naloxone policy led us to stop the N-ALIVE trial. I will explain why.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK



Warwick Public Lectures in Mathematics and Statistics are aimed at a general audience

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/statistics/news/wplms/>

Refreshments will be provided after the lecture