



Western Norway
University of
Applied Sciences

The END project

The drug-death related bereavement and recovery project

Birthe Møgster, Ph.D.-student, Lillian Bruland Selseng, Ph.D., and Kristine Berg Titlestad, Ph.D.
Department of welfare and participation, Western Norway University of Applied Science, Norway
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The authors report no potential conflict of interest



Photo: Pexels photos

Background – Drug-related deaths (DRDs)

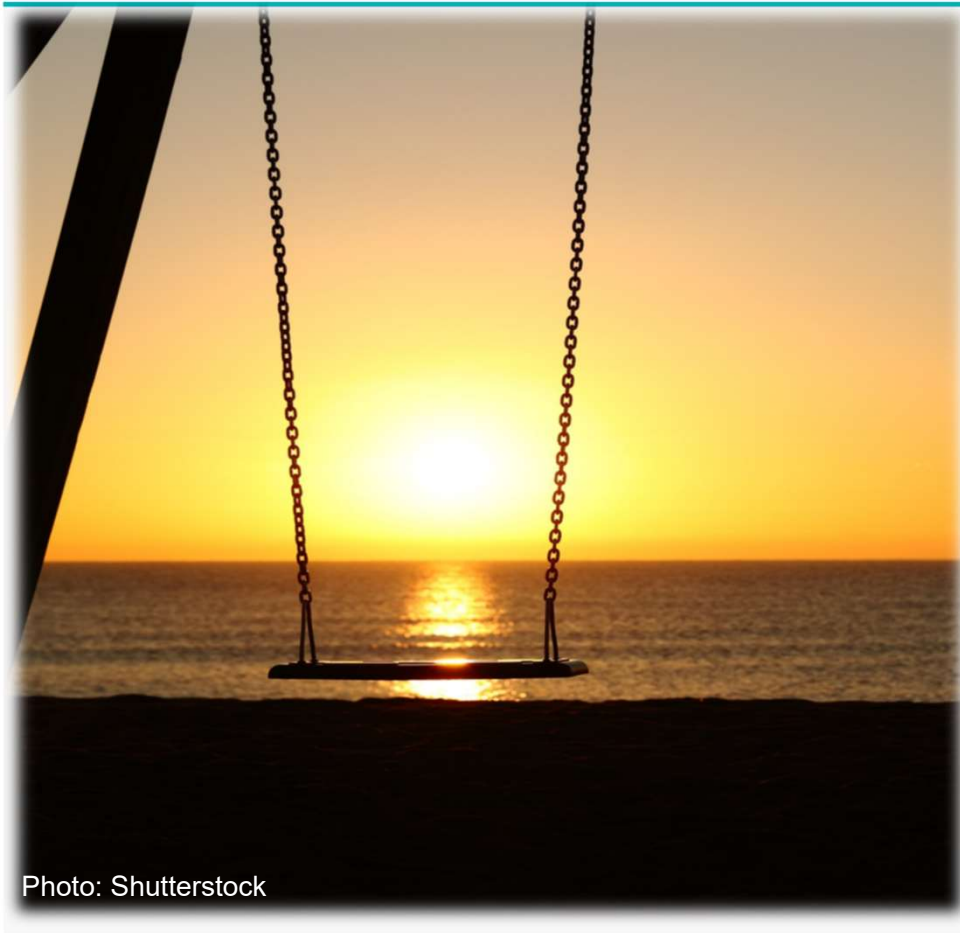
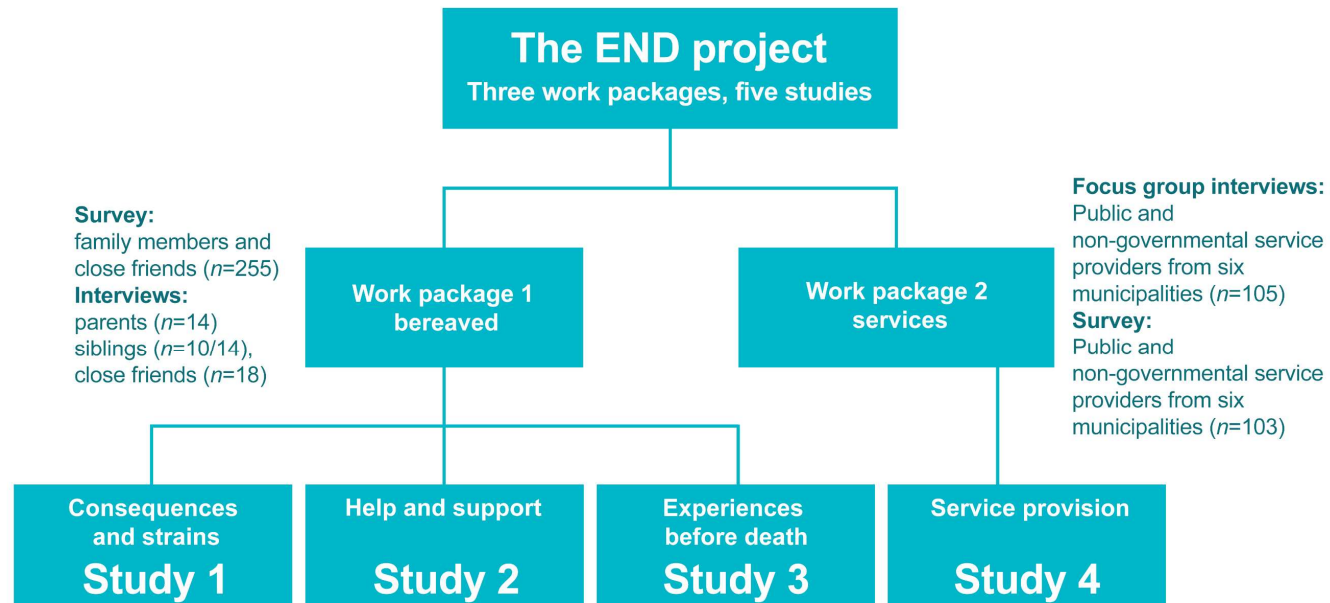


Photo: Shutterstock

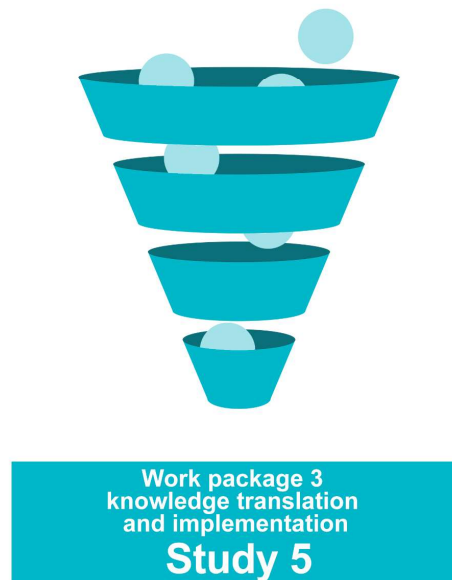
- › DRDs are deaths caused by the intake of substances, classed as narcotics, and deaths linked to drug use in various ways (e.g., violence, suicide, infectious disease or other health disorders) (Norwegian Directorate of Health , 2014);
- › DRDs are a major public health challenge (EMCDDA, 2018)
- › Lates numbers of DRDs
 - › US: epidemic proportions in 2021 over 100,000 deaths (increase of 28.5%) (National Center for Health Statistics, 2021)
 - › Europe: the 2022 European Drug Report 2020 17.4 overdose deaths per million in 2020 (EMCDDA, 2022, p. 16).
 - › Norway: An average of 269 annual deaths last decade
 - › Norwegian Institute of Public Health, 2022).

The END project aims to

- › Develop new knowledge and understanding about the consequences of drug-related deaths for bereaved family members and friends
- › Develop new knowledge about needs and experiences with help and support from the health and social services
- › Propose new action options and measures to improve the bereaved's health and quality of life
- › Contribute to society's discourse on drug policy issues and reduce stigma



Research circle:
bereaved ($n=2$),
professional helpers
from municipalities ($n=3$),
non-governmental service
providers ($n=2$),
and researchers and
teachers from HVL ($n=4$)



Lessons learned (for now...)

- › The complexity of DRD bereavement
- › The complications of spill-over stigma
- › The challenges of providing and receiving support
- › High levels of symptoms of prolonged grief
- › Oscillation between coping styles
- › Bereaved by DRD is a complex group with various recourses
- › Need for more research about vulnerable bereaved in demanding life situation



END resources

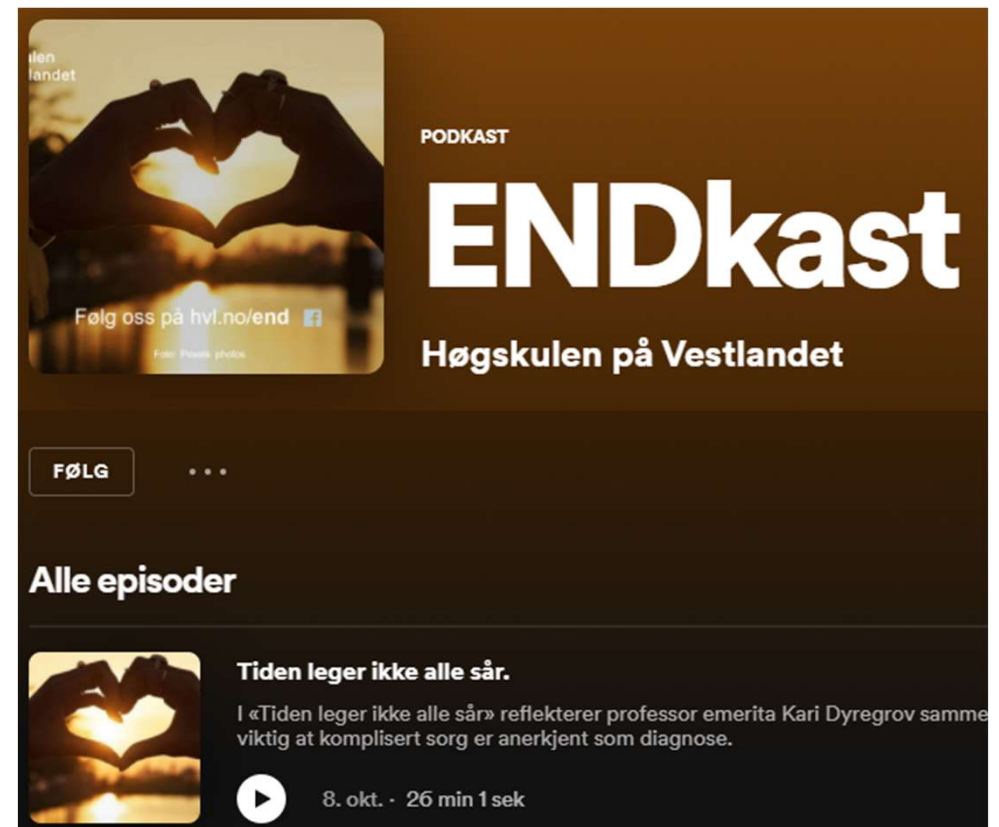
International:

- › END Website
 - › www.hvl.no/end
- › Research Gate - DRUG DEATH RELATED BEREAVEMENT AND RECOVERY (The END-project)

Nordic:

- › END Facebook page (Etterlatte ved narkotikarelatert død: END-prosjektet)
- › END podcasts
- › END-conference

<https://www.hvl.no/end>



The “ENDkast” with Sari Lindeman on Spotify

References

Norwegian Directorate of Health (2014) <https://www.helsedirektoratet.no/english>

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (2018) https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/edr/trends-developments/2018_en

National Center for Health Statistics, (2021) <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/index.htm>

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (2022, p. 16) https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/edr/trends-developments/2020_en

Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) (2022). Narkotikautløste dødsfall 2021 <https://www.fhi.no/nettpub/narkotikainorge/konsekvenser-av-narkotikabruk/narkotikautloste-dodsfall/>



Thank you for your attention
Obrigada