

Public Health Information Notice - Information Only

Oxford County Public Health is collaborating with community partners to provide timely opioid-related information to the public.

Current as of: Monday, November 20, 2017

What we are hearing

November 2017: anecdotal reports of cocaine being cut with levamisole among people who use opioids, which can lead to serious complications such as necrosis of the skin.

Neighbouring areas: cyclopropyl fentanyl and powdered carfentanil were found in samples from Waterloo Regional Police Service and carfentanil was found in two samples from London Police Service.

Fentanyl: anecdotal reports of “bad” heroin potentially laced with fentanyl and overdoses possibly due to synthetic fentanyl.

Opioid overdoses

In the most recently available six weeks (September 25 to November 5, 2017):¹

- 9 emergency department visits for opioid overdose

This information is coming soon:²

- Oxford County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responded to # calls related to suspected opioid overdoses
 - % suspected cases were male
 - average age of cases was # years

Naloxone distribution

Since pharmacies began distribution in Ontario (June 2016 to July 2017):³

- 230 naloxone kits distributed through 10 participating pharmacies

In the last quarter (July to September 2017):⁴

- 35 naloxone kits were distributed by Public Health to individuals
- 24 clients administered naloxone (47 doses)

During this quarter to date (October 1 to November 19, 2017):⁴

- 6 naloxone kits were distributed by Public Health to individuals
- 2 clients administered naloxone (4 doses)

In the past two weeks (November 6 to 19, 2017):⁴

- 1 naloxone kit was distributed by Public Health to an individual

Drug-related ED visits & hospital admissions

In the past two weeks (November 6 to 19, 2017):⁵

- 17 visits by Oxford County residents to emergency departments (ED) for drug misuse or overdoses (includes substances other than opioids)
- Among the 17 visits, 10 were suspected overdoses and 4 were admitted to the hospital

Opioid-related deaths

Opioid-related deaths have increased slightly over time since 2005 in Oxford County.

In 2016:⁶

- 7 Oxford County residents died from opioid toxicity
- Oxford County's death rate was similar to Ontario's

Data sources:

1. Weekly emergency department visits for opioid overdose, National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS), Canadian Institute for Health (CIHI), Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC).
2. EMS Information System (iMedic) data (citation to be confirmed once received)
3. Personal communication with the Ontario Opioid Strategy Team, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on August 22, 2017.
4. Oxford County Public Health, Overdose Prevention, Date Extracted: November 20, 2017.
5. Acute Care Enhanced Surveillance (ACES), KFL&A Public Health, Date Extracted: November 20, 2017.
6. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Interactive Opioid Tool. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2017. Available from: <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Opioids/Opioids.aspx>

Contact us

If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, contact:

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