

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, December 4, 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 (October 9 to November 19, 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 December 3, 2017):⁴

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

In the past two weeks (November 20 to December 3, 2017):⁴

- 5 naloxone kits were distributed by Public Health to individuals

Drug-related ED visits & hospital admissions

In the past two weeks (November 20 to December 3, 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, 7 were suspected overdoses and none 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: December 4, 2017.
5. Acute Care Enhanced Surveillance (ACES), KFL&A Public Health, Date Extracted: December 4, 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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