

## Public Health Advisory

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

**Current as of: Monday, December 18, 2017**

### What we are hearing

**Carfentanil:** drug samples from two separate seizures in the City of Woodstock have tested positive for carfentanil. These samples were seized in September by Woodstock Police Service.

**Levamisole:** community reports of levamisole in client toxicology screens, which has been anecdotally reported as a cocaine adulterant among people who use opioids.

**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 23 to December 3, 2017):<sup>1</sup>**

- 10 emergency department visits for opioid overdose

**This information is coming soon:<sup>2</sup>**

- 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):<sup>3</sup>**

- 230 naloxone kits distributed through 10 participating pharmacies

**In the last quarter (July to September 2017):<sup>4</sup>**

- 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 17, 2017):<sup>4</sup>**

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

**In the past two weeks (December 4 to 17, 2017):<sup>4</sup>**

- 0 naloxone kits were distributed by Public Health to individuals

## Drug-related ED visits & hospital admissions

**In the past two weeks (December 4 to 17, 2017):<sup>5</sup>**

- 23 visits by Oxford County residents to emergency departments (ED) for drug misuse or overdoses (includes substances other than opioids)
- Among the 23 visits, 11 were suspected overdoses and 1 was admitted to the hospital

## Opioid-related deaths

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

**In 2016:<sup>6</sup>**

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

**Preliminary data from May to July 2017:<sup>6</sup>**

- 1 Oxford County resident died from opioid toxicity

This preliminary data comes from a new electronic collection system that was established in May 2017. Data from January to April 2017 is currently unavailable.

### 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 18, 2017.
5. Acute Care Enhanced Surveillance (ACES), KFL&A Public Health, Date Extracted: December 18, 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:

Melissa MacLeod, Epidemiologist

Foundational Standards, Oxford County Public Health

Call: 519-539-9800 x3472 or 1-800-755-0394

Email: [healthevidence@oxfordcounty.ca](mailto:healthevidence@oxfordcounty.ca)