

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: Tuesday, January 2, 2018

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 and Public Health issued an advisory on December 18, 2017.

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 (November 6 to December 17, 2017):¹

- 10 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 31, 2017):⁴

- 14 naloxone kits were distributed by Public Health to individuals
- 7 clients administered naloxone (9 doses)

In the past two weeks (December 18 to 31, 2017):⁴

- 3 naloxone kits were distributed by Public Health to individuals

Drug-related ED visits & hospital admissions

In the past two weeks (December 18 to 31, 2017):⁵

- 12 visits by Oxford County residents to emergency departments (ED) for drug misuse or overdoses (includes substances other than opioids)
- Among the 12 visits, 8 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 2016:⁶

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

Preliminary data from May to July 2017:⁶

- 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: January 2, 2018.
5. Acute Care Enhanced Surveillance (ACES), KFL&A Public Health, Date Extracted: January 2, 2018.
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/pages/opioid.aspx>

Contact us

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

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