

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, March 26, 2018

What we are hearing

Coloured heroin: there have been anecdotal reports of coloured heroin circulating in the community, such as purple heroin. This coloured heroin may contain fentanyl which can lead to overdoses.

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.

Opioid overdoses

In the most recently available six weeks (January 29, to March 11, 2018):¹

- <5 emergency department visits for opioid overdose

This information is coming soon:²

- Oxford County Paramedic Services responded to # calls related to suspected opioid overdoses
 - % suspected cases were male
 - average age of cases was # years
 - # doses of naloxone were administered

Naloxone distribution

In January 2018:³

- local pharmacies distributed 13 naloxone kits (for a total of 344 kits distributed since the program began in June 2016)

In the last quarter (October to December 2017):⁴

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

During this quarter to date (January 1 to March 31, 2018):⁴

- 38 naloxone kits were distributed by Public Health to individuals
- 9 clients administered naloxone (17 doses)

In the past two weeks (March 12 to March 25, 2018):⁴

- 2 naloxone kits were distributed by Public Health to individuals

Drug-related ED visits & hospital admissions

In the past two weeks (March 12 to March 25, 2018):⁵

- 9 visits by Oxford County residents to emergency departments (ED) for drug misuse or overdoses (includes substances other than opioids)
- Among the 9 visits, 5 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.

From January to July 2017:⁶

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

Preliminary data from August to October 2017:⁶

- 2 Oxford County residents died from opioid toxicity

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. iMedic, Oxford County Paramedic Services, Date Extracted: coming soon.
3. Ministry Emergency Operations Centre (MEOC). Opioid Crisis Situation Report #21: March 2, 2018 & 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: March 26, 2018.
5. Acute Care Enhanced Surveillance (ACES), KFL&A Public Health, Date Extracted: March 26, 2018.
6. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Interactive Opioid Tool. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018. 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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