

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, April 9, 2018

What we are hearing

Purple carfentanil: On March 22, Waterloo Regional Police seized a purple substance with ‘play dough’ consistency that tested positive for carfentanil.

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

Opioid overdoses

In the most recently available six weeks (February 12, to March 25, 2018):¹

- <5 emergency department visits for opioid overdose

In March 2018:²

- Oxford County Paramedic Services responded to 3 calls related to suspected opioid overdoses
 - 1 dose of naloxone was 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 (January 1 to March 31, 2018):⁴

- 39 naloxone kits were distributed by Public Health to individuals
- 10 clients administered naloxone (19 doses)

During this quarter to date (April 1 to June 30, 2018):⁴

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

In the past two weeks (March 26 to April 8, 2018):⁴

- 2 naloxone kits were distributed by Public Health to individuals

Drug-related ED visits & hospital admissions

In the past two weeks (March 26 to April 8, 2018):⁵

- 11 visits by Oxford County residents to emergency departments (ED) for drug misuse or overdoses (includes substances other than opioids)
- Among the 11 visits, 4 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 Analytics, Oxford County Paramedic Services, Date Extracted: April 3, 2018.
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: April 9, 2018.
5. Acute Care Enhanced Surveillance (ACES), KFL&A Public Health, Date Extracted: April 9, 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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