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## MEMORANDUM

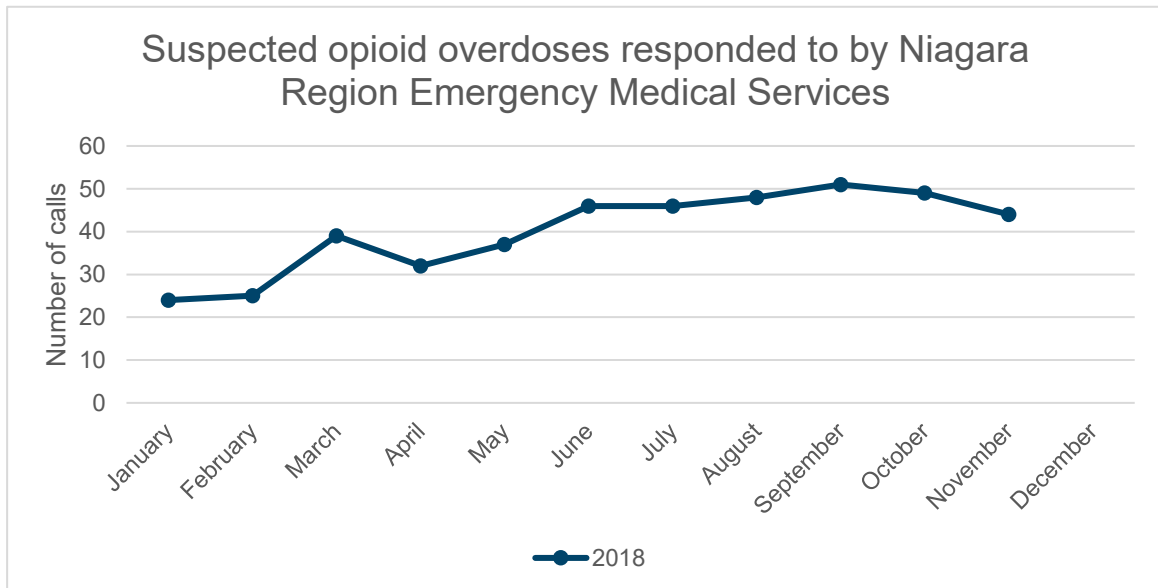
CWCD 407-2018

**Subject:** Opioid Work Update  
**Date:** December 7, 2018  
**To:** Board of Health  
**From:** Dr. Andrea Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health

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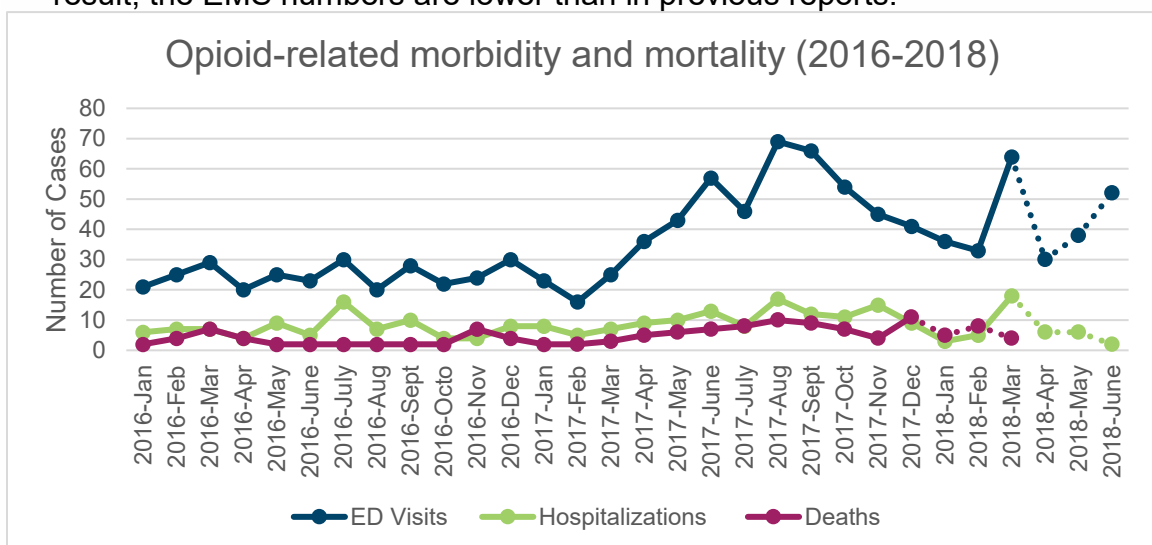
In our goal to continue to keep you updated around opioids, please see the following.

1. Positive Living Niagara and the community were able to open the St. Catharines Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) on December 3. Public Health staff are supporting the community's application for the new Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) site, which is due December 14. Positive Living Niagara will be sharing information and requesting Board of Health support on December 13.
2. Naloxone has been distributed to 23 key agencies who are actively distributing within the critical social and close peer network, in addition to appropriate patient provisions through St. John Ambulances, Niagara Health sites, and EMS. Four other agencies are in the process of receiving naloxone (unchanged since last update). All agencies that have chosen to be a public access point are listed at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/where-get-free-naloxone-kit>
3. As part of the EMS system transformation, data is already suggesting potential small reductions in call volume related to the Mental Health team. This will be verified.
4. The movie, "Beautiful Boy" was aired at The Film House on December 6 hosted by Community Addiction Services of Niagara (CASON). Staff participated on a speaker's panel after the movie.
5. The website is updated as data becomes available. These updates are available through PH&ES site (in addition to elsewhere on the Region's site). [https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health\\_wellness/alc-sub-abuse/drugs/overdose-prevention.aspx](https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/alc-sub-abuse/drugs/overdose-prevention.aspx)
6. For this report, we have included some **preliminary** data (in broken lines) in addition to the data found on the website. A summary of opioid-related population health outcome and naloxone distribution data available to date follows. Trends are mirroring those seen last year.



Data source: EMS Edge [2018].

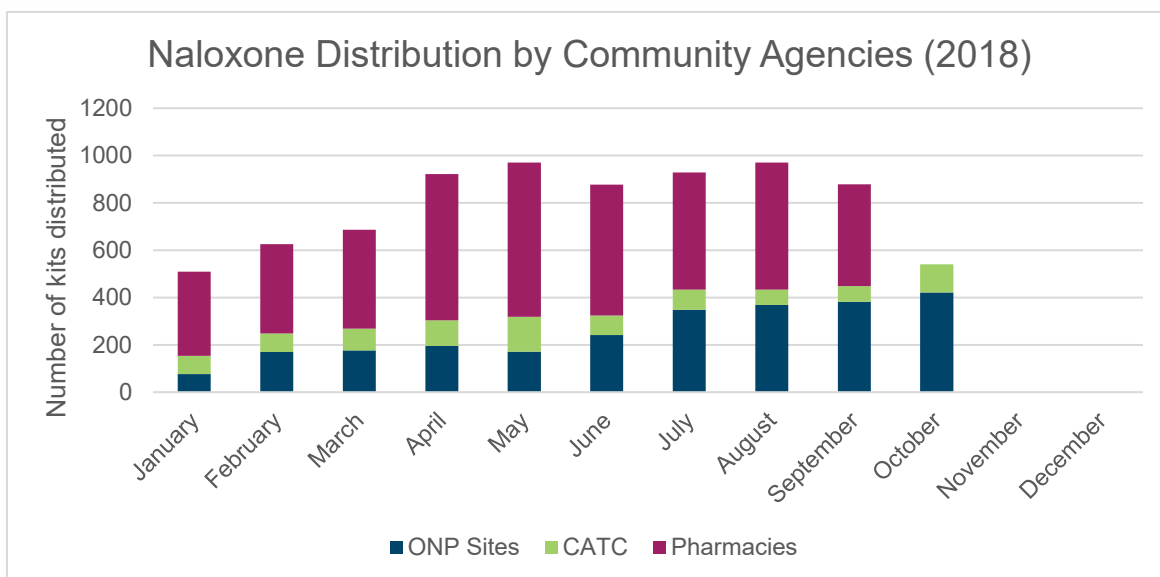
- As of November 2018, a new data extraction process has been made available to track EMS responses to suspected opioid overdoses. This process is automated, faster and applies standardized inclusion and exclusion criteria to detect suspected overdoses that is better aligned with what is being reported by other ambulatory services across the province. As a result, the EMS numbers are lower than in previous reports.



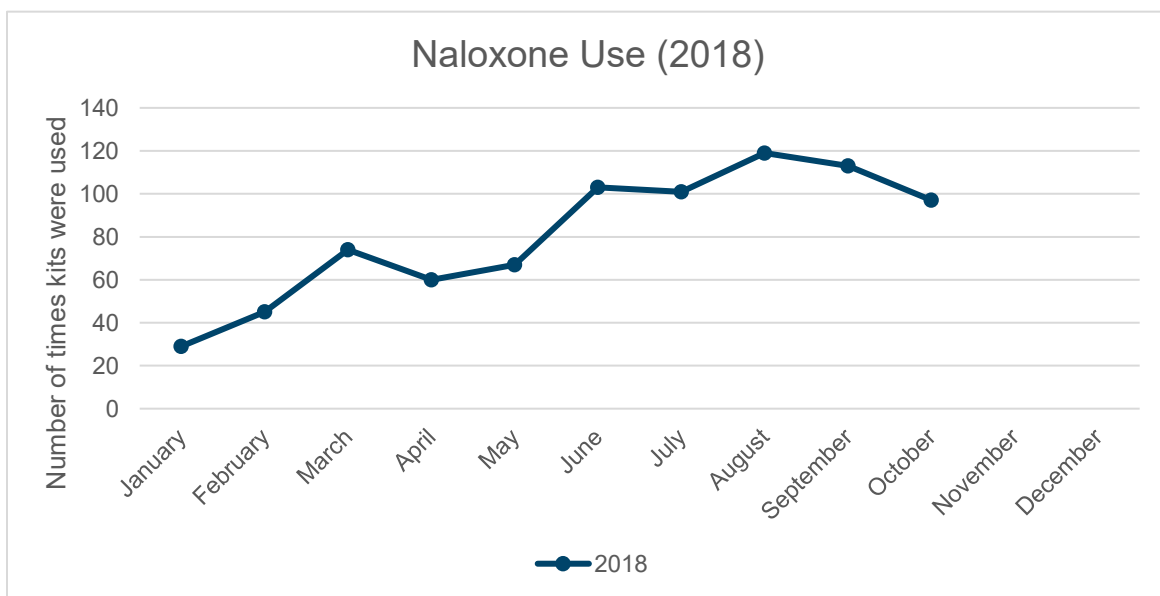
Data source: National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, 2018; Discharge Abstract Database, 2018; Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario, 2017.

- In 2016 there were a total of 297 opioid poisoning emergency department (ED) visits, and 82 hospitalizations

- In 2017 there was a total of 521 opioid poisoning ED visits (a 75% increase from 2016) and 124 hospitalizations (a 50% increase from 2016)
- In the first quarter of 2018, there has been 133 opioid poisoning ED visits and 23 hospitalizations
- In 2017 there were 74 opioid overdose deaths, which is an 85% increase from 2016, where there were 40 deaths. In 2017 fentanyl was the most common type of opioid present at the time of death (present in 58% of deaths), followed by hydromorphone (present in 20% of deaths).



Data source: Niagara Region Naloxone Distribution and Use [2018].



Data source: Niagara Region Naloxone Distribution and Use [2018].

- Currently, naloxone can be obtained from participating Ontario pharmacies, community health centres, methadone clinics, detention centres, and

- addiction treatment facilities. NRPH is ordering, coordinating, and supervising naloxone inventory, distributing it to community agencies to in turn distribute to their clients, and reporting on its distribution and use to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC).
- As of January 2018, a new data collection system has been implemented for naloxone distribution and use in the community
    - Data on naloxone use may change over time as more individuals have their kits replaced
  - The graph on naloxone distribution in the community now contains data from Ontario Naloxone Program (ONP) sites, Canadian Addiction Treatment Centres (CATC), and pharmacies in an effort to show a more holistic picture of distribution within the community

We will continue to keep you updated. Other pertinent correspondence is listed below:

CWCD 08-2018  
CWCD 19-2018  
CWCD 39-2018  
CWCD 44-2018  
CWCD 83-2018  
CWCD 109-2018  
CWCD 140-2018  
CWCD 174-2018  
CWCD 205-2018  
CWCD 218-2018  
CWCD 283-2018  
CWCD 300-2018  
CWCD 330-2018  
CWCD 353-2018  
CWCD 379-2018

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Andrea Feller, MD, MS, FAAP, FACPM  
Associate Medical Officer of Health