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## MEMORANDUM

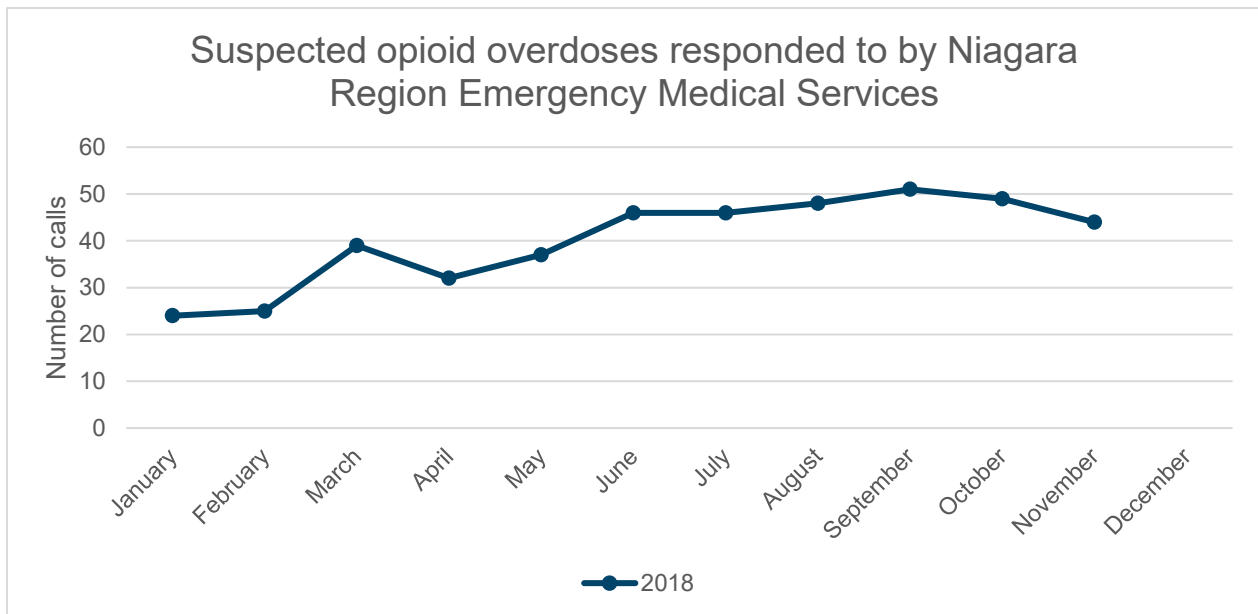
CWCD 440-2018

**Subject: Opioid Work Update**  
**Date: December 28, 2018**  
**To: Board of Health**  
**From: Dr. Andrea Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health**

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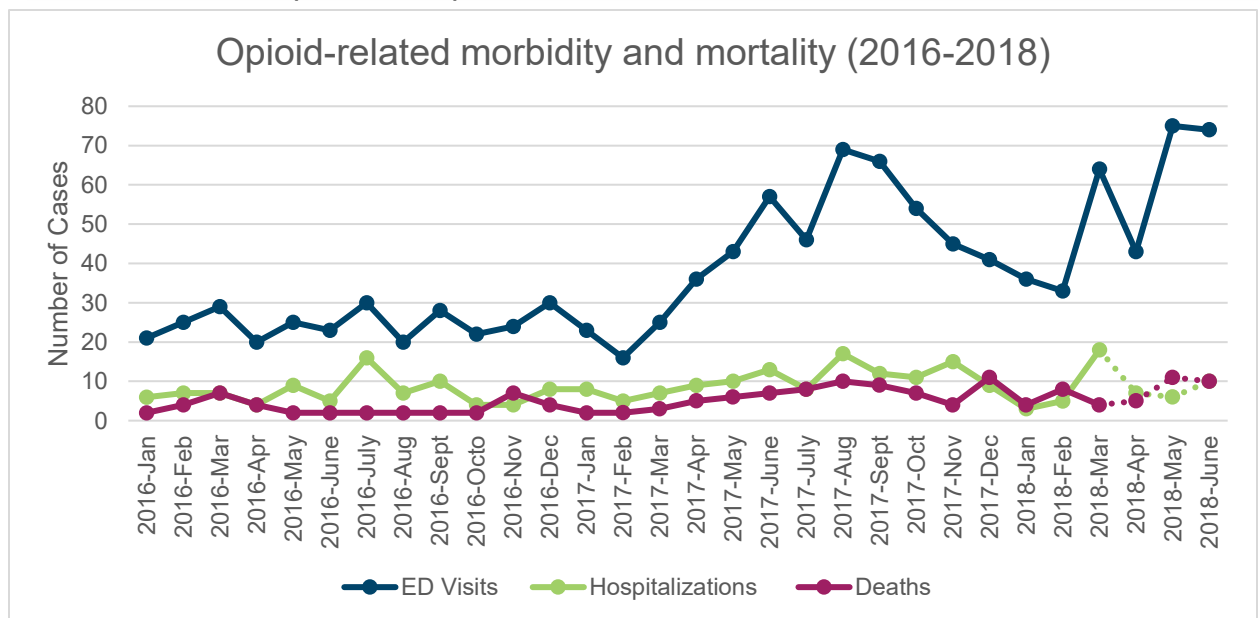
In our goal to continue to keep you updated around opioids, please see the following.

1. Positive Living Niagara and the community were able to open the St. Catharines Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) on December 3. With support from the Overdose Prevention and Education Network of Niagara (OPENN), the City of St. Catharines, and Niagara Region, the Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) site application was submitted on time in December as well as the application for federal exemption. At the time of writing this memo, we are unsure of when responses will be received.
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> (*this has not changed due to the holiday time period*).
3. 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)
4. 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.



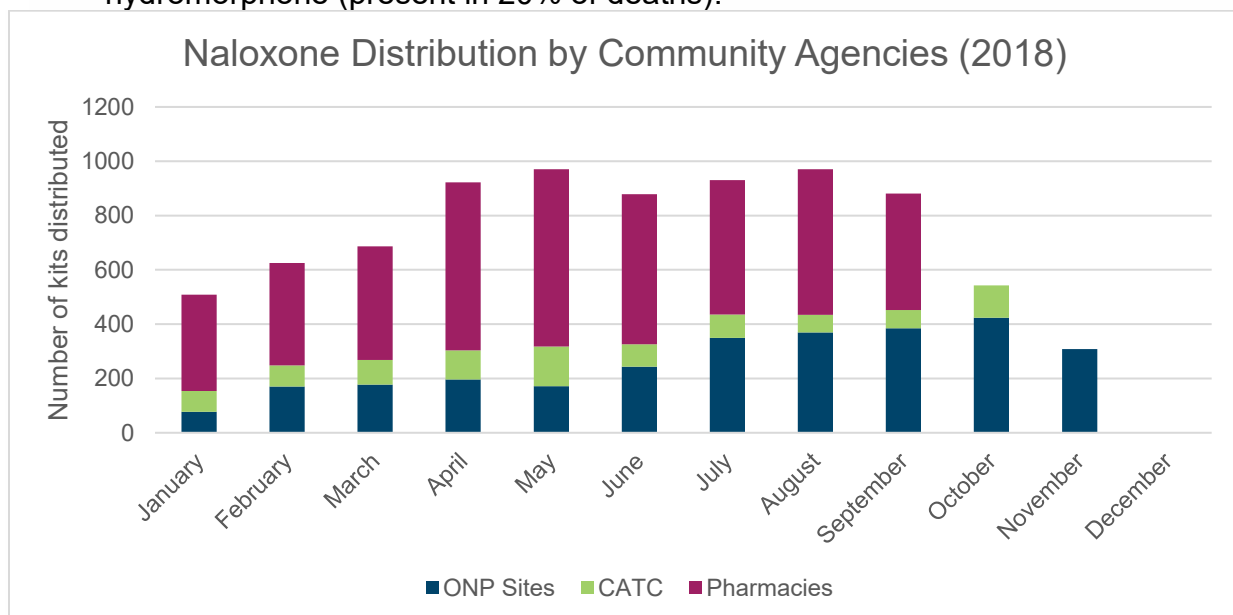
Data source: EMS Edge [2018].

- 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.

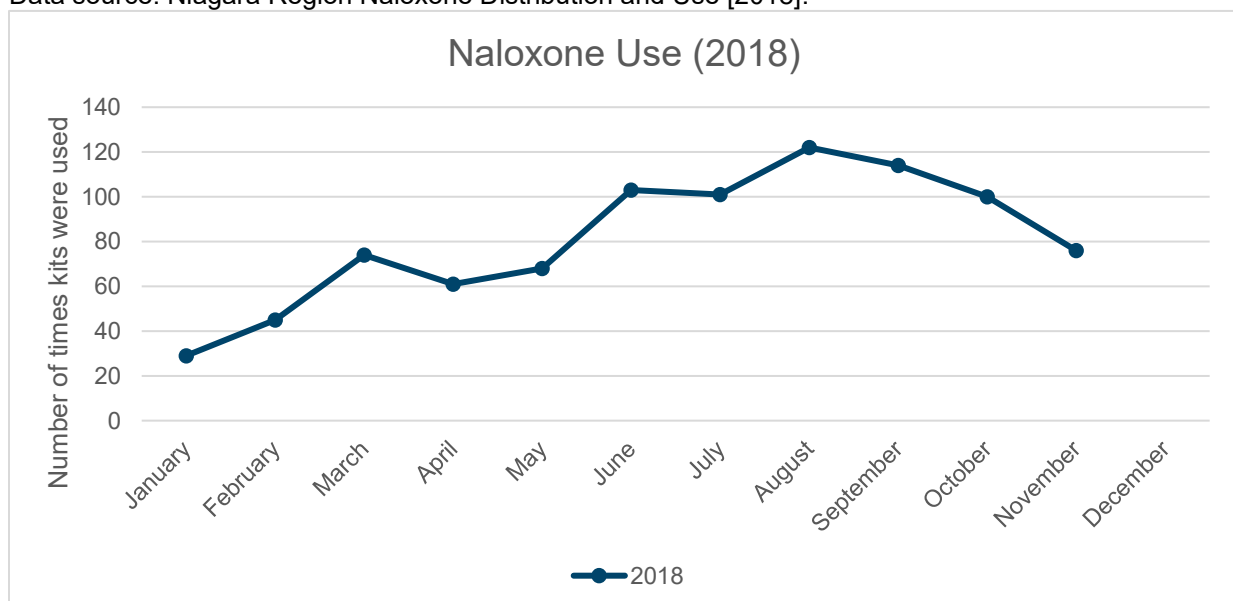


Data source: National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, 2018; Discharge Abstract Database, 2018; Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario, 2017.

- 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 half of 2018, there have been 325 opioid poisoning ED visits
- In the first quarter of 2018, there have been 23 hospitalizations related to opioid poisonings. Data from the second quarter of 2018 is still preliminary.
- 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].



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- Currently, naloxone can be obtained from participating Ontario pharmacies, community health centres, methadone clinics, detention centres, and addiction treatment facilities. PH&ES 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  
CWCD 407-2019

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Associate Medical Officer of Health