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## MEMORANDUM

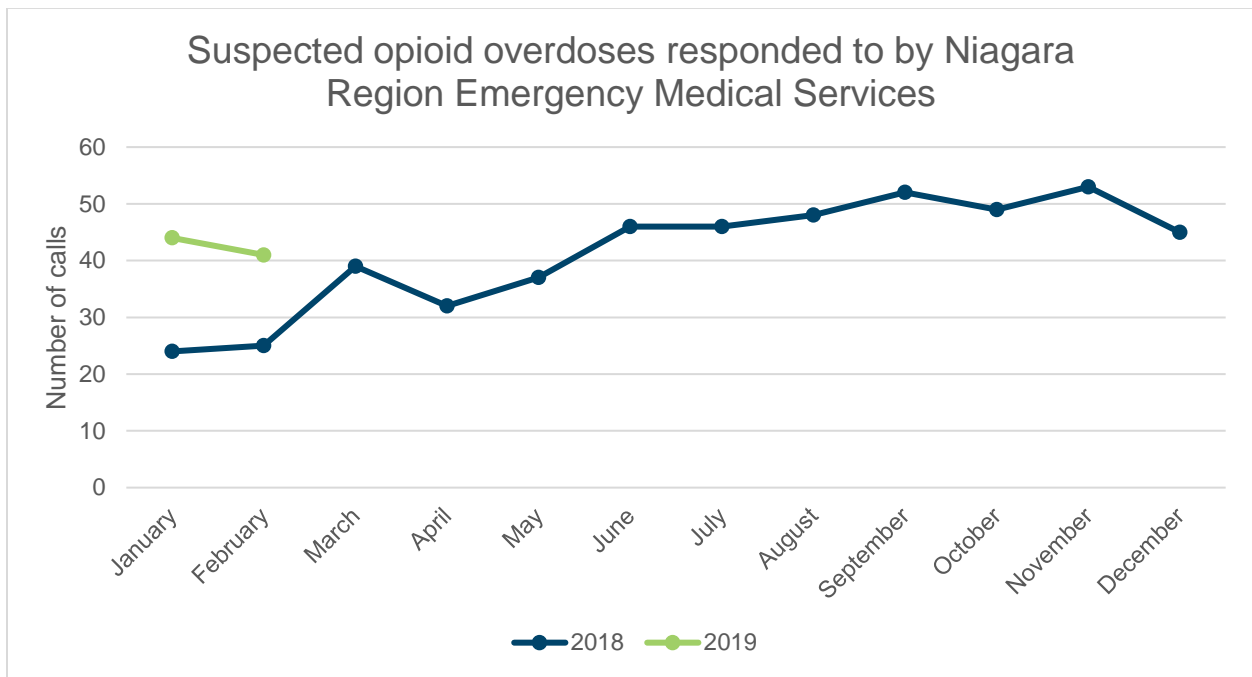
CWCD 131-2019

**Subject: Opioid Work Update**  
**Date: April 5, 2019**  
**To: Board of Health**  
**From: Dr. Andrea Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health**

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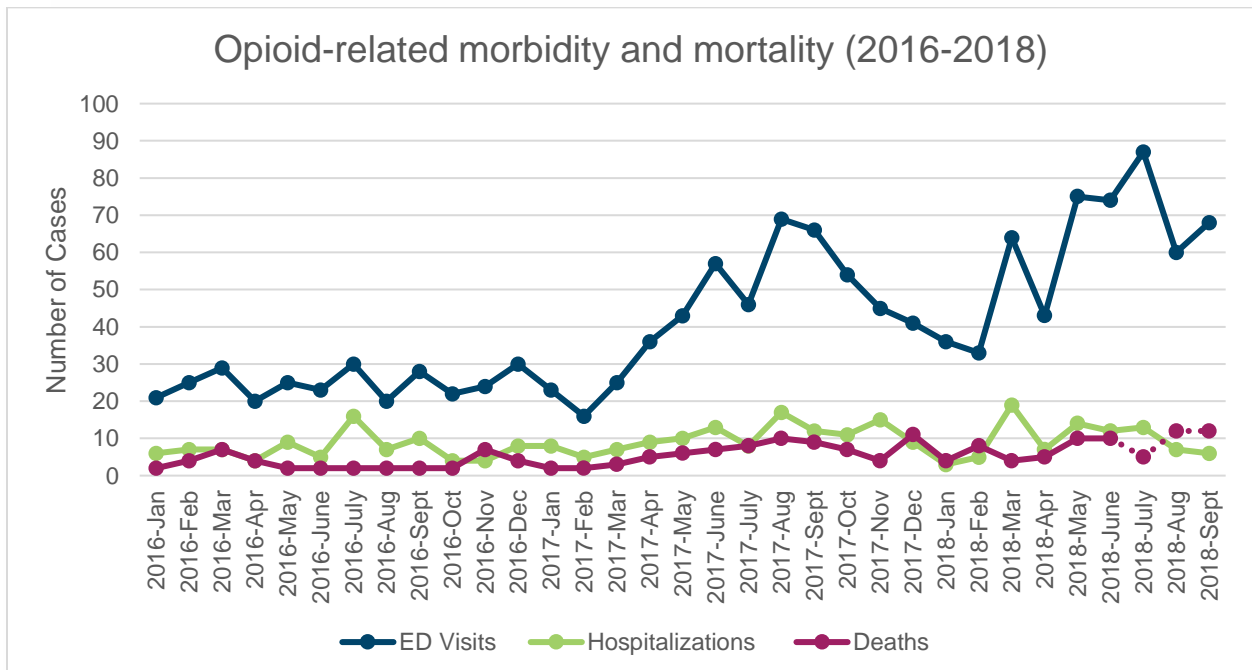
In our goal to continue to keep you updated around opioids, please see the following.

1. Positive Living Niagara and the community received the required federal exemption for supervised injection services. On March 29, approval was granted for funding a Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) site for one year. Further details about the location and model will be released by Positive Living Niagara and Opioid Prevention and Education Network of Niagara (OPENN) in due course.
2. Naloxone has been distributed (over 2550 kits) to 25 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. Naloxone training for Niagara Regional Police Service is almost complete. 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. OPENN updates: An advisory system on toxic drug/adverse reaction sharing is under development. Also, the Substance Use Strategy for Niagara, currently focused on prevention, is on track and in the lived experience consultation phase. Good progress is being made around capturing data that is more narrative in nature, as well as OPENN communications to share updates and additional education and information on social media.
4. 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)
5. 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. As expected, 2018 trends were higher than 2017.



Data source: EMS Edge [2019].

- In 2018, there were 496 suspected opioid overdoses that were responded to by EMS. This was an average of 41 calls per month
- In the first two months of 2019, there have been 85 suspected opioid overdoses that were responded to by EMS. This is an average of 42.5 calls per month



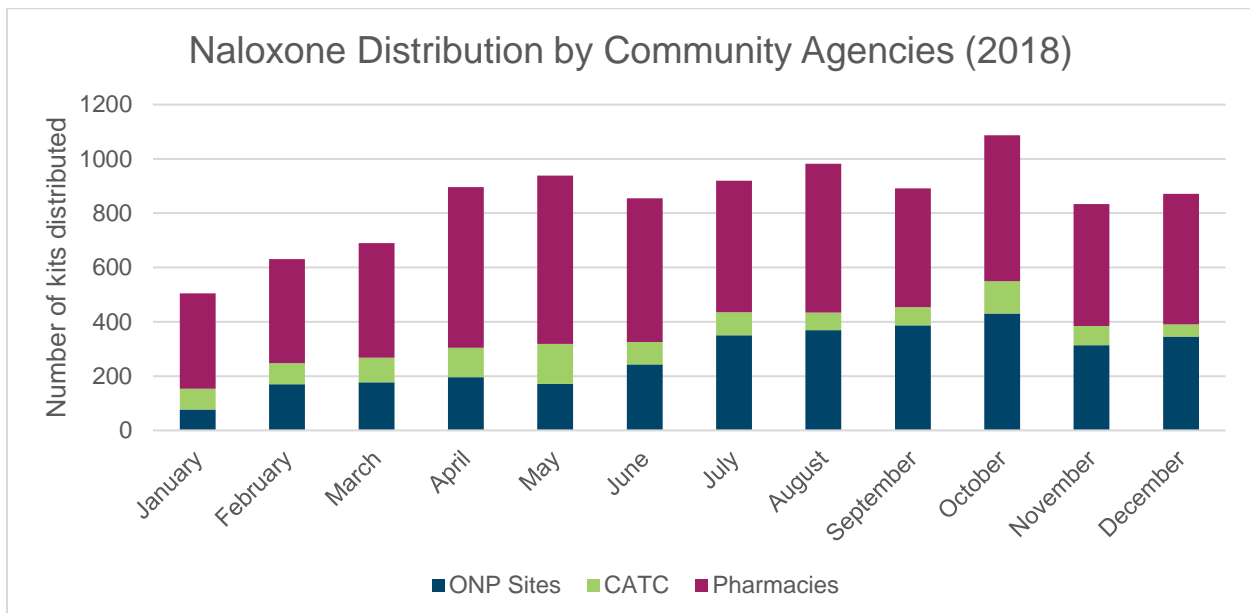
Data source: National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, 2016-2018; Discharge Abstract Database, 2016-2018; Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario, 2016-2018.

### Emergency Department Visits and Hospitalizations

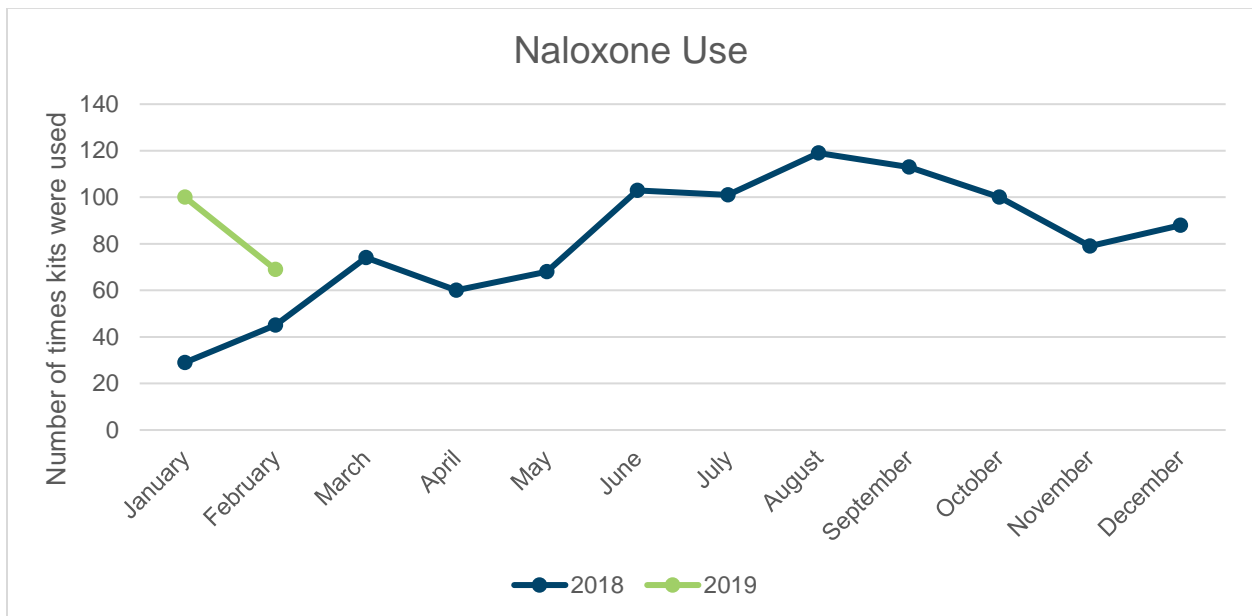
- In 2016, there were a total of 297 opioid poisoning emergency department (ED) visits, and 87 hospitalizations. This was an average of 25 ED visits per month and 7 hospitalizations per month
- In 2017, there was a total of 521 opioid poisoning ED visits and 124 hospitalizations. This was an average of 43 ED visits per month and 10 hospitalizations per month
- Up to the end of September 2018, there have been 540 opioid poisoning ED visits and 86 hospitalizations. This is an average of 60 ED visits per month and 10 hospitalizations per month

### Deaths

- In 2016, there were 40 opioid overdose deaths. This was an average of 3 deaths per month
- In 2017, there were 74 opioid overdose deaths. This was an average of 5 deaths per month
- In the first half of 2018, there have been 41 opioid overdose deaths. This is an average of 7 deaths per month



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



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

- In 2018, there were 10,000 naloxone kits distributed by pharmacies, Ontario Naloxone Program sites, and the Canadian Addiction Treatment Centres.
  - In January 2019, 892 kits had been distributed
- In 2018, naloxone kits were reported to be used 979 times
  - In January and February 2019, 169 kits were reported to be used

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

CWCD 440-2018

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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