

# Substance Use Health

Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services

# Language Matters

Language can perpetuate stigma

Person-centred language focuses on the person, not their substance use

Try this	Instead of this
Substance use, non-prescribed use	Abuse, misuse, problem use
Person who uses drugs	Drug user, abuser, addict, junkie, alcoholic
Person who has stopped using drugs	Clean, sober, drug-free
Person with lived experience of drug dependence	Ex-addict, former addict
Drug toxicity event	Overdose

# Ontario Public Health Standards:

## Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability

Protecting and Promoting the Health of Ontarians

Effective: June, 2021

# Role of Public Health in Substance Use

- Significant role for Federal and Provincial levels of government
- Ontario Public Health Standards
  - Addressed through a comprehensive health promotion approach
  - Informed by surveillance
  - Working collaboratively with the community

# Four Pillars

Substance use strategies typically involve four pillars

- Prevention
- Harm reduction
- Treatment
- Enforcement or justice and community safety

Key areas for NRPH & ES

- Prevention and harm reduction
- Data and evidence



# Overdose Prevention & Education Network of Niagara

**NRPH & ES has provided support to OPENN since its inception, leading several working groups and as a member of the steering committee**

OPENN accomplishments include

- Application for the Consumption and Treatment Site in St. Catharines
- Health Canada application for the Niagara Safer Supply Program
- Safer Supply event for physicians and other health care providers, and harm reduction community workshop
- The Substance Use Prevention Strategy using research and community consultation
- Social media toolkit to ensure consistent messaging and an OPENN webpage
- Engaged people with lived and living experience through a “nothing about us, without us” research survey and initiating a community of practice to share knowledge, mutual support and advocacy

# Outreach

## Sexual Health Outreach Nurses

- Nursing care, education, referrals

## Niagara Parents

- Parenting support, social service referrals, education, trauma-informed

## Local Outreach Teams

- Social connectedness, skill development, self-advocacy skills, community development

## Emergency Medical Services

- Assessment and referral, MHART, street outreach

# Policy and Advocacy

Look to inform local, provincial and federal policies related to harm reduction, such as

- Lifting the provincial cap of 21 Consumption and Treatment Service sites
- Scaling up safer supply options
- Revision of the current CTS model to address the growing trends of opioid poisoning amongst those who are using inhalation methods





## Needle and Syringe Program

Positive Living Niagara is responsible for day-to-day operations. NRPH & ES responsible for funding, oversight and supporting operations.



## Ontario Naloxone Program

Harm Reduction Program Lead at NRPH & ES responsible for program delivery



# Emergency Medical Services

- Mobile Integrated Health model of care including outreach paramedics
- Emergency Communications Nurses provide a secondary triage of 911 calls, including substance related calls
- Provides medical supervision, care and intervention at the Consumption and Treatment Site



# Community Engagement and Comprehensive School Health

## Presentations, workshops and events

- Schools
- Community partners
- Parents/caregivers

## Comprehensive School Health is an engagement framework

- The school community determines a priority health issue
- The school community works together to define an approach to tackle the issue
- School nurses can facilitate the process

Drop off any old or unused prescriptions

Prescription Drug  
**Drop-Off Day** 

Saturday, May 14, 2022  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Fort Erie**  
Leisureplex Arena, 3 Municipal Centre Dr.

**Lincoln**  
Fleming Memorial Arena, 5020 Serena Dr.

**Niagara Falls**  
Community Health Centre, 4790 Victoria Ave.

**Niagara-on-the-Lake**  
Community Centre, 14 Anderson Ln.

**Thorold**  
Niagara Region HQ, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way

**Welland**  
Jack Ballantyne Memorial Arena, 501 King St.

For more info, visit [niagararegion.ca/health](https://niagararegion.ca/health)

# Parenting and ACEs

The conditions of early childhood, and most importantly, the presence of safe, stable and nurturing parents/caregivers, directly impact mental health and substance use behaviours later in a child's life.

**NRPH & ES provides training and support to parents/caregivers and child-serving organizations.**





# Current Opportunities

- Research and community engagement about alternatives to criminalization
- Consider the potential of the Icelandic model of primary prevention
- Construction and skilled trades task force

