
MEMORANDUM

CWCD 429-2019

Subject: Opioid Work Update

Date: November 22, 2019

To: Board of Health

From: Dr. Andrea Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health

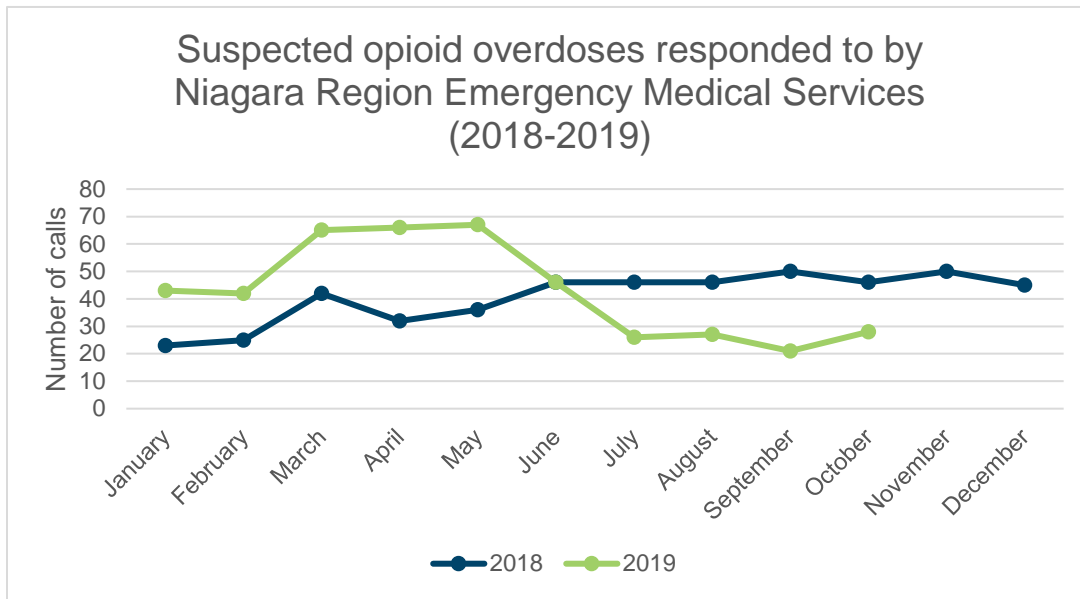
In our goal to continue to keep you updated around opioids, please see the following.

1. All eligible agencies that have chosen to be a public access point for Naloxone are listed at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/where-get-free-naloxone-kit>
2. OPENN updates: An advisory system on toxic drug/adverse reaction sharing went live on October 1. So far, no alerts have needed to be sent out. The Community Prevention Substance Strategy is nearing the phase of report finalization. The [community survey](#) is still open until November 30, please encourage community members to fill it out.

There have been over 3,300 responses so far, about 76% female, 22% male and 0.4% other.

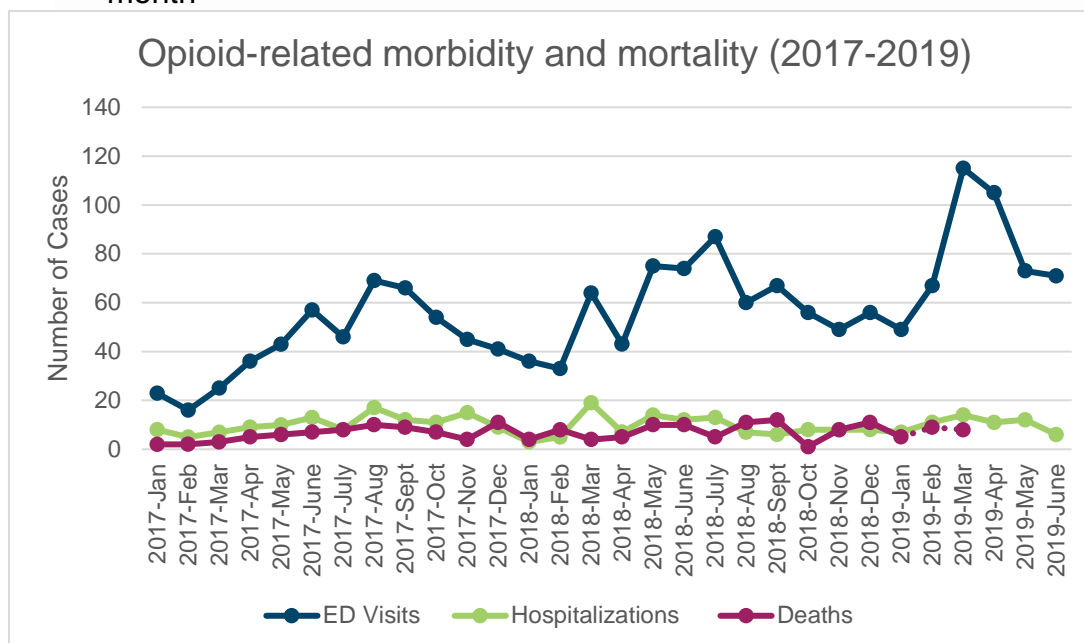
3. National Addictions Awareness Week is from November 25 to December 1 and the theme is “Stigma Ends with Me”. Community Addictions Services of Niagara (CASON) is hosting a trivia night on [November 30 at 630 PM](#) at the Meridian Centre in Fonhill, with community support and collaboration, including from NRPH.
4. Since June, we have been noting a decrease in EMS calls for suspected opioid overdose. That trend has continued, and our calls are actually at a 2-year low at this time. In addition, based on the preliminary data we are monitoring, ED visits for suspected overdose have decreased as well. Naloxone distribution has continued to increase, and we have been able to analyze data that reveals that the numbers of residents accessing medical therapy (opioid substitution therapy) has increased a small amount over the last two years, and significantly increased during the first 6 months of this year.
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

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. As expected, 2018 trends were higher than 2017.



Data source: EMS Edge [2019].

- In 2018, there were 487 suspected opioid overdoses that were responded to by EMS. This was an average of 41 calls per month
- From January to October 2019, there have been 431 suspected opioid overdoses that were responded to by EMS. This is an average of 43 calls per month



Data source: National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, 2017-2019; Discharge Abstract Database, 2017-2019; Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario, 2017-2019.

Note: Death data for 2019 should be treated as preliminary and is subject to change

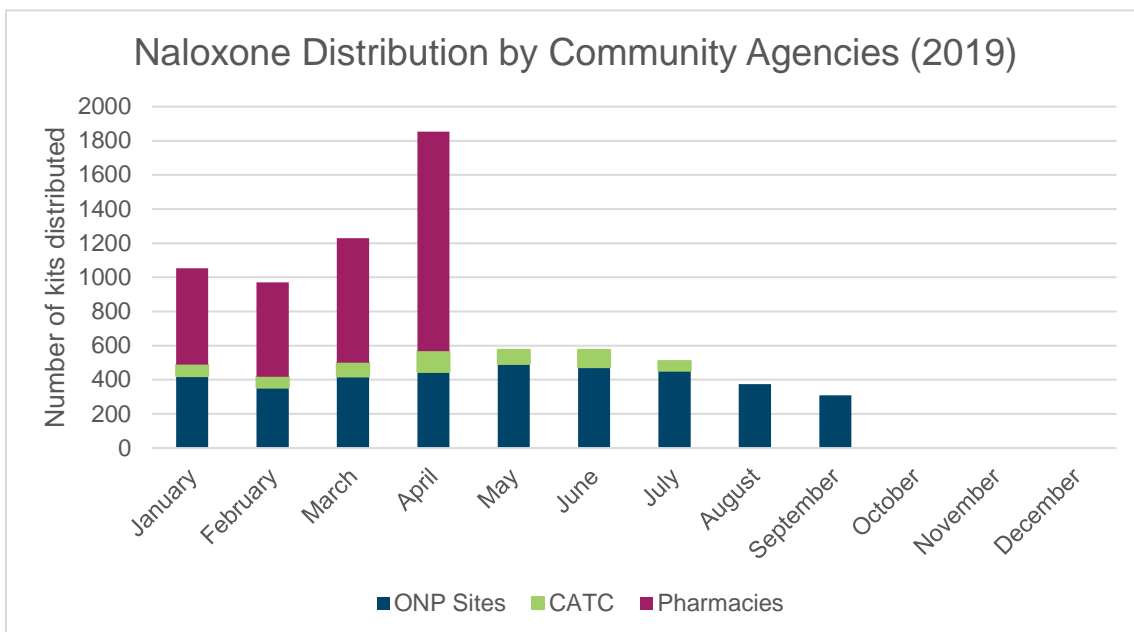
Emergency Department Visits and Hospitalizations

- In 2017, there were a total of 521 opioid poisoning emergency department (ED) visits, and 124 hospitalizations. This was an average of 43 ED visits per month and 10 hospitalizations per month
- In 2018, there was a total of 700 opioid poisoning ED visits and 110 hospitalizations. This was an average of 58 ED visits per month and 9 hospitalizations per month
- From January to June 2019, there were a total of 480 opioid poisoning ED visits and 61 hospitalizations. This is an average of 80 ED visits per month and 10 hospitalizations per month

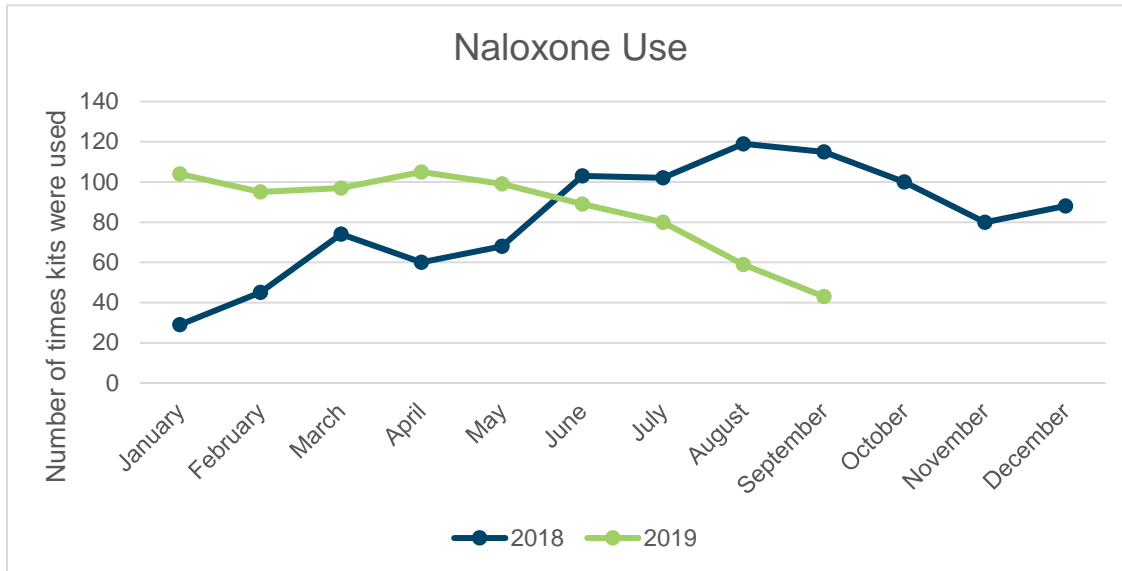
Deaths

- In 2017, there were 74 opioid overdose deaths. This was an average of 6 deaths per month
- In 2018, there were 89 opioid overdose deaths. This was an average of 7 deaths per month
- From January to June 2019, there have been 40 opioid deaths.* This is an average of 7 deaths per month

*Findings are still preliminary and are subject to change



Data source: Niagara Region Naloxone Distribution and Use [2019].
Note: Pharmacy and CATC data is still being updated



Data source: Niagara Region Naloxone Distribution and Use [2019].

- In 2018, there were more than 10,000 naloxone kits distributed by pharmacies, Ontario Naloxone Program sites, and the Canadian Addiction Treatment Centres.
- From January to September 2019, data shows that over 7,400 kits have been distributed
- In 2018, naloxone kits were reported to be used 983 times
- From January to September 2019, data shows that over 770 kits were reported to be used

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

CWCD 131-2019
CWCD 287-2019

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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