

## Public Health Information Notice - Information Only

HNHU is collaborating with community partners to provide opioid-related information to the public. This bulletin is released quarterly.

### What we are hearing

- April: - Community partners reported a particularly strong type of heroin circulating in Dunnville causing an increase in overdoses (HNHU responded with a naloxone blitz).  
- Also an increase in adverse health effects related to “power balls” (e.g. cellulitis).
- May: - Reports of cannabis laced with fentanyl circulating that younger population is actively seeking out; some miscommunication about whether it is a “gram” or “grain” of fentanyl that is fatal.

### Past Trends

#### Opioid overdoses

- Norfolk County Paramedic Services have responded to less than 30 calls related to opioid overdoses from January to March 2018.

### Current Trends

#### Naloxone Distribution<sup>1</sup>

- From December 2017 - May 2018, HNHU has distributed over 300 naloxone kits to persons at risk of overdose, and family and friends of persons at risk of overdose.
- From August 2017 - February 2018, participating pharmacies in Haldimand-Norfolk have distributed over 600 naloxone kits.

#### Opioid-related deaths<sup>2</sup>

- 2016 rate for opioid-related deaths in Haldimand-Norfolk was 9.9/100,000 (2nd in all of Ontario).
- Preliminary death data for 2017 shows 2 confirmed cases related to opioids for Haldimand-Norfolk from January - July.

#### Opioid-related ED visits<sup>3</sup>

- Number of ED visits for opioid overdose by location of institution (Haldimand-Norfolk) in past six months: 1-4
- Total number of ED visits for opioid overdose by location of institution (Haldimand-Norfolk) from August 2017- March 2018: 39-45

#### Data Sources:

1. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Emergency Operations Centre. Opioid Crisis Situation Report #30
2. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Interactive Opioid Tool.
3. Ministry of Health and Long-Term care Emergency Operations Centre. Opioid Crisis Situation Report #30

#### How can you report?

To report overdoses, tainted drugs or needles found in the community, go to [www.hnhu.org/opioids](http://www.hnhu.org/opioids)

#### Contact us:

If you have any questions, would like to be added to the mailing list, or wish to provide feedback, email: [odreports@hnhu.org](mailto:odreports@hnhu.org)