

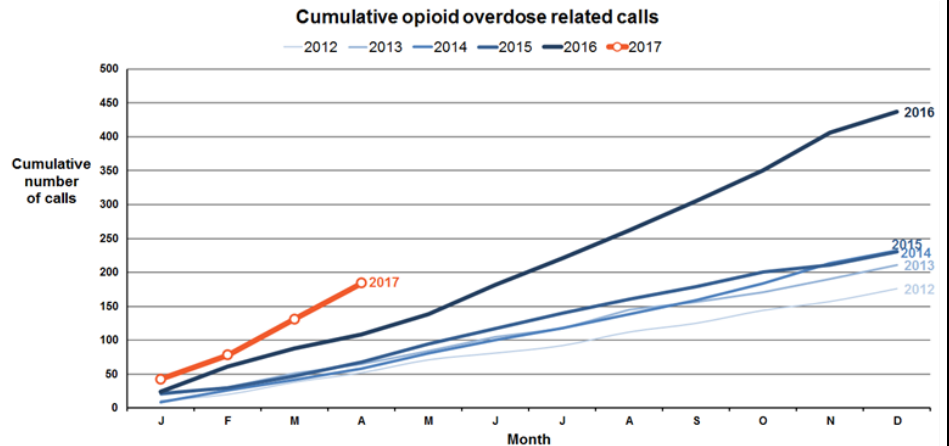
Bulletin #1

Date: May 25, 2017

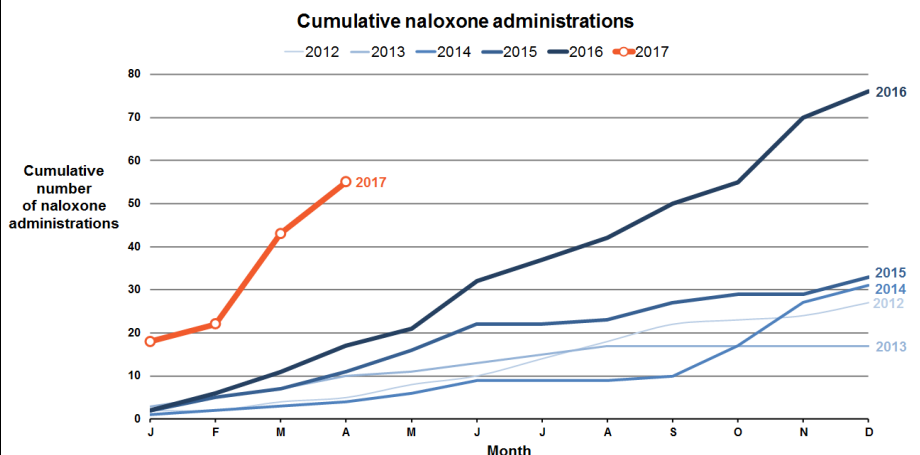
Opioid overdoses continue to be reported in Canada, Ontario and Waterloo Region. Due to a time lag in the availability of provincial data related to overdoses, this bulletin uses proxy measures to ensure some information on local overdoses is available to the community¹.

Region of Waterloo Paramedic Services Data (April 2016-April 2017)

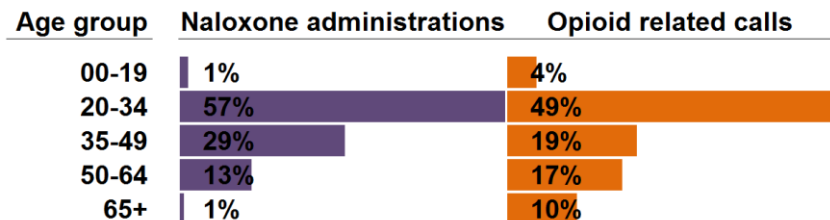
The number of overdose related calls to Paramedic Services continues to increase. From January to April 2017, Paramedic Services responded to 184 overdose related calls. This is up 70.4 per cent for the same time period in 2016 and 170.6 per cent compared to the same time period in 2015 (108 and 68, respectively).



Naloxone administrations are also on the rise. From January to April 2017, naloxone was administered 55 times. This is up 223.5 per cent for the same time period in 2016 and 400 per cent compared to the same time period in 2015 (17 and 11, respectively).



Since January 2017, most opioid overdose related calls and naloxone administrations were for people in the 20 to 34 year age group.



Overdose Monitoring, Alert, and Response System (OMARS) Community Report survey (February to April 2017)

Individuals who either witness or experience an overdose are asked to complete the survey found at www.omars.ca . Between February and April 2017:

Number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses reported through OMARS: 33

Number of overdose deaths reported through OMARS: 6

Overdoses where medical attention was sought	51.5% (17)
Overdoses where medical attention was not sought	30.3% (10)
Overdoses where naloxone was administered	81.8% (27)
Overdoses where 911 was called	69.7% (23)
Overdoses where fentanyl was suspected	63.6% (21)
Overdose deaths where naloxone was not reported to have been administered	83.3% (5)

Ontario Naloxone Program (January to April 2017)

In Waterloo Region, naloxone is dispensed by a number of agencies participating in the Ontario Naloxone Program, as well as select pharmacies. Naloxone is a life saving medication used to temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Local agencies participating in this program include: Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services (ROWPHE), Sanguen Health Centre, Ontario Addiction Treatment Centres (OATC), Towards Recovery Clinic, and the Canadian Addiction Treatment Pharmacy (CATP). Between January and April 2017:

Number of naloxone kits distributed between January and April 2017: 1,265

Key Messages:

- **Know the signs of an opioid overdose.** Signs include: soft or no breath or snoring; pinpoint pupils; blue lips, nails or skin; cold & clammy skin; limp body; no response to shouting
- **Carry naloxone** and don't use alone
- **An overdose is a medical emergency. Call 911** and wait for help

For information about harm reduction and treatment services and supports, visit www.waterlooregiondrugstrategy.ca

Data limitations:

Paramedic Services data: Only includes information about overdoses where 911 was called; naloxone is administered by Paramedic Services when all other attempts to resuscitate do not work

OMARS survey: Not all people who overdose/witness an overdose complete a survey. Multiple surveys may be completed for one overdose event. Information reported is self-reported and therefore not confirmed to be accurate.

¹ A provincial system to monitor opioid overdoses is currently being developed. Once available, the need for this bulletin will be reviewed.

For more information, contact Region of Waterloo Public Health at 519-575-4400