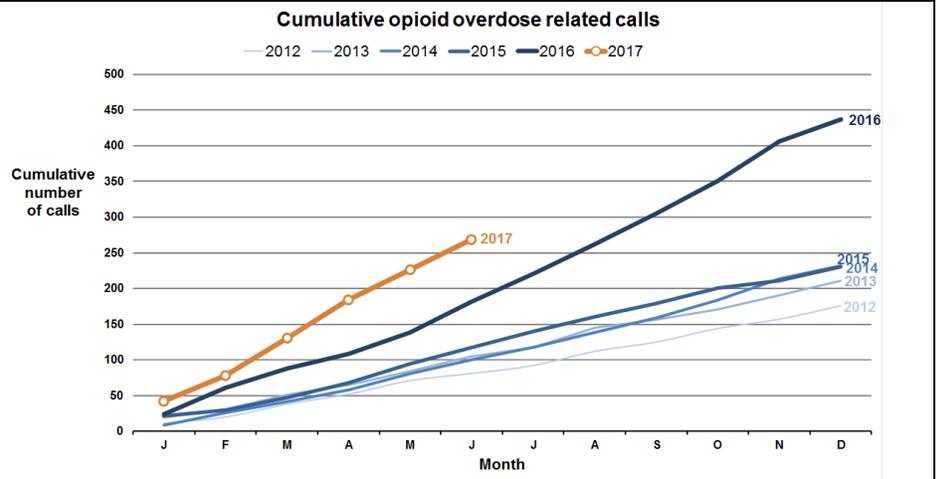


## Bulletin #2

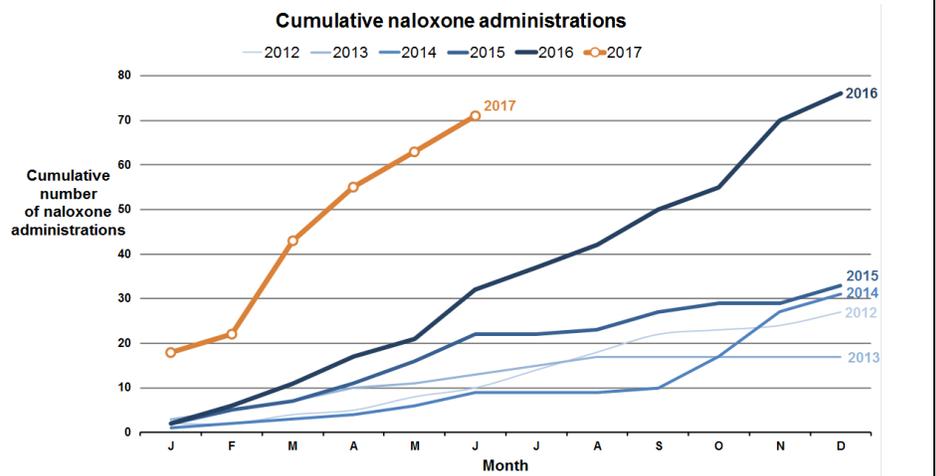
Opioid overdoses continue to be reported in Canada, Ontario and Waterloo Region. Due to a time lag in the availability of provincial data related to overdoses, this bulletin uses proxy measures to ensure some information on local overdoses is available to the community.<sup>1</sup>

### Paramedic Services Data

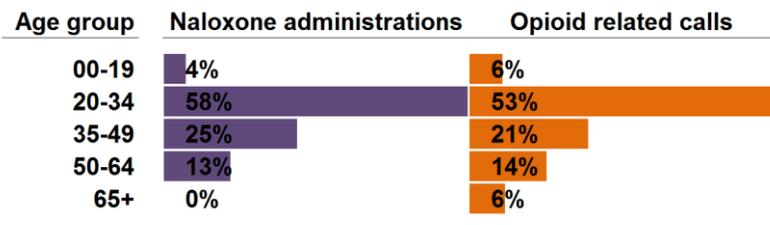
The number of overdose related calls to Paramedic Services continues to increase. From January to June 2017, Paramedic Services responded to 269 overdose related calls.<sup>2</sup> This is up 47.8 per cent for the same time period in 2016 and 129.9 per cent compared to the same period in 2015 (182 and 117, respectively).



Naloxone administrations are also on the rise. From January to June 2017, naloxone was administered 71 times. This is up 121.9 per cent for the same time period in 2016 and 222.7 per cent compared to the same period in 2015 (32 and 22, 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 (April to June 2017)

Individuals who either witness or experience an overdose are asked to complete the survey found at [www.omars.ca](http://www.omars.ca).<sup>3</sup>

## Number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses reported through OMARS: 41 Number of overdose deaths reported through OMARS: 4

Overdoses where medical attention was sought	48.8% (20)
Overdoses where medical attention was not sought	34.1% (14)
Overdoses where naloxone was administered	78.0% (32)
Overdoses where 911 was called	61.0% (25)
Overdoses where fentanyl was suspected	53.7% (22)
Overdose deaths where naloxone was not reported to have been administered	50.0% (2)

## Ontario Naloxone Program (April to June 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).

## Number of naloxone kits distributed between January and April 2017: 1,035

### 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](http://www.waterlooregiondrugstrategy.ca)

### Data limitations

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

<sup>2</sup> Only includes information about overdoses where 911 was called; naloxone is administered by Paramedic Services when all other attempts to resuscitate do not work.

<sup>3</sup> Not all people who overdose/witness an overdose complete a survey. Multiple surveys may be completed for one overdose event. Information self-reported and therefore not confirmed to be accurate.

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