

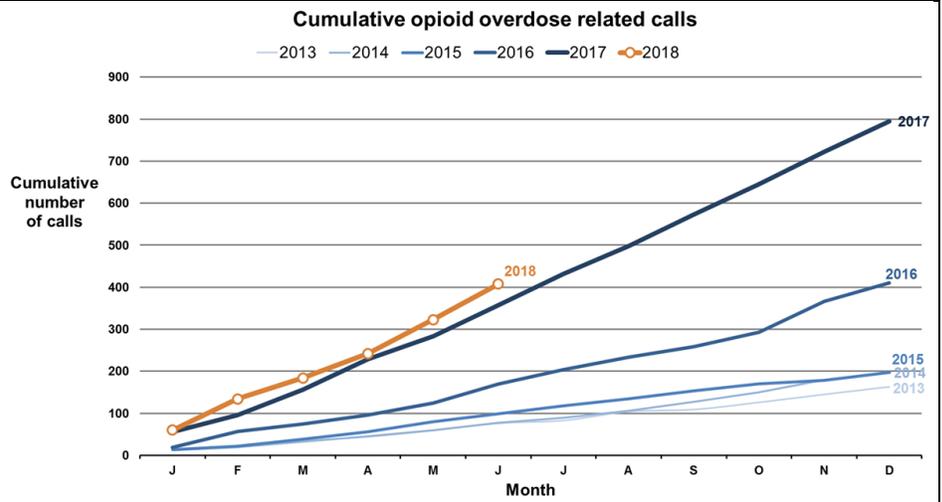
Bulletin #6

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. ¹

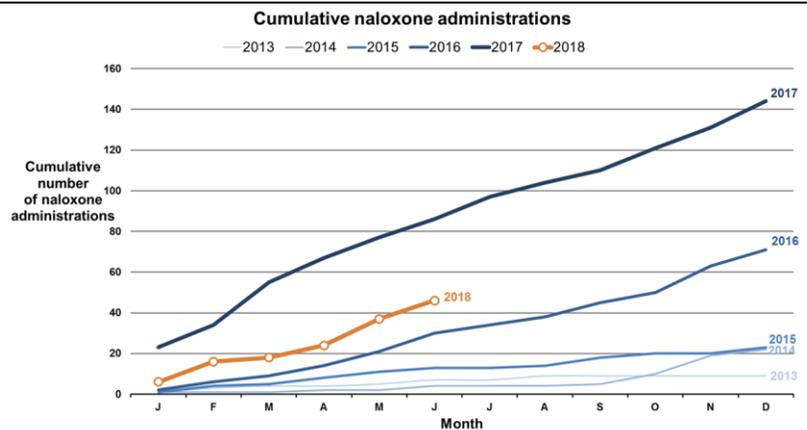
Paramedic Services Data

The number of overdose related calls to Paramedic Services continues to increase. To the end of June 2018, Paramedic Services has responded to 408 overdose related calls; a 14 per cent increase from the 357 calls at the same point in time in 2017, and a 67 per cent increase from the same point in time in 2016.

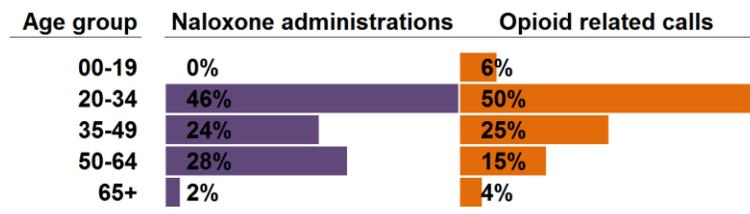
June recorded the highest daily average of overdose calls in a month at 2.8 overdose calls per day (85 total calls).



Naloxone administrations by Paramedic Services are lower. For the first half of 2018, naloxone was administered to 46 patients; a decrease of 47 per cent from the 86 at the same time in 2017.



For 2018 year-to-date, most opioid overdose related calls and naloxone administrations were for patients aged 20 to 34 years.



Overdose Monitoring, Alert, and Response System (OMARS) Community Report Survey (April to June 2018)

Individuals who either witness or experience an overdose are asked to complete the survey found at www.omars.ca.³

Number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses reported through OMARS: 115

Number of overdose deaths reported through OMARS: 0

Overdoses where medical attention was sought	60.0% (69)
Overdoses where medical attention was not sought	40.0% (46)
Overdoses where naloxone was administered	99.1% (114)
Overdoses where 911 was called	62.6% (72)
Overdoses where fentanyl was suspected	90.4% (104)

Ontario Naloxone Program (April to June 2018)

In Waterloo Region, naloxone is dispensed by a number of agencies participating in the Ontario Naloxone Program. To find out where to get a free naloxone kit, click [here](#).

**Number of naloxone kits distributed between April and June 2018³: 1,750
(33.8% increase from Q1 – January to March 2018)**

Opioid Related Deaths (2015-2018)

Year	Number of Deaths	Source
2015	23	Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario
2016	38	Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario
2017	85	Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario
2018 (as of June 26)	23 ⁴	Waterloo Regional Police Services

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

¹ Only includes information about overdoses where 911 was called; naloxone is administered by Paramedic Services when all other attempts to resuscitate do not work.

² 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.

³ Does not include naloxone distributed by pharmacies.

⁴ These are suspected drug overdose deaths not limited to opioids and have not been confirmed by toxicology reports.

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