




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
DATE:	November 12, 2021
SUBJECT:	Opioid-Related Deaths for Hamilton: Update
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Michelle Baird Director, Epidemiology, Wellness, and Communicable Disease Control Division Public Health Services
SIGNATURE:	

The City of Hamilton continues to be challenged by the ongoing opioid crisis. Deaths due to opioids continue to rise. According to the latest data recently received from the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario there have been 85 opioid-related deaths already from January to June this year, a 55% percent increase over the same period last year. While there are often fluctuations in the data, we are on-pace to exceed the total opioid overdose counts in 2021 compared to previous years. This local increase is consistent with overdose trends across the province.

The monthly number of overdose calls to Hamilton Paramedic Services remains high. From January to current, 786 people have called 911 locally for a suspected opioid overdose (compared to 565 for all of 2020); approximately 18 per week, or 3 per day; up from 11 per week or 2 per day for the same period in 2020. The total paramedic incidents recorded for the month of August 2021 was 109, which is the highest monthly count recorded since 2017. While lower, calls in September (103) and October continue to be high (74).

These updates and additional data will be made available via the Hamilton Opioid Information System: <https://www.hamilton.ca/public-health/reporting/hamilton-opioid-information-system>.

Hamilton Public Health Services (HPHS) and local community agencies continue to offer a wide range of opioid-related harm focused interventions and as provincial reopening progresses so does the local service availability. Details of the breadth of local services are available in the Comprehensive Opioid Response (BOH21009) October Board of Health report. HPHS continues to work with community agencies to expand access to Naloxone and harm reduction supplies and provide overdose prevention education.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Greater access to lifesaving Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) in our community remains an ongoing need. The AIDS Network continues to pursue the federal and provincial application processes to operate a second CTS site in Hamilton, as endorsed by the Board of Health and Council in October. Consultation with the community is a requirement of the CTS application process. As the applicant, The AIDS Network is responsible for undertaking community consultation to inform the application and service planning, and has expressed its commitment to do so.

Recognizing that this remains a significant community health issue which has continued in parallel with the COVID-19 pandemic, on November 9th, 2021 HPHS re-convened the Hamilton Drug Strategy Steering Committee. To ensure a coordinated and effective response and minimize duplication, ongoing planning with key community stakeholders, including the Greater Hamilton Health Network, are continuing into November

For more information please contact Katrice Carson at 905-546-2424 x7894 or Katrice.Carson@hamilton.ca.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable.