

Program/Service Information Report

Naloxone Distribution

January 2022 to December 2022

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

Meeting Date: April 5, 2023

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Key Points

- Opioid related deaths continue to be an important cause of death in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) region and continue to rise.
- Access to Naloxone and education on how to use Naloxone appropriately is a priority for Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health (WDGPH).
- WDGPH maintained the distribution of Naloxone to community partners throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic and into 2023

Program Requirements

Compliance with OPHS and Accountability Indicators:

In compliance

Not in compliance. If not in compliance, provide additional information about the variance and how it will be addressed.

Highlights

The Ontario Naloxone program (ONP) was launched in September 2017 and WDGPH has participated in this program since that time. Naloxone is a drug designed to temporarily reverse the actions of narcotics in an overdose situation. It can easily be administered nasally or via an injection.

The ONP program is designed to create awareness for overdose prevention, train the organizations and the public in the use of naloxone and the prevention of an overdose and the distribute naloxone kits to community partners and clients.

WDGPH distributes Naloxone kits to any community partner within our region who qualifies under the ONP. Qualifying agencies include HIV/AIDS organizations, shelters, needle exchange programs, hepatitis C programs, outreach programs, withdrawal management programs, police, emergency medical services (EMS), St John's Ambulance, and hospitals with emergency departments. These agencies then provide awareness, training, and naloxone kits to their clients. WDGPH is responsible for ensuring that any agency participating in the ONP can educate clients and safely distribute and manage their Naloxone inventory.

At present, schools, colleges, universities, private businesses, or municipalities are not part of the ONP. WDGPH did send a request to ONP to consider making the main branch of the Guelph Public Library a distributor of Naloxone, but the request was denied since ONP is not expanding access at this time.

At present, WDGPH distributes Naloxone to 22 different organizations, of which, 4 new organizations have been added in 2022. Increasing access to Naloxone kits and educating individuals and community organizations on how to prevent overdoses, and administer Naloxone safely, WDGPH is helping mitigate opioid deaths in our region.

As of June 1, 2023, the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), requires that naloxone be available in some workplaces in case of an overdose. Since an overdose can occur in any workplace, WDGPH has made it a priority for its staff to be trained on the safe administration of Naloxone. At present, the Community Health Division is trained and there are plans for training the other divisions in the coming year.

WDGPH distributed the following amounts and types of Naloxone over the last 3 years.

Year	Nasal Kits	Nasal Refills	Injectable Kits	Injectable Refills	Totals
2020	2230	66	633	4	2933
2021	1825	534	560	5	2924
2022	2359	478	760	2	3599

The above table illustrates that WDGPH was able to maintain distribution of Naloxone to our community during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and how we have been expanded our distribution to our community in the past year since expanding our ONP.

Naloxone kits are also distributed in Ontario through local pharmacies participating in the Ontario Naloxone Program for Pharmacies (ONPP).

Considering that the ongoing opioid crisis in our region is continuing, the ONP provides critical access to education and Naloxone. These alone will not stop the opioid crisis but they will save lives and help keep people who use drugs safer.

Related Reports

BH.01.MAY0119.R12 – Naloxone Distribution Program Board Report. Viewable at: [2019-05-01-BOH-Naloxone Distribution Program.pdf](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90o01#BK49)

Occupational Health and Safety Act, R.S.O 1990, c. 0.1, Section 25.2. Viewable at: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90o01#BK49>