University of Waterloo
School of Pharmacy
Annual Lecture: The Opioid Crisis

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Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services
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Outline

Waterloo Region evidence on opioids

Improving surveillance in Waterloo Region

Region of Waterloo Public Health and partner efforts to prevent overdose events
Additional Background

Opioid use in North America

Opioid dispensing and prescribing

Overdose deaths due to fentanyl

Opioid synthetics

New Hampshire State Police Forensic Lab
Waterloo Region Data on Opioid Use

• There is no one data source monitoring substance use and overdoses in Waterloo Region

• Opioid prescribing rates in Waterloo Region
  ▪ 2006-2010 compared to 2011-2013
  ▪ Number and rate of opioid users
  ▪ [Ontario Drug Policy Research Network](#)

• Non-medical use of prescription opioids

• Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Patients using Waterloo Region</th>
<th>Patients using Ontario hospitals</th>
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<tr>
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Drug Toxicity Deaths in Waterloo Region, 2009 to 2014

Number of Drug Toxicity Deaths in Waterloo Region, 2009 to 2014

- All Deaths
- Accidental and Unintentional Deaths
Other Evidence

• Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council alert (2013)

• Health Canada testing of drug seizures (2016)

• Naloxone administration
  ▪ Reports to Public Health and Sanguen Health Centre
  ▪ Paramedic Services
OMARS Contributing Partners

- Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre
- Region of Waterloo Public Health
  - Includes Paramedic Services
- Sanguen Health Centre
- The Working Centre
- Waterloo Regional Police Service
- Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council
OMARS — Improving Surveillance

Short-term
- Community reporting
- 911 data
- Other sources

Medium-term
- Coroner
- Hospitals
- Pharmacies
Overdose Prevention

Harm Reduction Coordinating Committee
- Overdose Prevention Workgroup

Naloxone
- University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy partnership
- Region of Waterloo Pharmacists' Association partnership

Education, prevention and training

Needle Syringe Program

Community Health Van

OMARS
Overdose Prevention