The opioid crisis is a national, provincial and local issue. The burden of opioid use is felt throughout our community, by its residents, first responders and service providers. In Waterloo Region, local statistics on opioid overdose highlight the severity of the issue.

### Opioid Overdose Paramedic Service Calls

#### Calls by Month and Year (January 2015 - December 2019)

![Graph showing opioid overdose paramedic service calls by month and year from January 2015 to December 2019. The data is represented by different colors for each year, starting from 2015 to 2019.]

#### Calls and Rates (per 100,000) by Municipality (2015-2019)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Number of Calls Jan-Dec 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kitchener</td>
<td>663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterloo</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolwich</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilmot</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dumfries</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellesley</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Rates of paramedic services opioid overdose calls based on numbers five or less have been suppressed for privacy and confidentiality reasons (rates for all years for Wellesley and North Dumfries are suppressed).
Proportion of Calls by Age Group (January to December 2019)

- 00-19: 5.4%
- 20-34: 43.2%
- 35-49: 27.9%
- 50-64: 16.1%
- 65+: 3.8%
- Unknown: 3.7%

Proportion of Calls by Sex (January to December 2019)

- Male: 68.3%
- Female: 29.1%
- Unknown: 2.7%

Proportion of Calls by Location Type (January to December 2019)

- Indoor (private): 37.8%
- Outdoors: 16.6%
- Indoors (public): 12.6%
- Indoors (other): 5.5%
- Other/missing: 27.5%

*Indoors (private residence) includes apartments, houses, condos, townhouses; indoors (public) includes airports, restaurants, commercial/retail buildings, recreational buildings and other public buildings; indoors (other) includes hotels, hospitals, correctional facilities, schools/colleges/universities, nursing homes and retirement homes. Note that a large percentage of location types are missing or not specified and the
information should be interpreted with caution. Shelters are not identified as a specific location in Paramedic Services data and are therefore captured in the missing/other category.

Heat Map of Total Number of Opioid Overdose Calls (January 2019 – December 2019)
Heat Map of Total Number of Opioid Overdose Calls (January 2019 – December 2019) for the Cities of Cambridge, Kitchener, and Waterloo
Opioid Overdose Deaths

This section includes data on counts and rates of unintentional overdose deaths in Waterloo Region. Due to the delay in death data being released from the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario, suspected overdose deaths from the Waterloo Region Police Services are presented to provide more timely data.

**Suspected Overdose Deaths (January - December 2019) – Waterloo Region Police Services***

*WRPS overdose deaths are suspected and not confirmed by the Office of the Chief Coroner; counts represent all drug overdoses and are not limited to opioids.

**Confirmed Death Rate, Waterloo Region and Ontario (2015-2018) – Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario***

*Confirmed death data from the Office of the Chief Coroner is preliminary for 2018 and subject to change; confirmed death data for all of 2019 is not yet available.
Confirmed Opioid Deaths by Location of Death*, January to June 2019 – Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of Death</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indoors (other)</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoors (private residence)</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoors</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoors (public)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown or Missing</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Detailed death information from the Office of the Chief Coroner is only available for a portion of confirmed deaths and this varies from quarter to quarter. Indoors (private residence) includes apartments, houses, condos, townhouses, farms; indoors (public) includes airports, restaurants, commercial/retail buildings, recreational buildings and other public buildings; indoors (other) includes hotels, hospitals, correctional facilities, schools/colleges/universities, nursing homes, retirement homes and shelters.

Opioid-Related Emergency Department Visits

Count of Emergency Department Visits in Waterloo Region (January to December, 2019)*

*Emergency Department visit data comes from the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS), Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). Data for July to December 2019 is preliminary and subject to change.
Rate of Emergency Department Visits (per 100,000), Waterloo Region and Ontario (2015-2019)

*Emergency Department visit data comes from the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS), Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). The ED visit rate for 2019 is preliminary and subject to change.

**Know the signs of an opioid overdose.** Signs include: soft or no breath or snoring; pinpoint pupils; blue lips, nails or skin; cold and 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)