

Nova Scotia's Opioid Use and Overdose Framework Update

August 2018 - September 2019

UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUE

- Monthly reporting on opioid-related overdose deaths and policing information continued and, as of July 2019, data on naloxone administration by EHS is included. Current data posted to www.novascotia.ca/opioid/
- Continued provincial surveillance of opioid-related harms and contribution to national reporting (see www.canada.ca/opioids)

PREVENTION

- Provided training on trauma-informed care to 199 police officers, up from 160 in August 2018, helping direct individuals facing addiction and trauma to proper care
- Working with Department of Education and Early Childhood Education to revise substance use aspects of the grade primary to 9 curriculum
- Continuing to work with community-based harm reduction organizations to raise awareness on opioid overdose among high-risk populations
- Building ongoing public awareness through traditional and social media

HARM REDUCTION

- Distributed more than 10,000 take-home naloxone kits through community clinics and pharmacies since January 2016, up from 5,200 in August 2018
- 135 opioid overdoses were reversed with naloxone provided to Nova Scotians through the Take Home Naloxone Program, up from 90 in August 2018
- Provided \$2.76 million (\$1.38 annually over the last two years) for community-based harm reduction – Mainline Needle Exchange (\$711,000), Northern Healthy Connections Society (\$220,000), and Sharp Advice Needle Exchange/Ally Centre (\$453,000)

TREATMENT AND PRESCRIBING PRACTICES

- In partnership with the Federal Emergency Treatment Fund, increased funding by \$1.8 million annually for opioid use disorder treatment expansion
- As of July 1, 2019, 1,660 Nova Scotians were receiving opioid substitution therapy from NSHA Mental Health and Addictions, and Direction 180
- Reduced the number of people waiting for opioid use disorder treatment from about 250 people before November 2017 to 25 people as of September 1, 2019
- Established a new satellite treatment clinic in New Glasgow, bringing the number of new satellite treatment clinics in the province since July 2017 to four (Antigonish, Bridgewater, Caledonia and New Glasgow)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND ENFORCEMENT

- Providing an additional 2,000 naloxone kits to police, sheriffs and correctional services
- Provided workshops on opioids and fentanyl to law enforcement, including front-line investigators and first responders
- All police agencies have access to the Clandestine Lab Enforcement Team for incident response
- The Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police established a drug committee to provide direction on the issues of drugs, including opioids
- Naloxone kits are now available in all sheriff vehicles and at all courthouse locations across the province
- Taken a three-pronged approach to opioid misuse in correctional facilities:
 - Nasal spray naloxone is available at all facility control posts, and medical staff have intramuscular injectable form available
 - Implementing measures to prevent drugs and contraband from entering correctional facilities, including the installation of body scanners
 - Providing naloxone kit training to offenders identified as opioid users
- Continued expansion of specialized and therapeutic court programs to respond to situations involving problematic substance use that contribute to conflict with the justice system. This includes the establishment of an Opioid Drug Court and Alcohol Court at the Dartmouth Wellness Court
 - Mental Health Court in Dartmouth
 - Domestic Violence Courts in Sydney and Halifax
 - Court Monitored Drug Treatment Program in Kentville
 - Wellness Courts in Amherst and Port Hawkesbury
 - Gladue Court in Wagmatcook

Date: September 2019