Nova Scotia’s Opioid Use and Overdose Framework Update

August 2018

UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUE

• Monthly reporting on opioid-related overdose deaths posted to www.novascotia.ca/opioid/
• Expanded provincial surveillance of opioid-related harms and contributed to national reporting (see www.canada.ca/opioids

PREVENTION

• Launched an anti-stigma social media marketing campaign in partnership with Health Canada and the Government of British Columbia (June 2018)
• Built stronger connections between health partners and post-secondary institutions to address substance use and overdose, including hosting a workshop (March 2018)
• Provided training on trauma-informed care to 160 police officers, helping direct individuals facing addiction and trauma to proper care

HARM REDUCTION

• Distributed more than 5,200 take-home naloxone kits since January 2016 through community clinics and pharmacies
• Expanded the Take-Home Naloxone Program to 285 pharmacies across the province
• 90 opioid overdoses were reversed with naloxone provided to Nova Scotians through the Take-Home Naloxone Program
• Committed $1.38 million in multi-year funding 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)
• Established a harm reduction implementation team to oversee funding and work toward a safer consumption model for Nova Scotia
TREATMENT AND PRESCRIBING PRACTICES

• Committed multi-year funding for ongoing opioid use disorder treatment expansion ($880,000 in 2017–18, $1,800,000 in 2018–19, $1,800,000 in 2019–20, and $1,630,000 ongoing)

• Expanded publicly funded opioid use disorder treatment programs through NSHA and Direction 180, admitting 625 new clients between Sept. 5, 2017 and July 11, 2018.

• Reduced wait times across the province:
  - Eastern zone: Average wait time decreased from 102 to 14 days; 25 clients on the waitlist (July 2018)
  - Western zone: Average wait time decreased from 73 to 40 days; 10 clients on the waitlist (July 2018)
  - Central zone: Eliminated waitlist; actively accepting new clients (May 2018)
  - Northern zone: Average wait list decreased from 116 to 25 days; 36 clients on the waitlist (July 2018)
  - Direction 180: Eliminated waitlist; actively accepting new clients (May 2018)

• Established three new satellite treatment clinics in the province: Antigonish, Bridgewater, and Caledonia; plans to open a fourth in New Glasgow this fall

• Successfully transferred nearly 140 patients, now stable in their recovery, from publicly funded treatment programs to primary care practices

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND ENFORCEMENT

• Placed seven portable and in-place body scanners in corrections facilities across the province for timely drug identification

• Trained 400 officers across Nova Scotia on investigation of opioids with more training planned in 2018

• Provided 26 naloxone kits to high-risk inmates when discharged from corrections facilities

• Provided naloxone kits and training to 193 active sheriff deputies

• Continued expansion of specialized and therapeutic court programs to respond to situations involving problematic substance use that contribute to conflict with the justice system:
  - 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

1 Average wait times were calculated based on the median wait time in each zone.

Date: August 30, 2018