

# SURVEILLANCE OF OPIOID MISUSE AND OVERDOSE IN MANITOBA

OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2018

Epidemiology & Surveillance  
Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

## Naloxone kits distributed

Distribution of Naloxone to individuals through the Provincial Take-Home Naloxone Program  
**76\*** ↓

Naloxone Kits (units) ordered and shipped through the Manitoba Materials Distribution Agency warehouse  
**205** ↓

\*There is a delay in reporting. Subject to change as data becomes available.

Naloxone Distribution in Q4

## Naloxone administration due to suspected opioid overdose

Winnipeg  
*Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service\**  
**142** ↓

Northern and Rural Manitoba  
*Medical Transportation Coordination Centre*  
**6** ↑

Provincial take-home naloxone program overdose reports  
**7** ↓

\* includes only those aged ≥ 9 years

Naloxone Administration in Q4

## Hospitalization and emergency department/urgent care facility\* (ED) admissions

Opioid poisoning hospitalizations  
**24** ↑

ED admissions\* for all overdoses  
**382** ↑\*\*

\* includes only those aged ≥ 9 years

\*\* increase of 1

Hospitalizations and ED admissions in Q4

## The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner reports on substance overdose deaths

Opioids have been a primary or contributing cause of death in **approximately half of all drug-related deaths each year:**

- 2014: 94 of 175 deaths (54%)
- 2015: 85 of 182 deaths (47%)
- 2016: 88 of 173 deaths (51%)
- 2017: 106 of 192 deaths (55%)
- 2018\*: **62 opioid-related deaths**

\* Deaths that occurred in 2018 are still under review. Subject to change as toxicology results become available.

Mortality Trends (Jan 2014 – Dec 2018)

## Number of apparent opioid-related deaths (Jan – Dec 2018)

Manitoba (total)  
**62\***

Fentanyl-related opioids detected (including its analogs)  
**22\* (35%\* of deaths)**

Carfentanil (a fentanyl analog) detected  
**5\* (23%\* of deaths where fentanyl-related opioids were)**

Crystal meth detected  
**13%\* of apparent opioid related deaths**

\* Deaths that occurred in 2018 are still under review. Subject to change as toxicology results become available.

Apparent opioid-related deaths in 2018

## Number of Manitobans dispensed a prescription opioid from a community pharmacy

All opioids (total):  
**8,898** ↑

< 50 MME\*/day: **4,211** ↑

50-89 MME\*/day: **2,190** ↑

90-199 MME\*/day: **1,803** ↓

≥ 200 MME\*/day: **694** ↓

\* Morphine Milligram Equivalent per day

Opioid Prescriptions dispensed in Q4

The “increasing” and “decreasing” trends indicated by the arrows (↓ / ↑) refer to the change from updated 2018 third quarter numbers.

Across the country, opioid use and overdose continues to have devastating effects on families and communities. Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) has been working closely with partners since the beginning of 2017, to collect and share data with stakeholders, and to monitor trends related to opioid use and overdose, in addition to harms and response efforts. The following **changing trends** were identified this quarter, and will be monitored by the Epidemiology and Surveillance unit of the MHSAL:

- **ED Visits:** In 2018, the rate and number of individuals suspected of an overdose arriving at an emergency department or urgent care facility in Manitoba was lower compared to 2017, but slightly higher than in 2016.
- **Hospitalizations:** In 2018, individuals between 45 and 64 years made up the largest proportion of opioid poisoning hospitalizations, while in 2017, individuals between 25 and 44 years made up the highest proportion of opioid poisoning hospitalizations
- **Fatal overdoses (deaths):** The median age of individuals who died of an apparent opioid-related overdose in 2018 is slightly higher than in previous years: 44 years in 2018, 38 years in 2017, and 37 years in 2016.
  - Between 2014 and 2017, methamphetamine detected in toxicology results of individuals who died from an apparent-opioid overdose increased (from 4% to 25%). In 2018, this is 13% - note that 2018 deaths are still under investigation.
- **Prescription opioids:** There was a decrease in the number of Manitobans prescribed Fentanyl, Meperidine, Morphine, and Oxycodone since the last quarter, while the prescription of Generic Oxycodone, and Hydromorphone increased.

## SUMMARY

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