

Our Ask

That municipal governments support their local Public Health Unit and encourage the Provincial Government to:

- Develop a funded action plan for opioids, including education, harm reduction and treatment, with targets, deliverables, timelines and an evaluation component that is supported by regular communications to key stakeholders and partners such as Public Health Units.

That municipal governments:

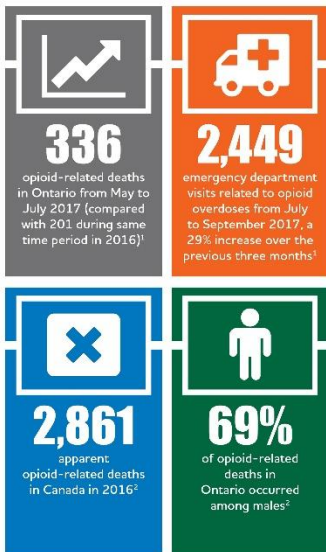
- Support a comprehensive local opioid strategy action plan, reflecting surveillance, prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and enforcement activities.
- Support Supervised Injection and Consumption sites as a life-saving harm-reduction measure.

Return on Investment



- High return on investment associated with measures used to bring about a reduction in opioid misuse including costs to individuals, workplaces, and health care system.
- Research has shown that supervised consumption sites reduce overdose deaths, the length of drug users' hospital stays and HIV infection rates, reducing health care costs by improving the health of intravenous-drug users.

Background



- Ontario has one of the highest prescription rates in Canada for opioids, a class of drugs that includes pain relievers such as fentanyl, morphine and OxyContin.
- While they can be an effective part of pain management for some medically supervised patients, opioids can be harmful and result in addiction and overdoses.
- Lives are saved through a coordinated prevention, treatment, harm reduction and enforcement response plan, supported by strong evidence.
- Ontario has experienced 13 years of increasing and record-setting opioid overdose fatalities, which now rank as the third leading cause of accidental death.
- More than 5,000 Ontarians have died of an opioid overdose since 2000, the majority accidentally.
- In 2016, there were 867 opioid-related deaths, 1909 hospitalizations and 4427 emergency department visits in Ontario. These numbers represent an increase of 237%, 160% and 240% respectively over 2003 numbers as they continue to trend upward.
- In 2015, almost 60% of accidental deaths caused by opioid overdose occurred in youth and younger adults, aged 15-44, and more often among males.
- Supervised consumption facilities also reduce public drug use and publicly discarded injection equipment.



Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

STRONG LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Strong Local Public Health

- Ontario's 444 Municipalities benefit from the many public health programs and services that keep them healthy.
- Under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, municipalities in a health unit are responsible for paying the expenses of the health unit in the performance of its functions and duties that are largely mandated by the province.
- Ontario's 35 public health units work hard to deliver these essential programs and services to prevent disease and promote health in local communities.
- For more than 180 years, Ontarians have enjoyed a strong public health system that puts local communities and their health at the front and centre.

Other Key Public Health Issues



While we have highlighted the health issue on the reverse as a particularly important topic you should be aware of, there are a host of other broad public health issues that may also affect the overall health in your community. Here are a few:

- Tobacco endgame
- Oral health for adults
- Cannabis
- Opioids
- Mental health
- Alcohol
- Food insecurity

About alPHa



Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

- The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) is a not-for-profit organization that provides leadership to the boards of health and public health units in Ontario.
- Membership in alPHa is open to the 35 public health units in Ontario and we work closely with board of health members, medical and associate medical officers of health, and senior public health managers in each of the public health disciplines – nursing, inspections, nutrition, dentistry, health promotion, epidemiology and business administration.
- The Association works with governments, including local government, and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective and efficient public health system in the province.
- Through policy analysis, discussion, collaboration, and advocacy, alPHa's members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention, and surveillance services in all of Ontario's communities.