

The Ontario Naloxone Program for Pharmacies

An evaluation of naloxone provision in Ontario, Canada

2016

Ontario Naloxone Program for Pharmacies

In June 2016, the Ontario Government introduced the **Ontario Naloxone Program for Pharmacies (ONPP)**, authorizing community pharmacists across the province to provide injectable naloxone kits to all Ontario residents free of charge.

Why was this program implemented?



72,600

opioid-related deaths occurred in Canada and the United States in 2018 alone

>90%

of opioid-related deaths in Canada were **accidental** in 2018



Community naloxone programs

have resulted in about **96% of opioid overdoses being reversed** with timely administration of naloxone by trained bystanders

In Ontario, between 2000 and 2018, opioid-related deaths increased by

400%

Naloxone

an opioid antagonist that quickly and effectively reverses the effects of an opioid overdose

Geographic variation

There are large variations in the rates of pharmacy-dispensed naloxone across the 35 public health units (PHUs) in Ontario

The overall pharmacy-dispensed naloxone rate across PHUs in Ontario is **5.5 kits per 1,000 population**

14 PHUs

34% of the population

have rates that are significantly higher than the provincial average

16 PHUs

59% of the population

have rates that are significantly lower than the provincial average

Rates of pharmacy dispensed naloxone were higher in areas with:



a supervised consumption site



higher rates of opioid-related death

Individuals who received pharmacy dispensed naloxone were more likely to:



be under the age of 65



reside in an urban area



have a prior history of opioid use disorder



have received 11 or more opioid prescriptions in the past year



be undergoing opioid agonist therapy (OAT) or receiving treatment with a non-OAT opioid

For more information, contact Tara Gomes at tara.gomes@unityhealth.to.

Antoniou, T., McCormack, D., Campbell, T., Sutradhar, R., Tadrous, M., & Lum-Wilson, N. et al. (2020). Geographic variation in the provision of naloxone by pharmacies in Ontario, Canada: A population-based small area variation analysis. *Drug And Alcohol Dependence*.

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