

Ontario Mandating Naloxone Kits in High-Risk Workplaces

On April 11, 2022, Bill 88, *Working for Workers Act, 2022* received Royal Assent and became law. The bill included an amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to include naloxone kits in the workplace, particularly for high-risk settings such as construction sites, bars and nightclubs.

Under the new regulation, employers will be required, among other things, to provide and maintain in good condition a naloxone kit in workplaces where they are aware, or ought to be aware, that there may be a risk of a worker having an opioid overdose.

The legislation also requires training to ensure workers are familiar with how to use naloxone kits. In addition, the OHS Act would not limit or prohibit the use of naloxone to clients, customers or anyone else in an emergency.

What is Naloxone?

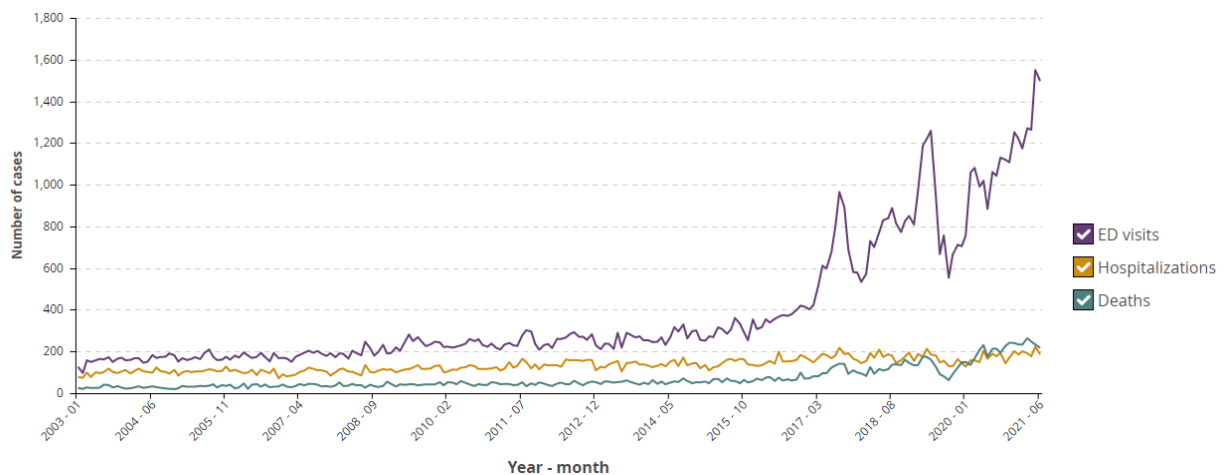
Naloxone, known by common brand name Narcan, is a medication designed to reverse the harmful effects of opioid overdose. Opioids include Heroin, Hydrocodone, Morphine, Oxycodone and others. If not treated immediately, an Opioid overdose can be extremely dangerous to a person's health.

How many opioid related deaths are occurring?

Province of Ontario

In 2020, 2,500 Ontarians died of drug overdoses up from 1,500 in 2019. That is an increase of 60 per cent. Of the victims who were employed, 30 per cent were construction workers.

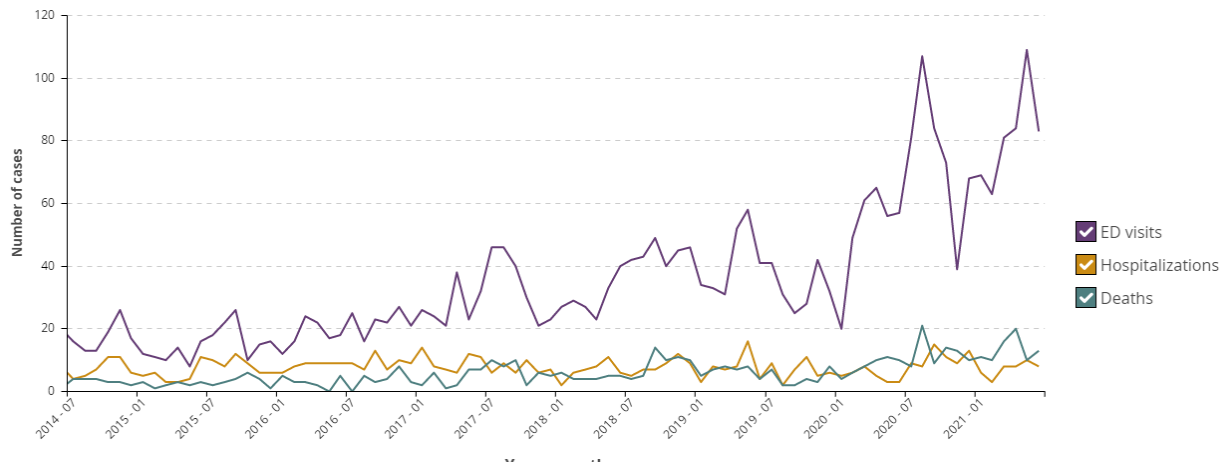
Cases of opioid-related morbidity and mortality, Ontario, 2003 - 01 - 2021 - 06



City of Ottawa

Confirmed opioid overdose-related deaths in Ottawa approximately doubled from 65 in 2019 to 123 in 2020. In 84 percent of cases, Fentanyl or a form of Fentanyl directly contributed to the opioid-overdose related death. In 2021, 48 percent of opioid-related overdose deaths in Ottawa were among those aged 25-44, followed by 39% among those aged 45 to 64.

Cases of opioid-related morbidity and mortality, Ottawa Public Health, 2003 - 01 – 2021 - 06



Where to receive training on using a naloxone kit?

Online Training

- The video is a core component of the *carrynaloxONE Toolkit* and was developed by the Ontario Harm Reduction Network with support from the Provincial System Support Program at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. The *carrynaloxONE Toolkit* supported the expansion of the Ontario Naloxone Program (ONP). The ONP is mandated by the Harm Reduction Program Enhancement Initiative funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health. Through the ONP expansion, Public Health Units supported eligible community-based organizations distribute naloxone to clients. <https://ohrn.org/naloxone/#video>
- [NaloxoneCare.com](https://www.naloxonecare.com) is an online learning portal to help individuals learn how to recognize the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose and how to give naloxone. You can get a free nasal naloxone kit once the training is completed.

In-Person Training

- Free monthly opioid awareness and naloxone training sessions available the 1st Wednesday of each month from 12 noon to 1 pm located on St John Ambulance (1050 Morrison Drive). To register, send an email to info.ottawa@sja.ca.

Where to get a free naloxone kit?

Ottawa Public Health's Site Needle & Syringe Program

- Free kits and training available for clients and their family or friends.
 - Located on 179 Clarence St (in the Byward Market)
 - Available 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday
 - Mobile Site Van provides service throughout the City of Ottawa
 - Available 5 to 11:30 pm, 7 days a week
 - Telephone number: 613-232-3232

Local Ottawa Pharmacies

- Get a free kit and training at a participating pharmacy near you by:
 - Calling the Drug and Alcohol Helpline @ 1-800-565-8603.
 - Checking this [list of pharmacies](#) that have naloxone. This list is managed by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Should a pharmacy be missing from the list, please [contact the Ministry](#). Once you have located a pharmacy, Ottawa Public Health suggests you call ahead to make sure that they currently have naloxone available.

Sandy Hill Community Health Centre's Oasis Overdose Prevention Service

- Naloxone kits available through walk-in services Monday-Friday.
- Located on 221 Nelson Street, 1st floor
- Telephone number: 613 569-3488

Other locations listed on Government of Ontario website

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/where-get-free-naloxone-kit>