

# Harm Reduction Program Update

Report: HSS 19-22

**Presented to:**

H&SS Advisory Committee – April 18, 2019  
Board of Health – May 7, 2019

**Presented by:**

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# Overview

Report and presentation provide updates on:

- ▶ Burden of Opioid Use in Haldimand-Norfolk
- ▶ Harm reduction programs offered at HNHU
- ▶ Engagement with community partners

# Definition of Harm Reduction

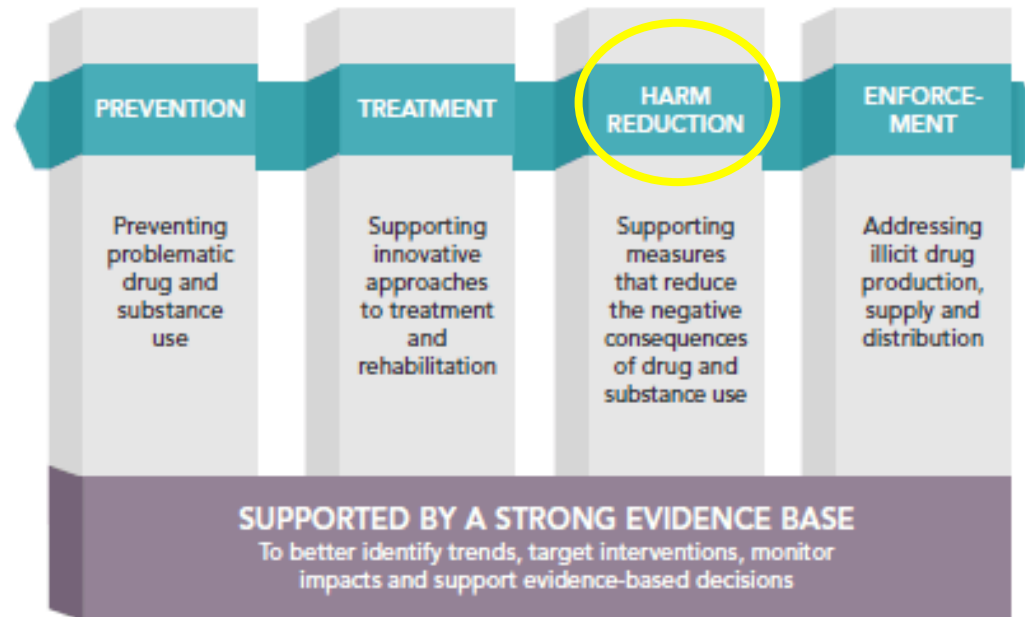
- ▶ to reduce adverse health, social and economic consequences of the use of legal and illegal drugs without necessarily reducing substance consumption
- ▶ interventions respect the rights of individuals to use such substances, increase awareness regarding lower risk use, and address risk and protective factors related to harms
- ▶ recognizes that abstaining from drugs may not be realistic or even desirable for everyone



The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's *Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction Guideline (2018)*

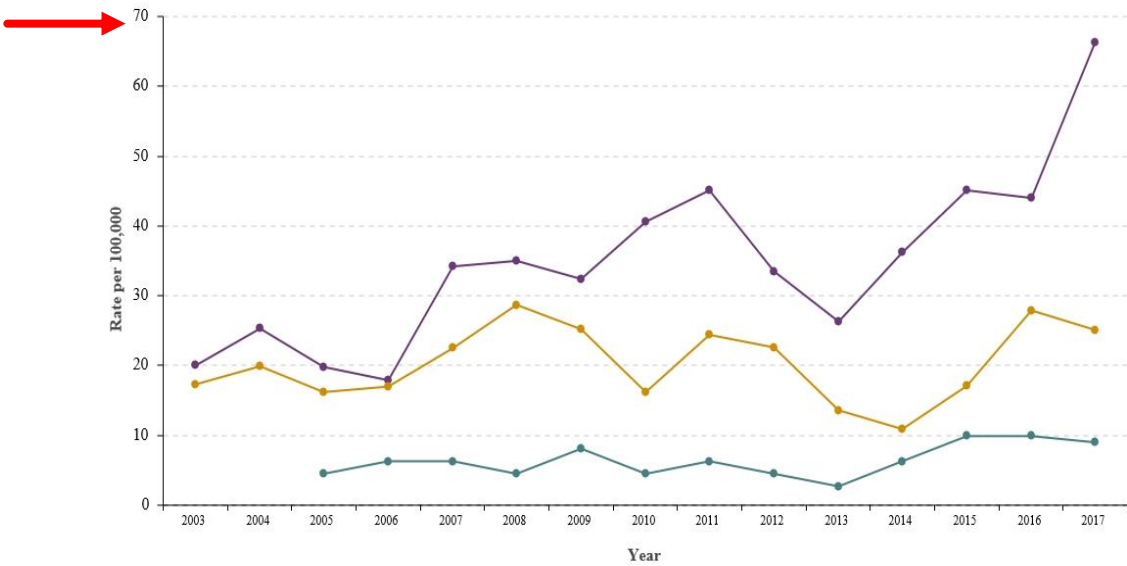
# CANADIAN DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES STRATEGY

A COMPREHENSIVE, COLLABORATIVE, COMPASSIONATE  
AND EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH TO DRUG POLICY

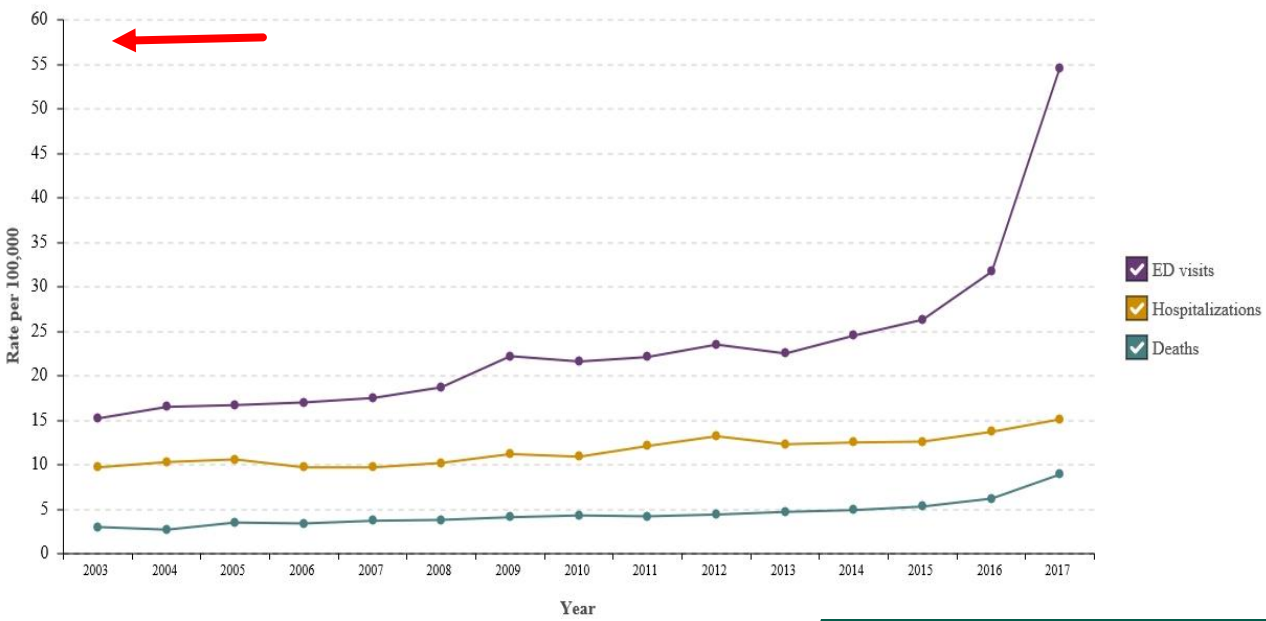


# Burden of Opioid Use

Rates of opioid-related morbidity and mortality, Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit, 2003 – 2017



Rates of opioid-related morbidity and mortality, Ontario, 2003 – 2017



Public Health Ontario Opioid-related morbidity and mortality

Serving the community in the areas of public health, social services, children’s services, housing and long-term care.

# Harm Reduction Programs at HNHU

- ▶ Needle Syringe Program (NSP)
  - ▶ Provision of safer drug using supplies to prevent and address harms associated with drug use
  - ▶ 2017: over 94 000 needles/syringes distributed (avg. 257/day)
  - ▶ 2018 (prelim): over 88 000 needles/syringes (avg. 235/day)
  - ▶ Program expanded in 2019 to include safer inhalation and safer crystal meth kits
- ▶ Naloxone distribution
  - ▶ Medication used to temporarily reverse an opioid-related overdose
  - ▶ Over 500 kits distributed to date



# Harm Reduction Programs at HNHU

- ▶ Sharps disposal
  - ▶ Sharps containers provided through needle syringe program
  - ▶ HNHU was able to utilize one-time and increase to base-funding received to purchase sharps disposal kiosks
    - ▶ 5 in Norfolk, 4 in Haldimand
  - ▶ 2017: return rate of 23.30%
  - ▶ 2018: return rate increased to 34.21%
  - ▶ 15,507 needles/syringes returned from April – December 2018!



# Harm Reduction Programs at HNHU

## Harm Reduction Program Enhancement (HRPE)

- ▶ *Opioid Management Plan* – outlines how HU will implement three components of HRPE
- ▶ *Overdose Response Plan* – aims to coordinate opioid-related services provided by local community partners in response to specific opioid-related incidents (eg. Multiple overdoses within 24 hrs)
- ▶ *Naloxone distribution for community-based agencies*





# Engagement with Community Partners

- ▶ Harm Reduction Action Team (HRAT)
  - ▶ formed in February 2017 in response to growing community concern re: substance misuse
  - ▶ exists to promote and raise awareness of opioid-related harms in Haldimand-Norfolk with a harm reduction approach
  - ▶ provides a forum to bring key stakeholders together to discuss emerging issues in the community, facilitate resource sharing, plan and implement community education initiatives, and promote harm reduction services and resources within Haldimand-Norfolk
  - ▶ comprised of representatives from various community agencies



# Conclusion

- ▶ Harm reduction programs and services
  - ▶ Since 2012, HN has experienced consistently higher opioid-related morbidity and mortality rates when compared to the province
  - ▶ Harm reduction services are essential to decrease morbidity and mortality rates related to substance use as well as incidences of blood-borne infections such as HIV and Hepatitis C
- ▶ Opioid management strategy
  - ▶ A clearly defined opioid management strategy will outline a timely, effective and efficient response to opioid-related issues in HN
- ▶ Engagement with community partners
  - ▶ Will continue to engage and work with community partners on harm reduction initiatives

# Questions/Comments

