The Situation in HALDIMAND-NORFOLK

**Burden of Opioid Use**

**Emergency department visits:**
- Consistently higher than the provincial rate since 2013
  - 2016 rate: 44 per 100 000 population (ON rate: 31.7)
  - 2017 rate: 66.3 per 100 000 population (ON rate: 54.6)
  - 2018 rate (Jan-Oct), preliminary: 60.8 per 100 000 population (ON rate: 51.7)

**Hospitalizations:**
- Consistently higher than provincial rate since 2015
  - 2016 rate: 27.9 per 100 000 population (more than double provincial rate)
  - 2017 rate: 25.1 per 100 000 population (ON rate: 15.1)
  - 2018 rate (Jan-Sept, preliminary): 15.3 per 100 000 population (ON rate: 10.8)

**Deaths:**
- Consistently higher than provincial rate since 2014
  - 2016 rate: 9.9 per 100 000 population (2nd highest rate in province)
  - 2017 rate: 9 per 100 000 population (ON rate: 8.9)
  - 2018: 0 deaths Jan-March; 4 deaths April-June (preliminary)

**HNHU Needle Syringe Program**

Number of needles/syringes distributed
- In 2017, **94 059** needles were distributed.
- In 2018, **85 921** needles were distributed.
- Number of needles/syringes returned through sharps kiosks installed in 2018: **15 507**!

**Hepatitis C rates from 2016-2018:**
- Overall, total Hep C rates in H-N are slightly lower than the province in both males and females
- Provincial rate hovered between females **26.5** and males **41.4** per 100 000 population (avg. 34).
- H-N rate hovered between **19.8** and **39.3** (avg. 29.5)

**Hepatitis C - Males 2016-2018**
- In H-N, males age **60-64** had the highest rate for Hep C (104.0 per 100 000) closely followed by males age **25-29** with 101.8 per 100 000.
- Males age **15-19** in H-N were more than double the provincial rate for Hep C (**19.9** vs. **8.1** per 100 000).
- For Ontario, the highest rates are seen in males age **30-34 and 60-64** (**75.2** and **74** per 100 000 respectively)

**Hepatitis C - Females 2016-2018**
- In H-N, females age **25-29** had the highest rate for Hep C (**112.5** per 100 000), which is double the provincial rate of **55.4** per 100 000.
- The 2nd highest rates in H-N were seen in females age **35-39** year olds (**64.4** per 100 000).
- For Ontario, the highest rates are seen in females age **25-29** (**55.4** per 100 000) and **30-34** years old (**47.0** per 100 000)

**Sharing drug using equipment is the most common risk factor for Hep C**

“The distribution of safer drug using equipment is associated with a significant decrease in equipment sharing and/or re-using therefore reducing the transmission of Hepatitis C and HIV”