

February 10, 2023

OPIOID/DRUG SAFETY UPDATE

For the week of January 30th to February 5th, 2023, there were four suspect drug-related deaths in York Region. In addition, the number of suspect opioid overdose calls to Paramedic Services slightly exceeded the threshold.

Please note York Region Public Health has switched to obtaining more accurate and reliable data from the Office of The Chief Coroner with respect to deaths. As such, the deaths from this week and going forward may not be directly comparable to the death counts from previous weeks, which used data from Paramedic Services.

Given the data shared, please take note of the actions below. If you have any additional information to share, including any concerns from the community with respect to emerging drug trends, connect with us at substance@york.ca.

Remember:

- **Carry naloxone**
 - Naloxone only works on opioids. However, naloxone should be administered to a person experiencing an overdose to reverse the effects of any opioids that may be present in the substance
 - Additional doses of naloxone may be needed to reverse an overdose as potent opioids are being found in the unregulated drug supply. Call 1-877-464-9675 X 76683 or email substance@york.ca to get naloxone kit(s)
- **Abuddy system is safer than using alone.** Use substances with someone else and take turns spotting for one another
 - If you're alone, consider reaching out to the **National Overdose Response Service** (1-888-688-6677). This service will support you over the phone and call 911 if needed
 - Visit your closest [Supervised Consumption Service](#)
 - If possible, follow the most up-to-date Public Health COVID-19 guidance at york.ca/covid19
- Before using, **ask others about what they are experiencing** with the same drug or batch

If you are feeling depressed, lonely, anxious, scared, angry, or have other mental distress, call **310-COPE** at

PUBLIC HEALTH
york.ca/opioids

1-855-310-2673 or (TTY)
1-866-323-7785.

Report a bad reaction to drugs or overdose concerns to York.ca/ReportBadDrugs.