

# SURVEILLANCE OF OPIOID MISUSE AND OVERDOSE IN MANITOBA

Data period: July 1 – September 30, 2017

## Epidemiology & Surveillance

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

Naloxone kits distributed through the Take-Home Naloxone program:

Manitoba (total): 275 ↑

Naloxone kits shipped from provincial Materials Distribution Agency warehouse: 405 ↓

### Naloxone Distribution

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner reports on substance overdose deaths. Opioids have been a primary or contributing cause of death in approximately half of these deaths annually:

2014: 94/175 deaths (54%)  
2015: 85/182 deaths (47%)  
2016: 90/173 deaths\* (52%)

\*subject to change as the toxicology results become available.

### Mortality Trends (2014 – 2016)

Naloxone administration due to suspected opioid overdose:

Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service \*: 177 ↓

Medical Transportation Coordination Centre: 6\*\*

Take-Home-Naloxone program: 21 ↓

\* Analyses include only those aged ≥ 9 years.

\*\*Quarter two data is not fully available to examine the trend.

### Naloxone Administration

From the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2017, there were 66 \* apparent opioid-related deaths in Manitoba. During the same period in 2016, there were 44 apparent opioid-related deaths.

Of these 66 deaths, 32 (49%) had fentanyl-related opioids and 19 (29%) had crystal meth present.

In 27 of the 32 deaths (85%), the fentanyl analog carfentanil was present.

\*subject to change as the toxicology results become available.

### Mortality (Q1 - Q3 2017)

Hospitalization due to opioid poisoning: 22 ↓

Emergency room admissions due to suspected overdose\*: 332 ↓

\* Winnipeg Health Region only. In addition, analyses include only those aged ≥ 9 years.

### Severity

Number of Manitobans dispensed a prescription opioid:

All opioids (total): 8,966 ↓  
<=50 MME/day\*: 4,077 ↓  
51-90 MME/day: 2,205 ↓  
91-200 MME/day: 1,863 ↓  
>200 MME/day: 821 ↓

Proportion of apparent opioid-related deaths where an opioid was dispensed within six months prior to death: 100% ↑

\* Morphine Milligram Equivalent per day

### Opioid Prescription

In Manitoba, carfentanil and crystal meth continue to contribute significantly to apparent opioid-related deaths. Although the number of Manitobans dispensed a prescription opioid decreased, the proportion of apparent opioid-related deaths where an opioid was dispensed within six months prior to death increased. Manitoba continues to work closely with regional, provincial, and national stakeholders to improve prescription opioid monitoring, public awareness and education, prevention and harm reduction, and mental health and addiction treatment services.

## SUMMARY

**Note:** Numbers are subject to change. Missed events in the current report due to a delay of submission to Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living will be included in later reports when data become available.

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