

# SURVEILLANCE OF OPIOID MISUSE AND OVERDOSE IN MANITOBA

OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2017

Epidemiology & Surveillance  
Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

## Naloxone kits distributed through the Take-Home Naloxone program

Manitoba (total):  
**195** ↓

Naloxone kits shipped from provincial Materials Distribution Agency warehouse:  
**235** ↓

Naloxone Distribution

## Naloxone administration due to suspected opioid overdose

Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service\*:  
**124** ↓

Medical Transportation Coordination Centre:  
**8** ↑

Take-Home-Naloxone program:  
**8** ↓

\* includes only those aged ≥ 9 years

Naloxone Administration

## Hospital admissions data measures opioid poisonings; emergency room admission numbers are a reflection of overdose events of all types

Hospitalizations:  
**29** ↓

Emergency room admissions\*:  
**319** ↓

\* Winnipeg Health Region only; includes only those aged ≥ 9 years

Severity

## 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: **88\***/173\*\* deaths (51%)  
2017: **122\***/157\*\* deaths (77%)

\*subject to change as toxicology results become available  
\*\*subject to change as updated reviews become available

Mortality Trends (2014 – 2017)

## Apparent opioid-related deaths

Manitoba (total):  
**26\*** ↑

Fentanyl-related opioids (including its analogs) present:  
**6\*** (23% of total deaths) ↓

Carfentanil (a fentanyl analog) present:  
**2\*** (33% of fentanyl deaths) ↓

Crystal meth present:  
**1\*** (4% of total deaths) ↓

\*subject to change as toxicology results become available

Mortality

## Number of Manitobans dispensed a prescription opioid

All opioids (total):  
**9,290** ↑

≤50 MME\*/day: **4,207** ↑  
51-90 MME\*/day: **2,359** ↑  
91-200 MME\*/day: **1,957** ↑  
>200 MME\*/day: **767** ↓

Proportion of apparent opioid-related deaths where an opioid was dispensed within six months prior to death:  
**16 (62%)** ↑

\* Morphine Milligram Equivalent per day

Opioid Prescription

The “increasing” and “decreasing” trends indicated by the arrows (↓ / ↑) refer to the change from updated third quarter numbers.

Given the increasing concerns of harm associated with opioid misuse and overdose in Manitoba, a surveillance system was established in the beginning of 2017 by collaborating with a range of stakeholders. To date, five reports (baseline, quarter one, quarter two, quarter three and quarter four) have been publicly released. Based on available data, as of the fourth quarter of 2017, in Manitoba, there has been more apparent-opioid related deaths in 2017, compared to past years. The overall number of apparent overall deaths increased in the fourth quarter of 2017. Despite decreasing numbers in the fourth quarter, carfentanil and crystal meth continue to contribute significantly to apparent opioid-related deaths in 2017 compared to the previous year. The number of Manitobans dispensed a prescription opioid, and the proportion of apparent opioid-related deaths where an opioid was dispensed within six months prior to death has increased this quarter. However, the rate of opioid prescription dispensing has remained relatively stable since 2013. 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. | **CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This report contains confidential information. Any unauthorized use, disclosure, distribution or copying is strictly prohibited; we assume no liability for any loss or damage suffered as a result of same. Please notify the sender if you have received this report by mistake and then permanently dispose of it in a secure manner. | **QUESTIONS?** Please forward to [outbreak@gov.mb.ca](mailto:outbreak@gov.mb.ca)