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OPIOID DEATHS CONTINUED DROP IN SPRING 2024, NEW PUBLIC HEALTH DATA SHOWS

Durham - The use of Opioids appears to be dropping. Unfortunately, safe injection sites and free needle programs is making the problem more noticeable on our streets.

Oshawa has a huge problem with drug addicts injecting on city streets with police not arresting.

Deaths have fallen in all provinces except Manitoba and Ontario, which now has the most opioid deaths in Canada.

Opioid deaths in Canada fell for a second consecutive quarter in spring 2024, according to the most recent data aggregated by the Public Health Agency of Canada, released December 23.

In spring (Q2) 2024, 1,817 people in Canada were killed by opioids. That quarter's deaths were 148 lower than winter (Q1) 2024 and 364 below the record high of 2,181 deaths in spring (Q2) 2023.

The drop in deaths runs parallel to a drop in hospitaliza-

tions, emergency department visits and emergency services calls due to opioid use.

Two quarters of falling deaths could be the beginning of a hopeful long term trend. Or it could be temporary. National numbers have fallen before. Deaths fell 16 per cent from fall (Q4) 2021 to spring (Q2) 2022 only to rebound for the next four quarters.

A massive and sustained increase in deaths hit in 2020, coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Deaths soared 65 per cent from winter (Q1) 2020 to spring (Q2) 2020, by far the largest jump ever recorded. Over 33,000 people in Canada have died from opioids since then.

Toll rises in Ontario and Manitoba, bucking national trend.

This spring's downward trend was strongest in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, where deaths have been most common on a per capita basis.

However, deaths in Manitoba

rose 20 per cent in Q2, hitting 108. Ontario deaths rose eight per cent to 655. Ontario now has the highest number of opioid deaths in Canada.

Multiple possibilities for reason in decline Unlike consumption of legal products, there is no reliable data on opioid use, making it impossible to determine if the fall in deaths is due to lower opioid use. But reduced opioid use certainly could be a reason for lower fatalities.

Falling fatalities could also be due to criminal cartels providing a product with fewer poisonous and fatal impurities. Data Shows was unable to find reports showing opioids seized by police were less poisonous, but would interested in review in data available in this area.

Wider availability of safe injection sites and greater access to naloxone kits may also be a cause for fewer deaths. Falling fatalities might stem from greater success in stopping an overdose from causing death.



ARE YOU A SENIOR WOMAN NEEDING SUPPORT? WMRCC OF DURHAM IS HERE TO HELP!

Through the Age Well at Home (AWAH) initiative, WMRCC of Durham is delivery volunteer-based, eligible practical support services to help low-income and otherwise vulnerable seniors from diverse backgrounds age well at home. WMRCC will expand the delivery of services, primarily in the seniors' homes in the local communities of the Durham Region.

Tasks Volunteers Can Support You With Are:

- Support seniors with light housekeeping
- Meal delivery and preparation
- Transportation to appointments and groceries
- Friendly in-home visits, reading, watching movies, and outings with seniors
- Supporting their civic participation and navigating community resources

If Interested, Please Contact Us

Call: 416-825-8133 (Cell) or 905-427-7849 (Office)
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