

Date March 21, 2025

Opioid/Drug Safety Update

During the period of March 3-16, 2025, there were nine suspect drug-related deaths in York Region which is the highest observed in recent months. The majority of deaths were in private dwelling settings. There does not appear to be clustering in geographic location or time of the deaths.

[Toronto Drug Checking Services](#) reported other substances found in the unregulated drug supply including high-potency opioids, veterinary tranquilizers, benzodiazepine-related drugs and nitazene opioids, which increases the risk of poisoning and suppression of vitals.

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
- Find the closest location where you can get naloxone at ontario.ca/naloxone, or call 1-877-464-9675 X 76683 or email substance@york.ca

Never use alone

- Whenever possible, 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](#) (NORS) at 1-888-688-6677 – this Canada-wide service will support you over the phone and call 911 if needed
- Visit your closest [Supervised Consumption Service](#) and check for service availability.

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

5 STEPS TO RESPOND TO AN OPIOID OVERDOSE

STEP 1		SHOUT & SHAKE their name & their shoulders
STEP 2		CALL 9-1-1 If unresponsive.
STEP 3		GIVE NALOXONE: 1 spray into nostril or inject 1 vial or ampoule into arm or leg.
STEP 4		PERFORM RESCUE BREATHING AND/OR CHEST COMPRESSIONS.
STEP 5		IS IT WORKING? If no improvement after 2-3 minutes, repeat steps 3 & 4. Stay with them.

RECOVERY POSITION If the person begins breathing on their own, or if you have to leave them alone, put them in the recovery position.



head should be tilted back slightly to open airway

hand supports head

knee stops body from rolling onto stomach

SIGNS OF OPIOID OVERDOSE

- Person can't be woken up
- Breathing is slow or has stopped
- Snoring or gurgling sounds
- Fingernails and lips turn blue or purple
- Pupils are tiny or eyes are rolled back
- Body is limp

ontario.ca/OpioidOverdose

