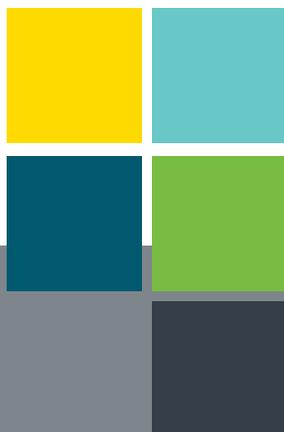




Community Overdose Prevention Trainings 2024 REPORT

WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY
HEALTH UNIT
Department of
Chronic Disease and Injury
Prevention



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Community Overdose Prevention Trainings

Background

Naloxone kits have successfully reversed thousands of overdoses across Canada (Health Canada, 2022). Naloxone administration and overdose education interventions aimed at friends and family of people who use substance as well as by-standers have demonstrated significant increases in overdose recovery and improved knowledge and recognition of an overdose, respectively (Giglio, Li, and DiMaggio, 2015). As well, the efficacy of overdose reversal following naloxone administration by laypersons (non-medical emergency persons) is between 75-100% (Lynn and Galinkin, 2017). Yet, provincial data demonstrates that naloxone is only administered in half of overdoses cases where someone is present to do so (PHO, 2022).

Another harm reduction approach, fentanyl test strips (FTS), are an effective strategy for rapidly identifying if fentanyl is present in a substance with low rates of false negative readings (Ti et al., 2020). While FTS cannot detect the quantity of fentanyl and other substances in the sample may affect the accuracy results (Government of Canada, 2023), they do offer consumers an opportunity to make an informed choice about their substance use and increase access to drug checking services. A similar approach can also be taken with xylazine, nitazene, and benzodiazepine strips.

Most opioid-related deaths in Ontario occur in indoor private dwellings (PHO, 2022). In Windsor, individuals residing in and around the downtown core are at a higher risk for fatal overdoses (WECHU, 2022). Partner agencies involved in the Windsor Essex Community Opioid and Substance Strategy aimed to expand access to naloxone and drug tests strips and increase education on overdose prevention through the delivery of community overdose prevention trainings.

As such, there is a need to expand access to available harm reduction options and decrease stigma around their use as they are effective strategies in reducing fatal opioid overdoses. Therefore, the utilization of FTS and naloxone as take-home/portable drug checking and overdose prevention strategies, respectively, may assist in reaching this population given their convenience and accessibility.

Overdose Prevention Trainings

Most of these overdose prevention training sessions included training on naloxone administration and were hosted in collaboration with an active *Ontario Naloxone Program* (ONP) partner who distributed naloxone kits following the training. Some overdose prevention trainings also included training on fentanyl, xylazine, nitazene, and/or benzodiazepine test strip use. The educational content was developed by WECHU's ONP team and the *WECOSS' Harm Reduction Working Group*. At least one training course was offered each quarter of 2024 and targeted the clients of partner agencies that operate in high priority FSAs (N9A, N8W, N8Y, N8X).

At the end of some of the overdose prevention training (n= 4), participants were asked to complete an evaluation survey assessing whether the training increased their knowledge about available harm reduction services, their intent to use these strategies in the future, and their satisfaction with the training. In the current evaluation question, worded as, "I will use the training from today in the future if needed". Add the percentages from each report and divided by the number of reports ((93% + 100% + 86% + 100%)/4) = 95%.

Results

There were ten (10) community overdose prevention trainings hosted in 2024. These events were held at a variety of locations and with different participating groups.

Event #1

Event # 1 – March 22 nd , 2024	
Event Host	Event Organizers: New Song Church Naloxone Training: Essex County Health Unit & EMS (naloxone kits)
Event Location, date and time	New Song Church 999 Drouillard Rd Friday, March 22 nd , 2024 3:00 p.m.
Purpose of Event	To train staff working in the downtown core who support people who use substances on naloxone administration.
Priority Population(s) in Attendance	Individuals working in the downtown core who serve and/or may encounter an individual at risk for an opioid overdose.
Data Collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 naloxone kits distributed • 13 individuals trained to administer naloxone

Event 2

EVENT #2 – APRIL 24 TH 2024	
Event Host	Organizers: Windsor-Essex County Health Unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Windsor (via SSNAPP –evaluation and venue selection) • Windsor Police Service (via SSNAPP – secured venue, talking about GSDOA) • Canadian Mental Health Association Windsor-Essex County Branch (event promotion) Supporting Partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essex-Windsor EMS (naloxone training) • Pozitive Pathways (sharing non-clinical exp. w/naloxone and helped to secure a peer speaker) • Aegis (speaking on opioid crisis and Q&A) • Hôtel Dieu Grace Healthcare (individuals who would like to be more involved in delivering event) • Windsor-Essex OHT (providing snacks)
Location Date(s) and Time(s) of Event	Windsor International Aquatic Centre Wednesday April 24th 6:00 to 8:00 PM
Purpose of Event	To increase education on overdose prevention strategies, increase access to harm reduction supplies, and address substance use-related stigma.
Data Collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 naloxone kits distributed • 30 individuals trained in naloxone administration and test strip use • 260 fentanyl test strips distributed

Event 3

EVENT # 3– JULY 2ND 2024	
Event Host	Event Organizer: Downtown Windsor Community Collaborative (DWCC) Naloxone Training: Windsor-Essex County Health Unit & Essex-Windsor EMS
Location, Date and Time of the event	Bruce Park Tuesday, July 2 nd 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Purpose of Event	To train priority population (individuals living in the downtown core) on naloxone administration
Data Collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 individuals trained on naloxone administration and test strip use • 4 naloxone kits distributed • 8 interactions (talking about opioids, naloxone, and breakdown myths about people who use substances)

Event 4

EVENT # 4 – JULY 25TH 2024 (Additional Event)	
Event Host	Event Organizers: Windsor Essex Community Housing Corp. & WECHU Naloxone Training: WECHU & H4 Resource Tables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive Pathways • Brentwood • Windsor Police Service
Location, Date and Time Of Event	Chateau Building (415 University Avenue) Thursday, July 22 nd from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Purpose of Event	To train priority population (individuals living in the downtown core) on naloxone administration in response to a rise in opioid overdoses experienced in June/July.
Data Collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 naloxone kits distributed • 26 individuals trained to administer naloxone

Event 5

EVENT # 5 – AUGUST 16TH, 2024 (Additional Event)	
Event Host	Event Organizers: WECHU & Legal Assistance Windsor Naloxone Training: Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
Location, Date(s) and Time(s) of Event	Friday, August 16 th Two sessions: 2:00-2:30pm and 3:00-3:30pm
Purpose of Event	To train staff working in the downtown core who support people who use substances on naloxone administration in response to a rise in opioid overdoses experienced in June/July.
Data Collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 naloxone kits distributed • 7 individuals trained to administer naloxone

Event 6

EVENT # 6 – AUGUST 21 ST , 2024	
Event Host	<p>Event Organizers: WECHU, Downtown Windsor BIA, SSNAPP (City of Windsor and Windsor Police Service)</p> <p>Naloxone Training: WECHU & Essex Windsor EMS</p>
Location, Date and Time of Event	<p>St. Clair Centre for the Arts, Port of Windsor Room</p> <p>Wednesday, August 21st</p> <p>3:30-4:15pm, 4:30-5:15pm, and 5:30-6:15pm</p>
Purpose of Event	To train owners/staff from downtown businesses and agencies on naloxone administration in response to a rise in opioid overdoses experienced in June/July.
Data Collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 naloxone kits distributed • 25 individuals trained to administer naloxone

EVENT 7 & 8

EVENT # 7 & # 8 – NOVEMBER 14 TH AND NOVEMBER 15 TH , 2024	
Event Host	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Windsor Police Service • Windsor Regional Hospital • Family Services Windsor-Essex • Canadian Mental Health Association • Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation
Location, Date(s) and Time(s) of Event	<p>Glengarry Community Care Fair</p> <p>Wheelton Manor, 333 Glengarry Avenue</p> <p>Nov 14th & Nov 15th,</p> <p>12pm-3pm & 5pm-7pm.</p>
Purpose of Event	To increase education on overdose prevention strategies and mental health resources, increase access to harm reduction supplies, provide resources on neighborhood safety plans, and address substance use-related stigma.
Data Collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 60 interactions with residents • 40 safety plans distributed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30 downtown, 4 south central, 3 south Walkerville, 3 Walkerville and east Windsor • 335 drug test strips distributed • 20 residents received drug test strips

EVENT 9

EVENT # 9 – NOVEMBER 19 TH , 2024	
Event Host	<p>Construction Association</p> <p>IHSA- Infrastructure Health and Safety Association</p>
Location, Date and Time of Event	<p>The Children’s Safety Village</p> <p>Nov. 19, 2024:</p> <p>12:00 pm to 1:00pm</p>
Purpose of Event	To address the increase in the prevalence of substance use and related incidents/harm amongst construction workers by providing education

	and support to local health and safety representatives in the construction industry.
Data collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 naloxone nasal spray kits distributed • 18 individuals trained to administer naloxone

EVENT 10

EVENT # 10 – DECEMBER 18th, 2024	
Event Host	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Windsor Police Service • Windsor Regional Hospital • Family Services Windsor-Essex • Canadian Mental Health Association • Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation
Location, Date and Time of Event	Glengarry Community Holiday Care Fair 415 University Avenue December 18 th 12pm-5pm
Purpose of Event	To increase education on overdose prevention strategies and mental health resources, increase access to harm reduction supplies, provide resources on neighborhood safety plans, and address substance use-related stigma.
Data collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 75 interactions with residents • 33 safety plans distributed • 15 naloxone kits distributed • 14 individuals trained on naloxone administration

The data from these sessions is very positive and our programming indicators for this work were as follows:

- **138 naloxone kits** were distributed
- **138 individuals were trained** in naloxone administration
- **595 drug test strips were dispensed**

Participants who completed surveys at the end of the sessions (4/9 sessions) agree that the training increased their knowledge about available harm reduction options and intend to engage in the practices taught at these sessions:

- **95 % of participants** reported “**I will use the training from today in the future if needed**” (93% + 100% + 86% + 100%)/4)
- **92 % of participants** reported “**I can confidently administer naloxone after this training**” (83% + 100% + 86% + 100%)/4)

Lessons Learned

- Promotion through the drug strategy (WECOSS) allowed for a large number of registrants.
- Opportunity to improve coordination between all providers offering these (harm reduction) services to avoid duplication.
- Smaller groups allowed comprehensive training and participants were thoroughly engaged.

- Distributed large number of naloxone kits to high priority population.
- Great opportunity to reinforce that 9-1-1 has additional response teams and that Windsor Police Services can be used as a community resource (e.g., Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act).
- Develop a registration or confirmation process if we continue to host additional events.
- Intake processes could be time-consuming and imposed barriers for participants. Consider modifying these processes in the future.
- Partnering with CMHA as a key community partner strengthened the amount of mental health content available to present.
- Snacks were helpful to break the ice.

Next Steps

These training courses appear to be very beneficial to community partners and other agencies. The trainings allow access to priority populations, including educating and providing resources and naloxone kits to those at greatest risk for an overdose. The overdose prevention training courses are also an opportunity to collaborate with a diverse group of community partners, allowing for training in settings that their clients/patients feel comfortable. Additionally, education on these harm reduction approaches should translate to a reduction in stigma associated with these approaches.

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