



WINDSOR-ESSEX
COMMUNITY
**OPIOID &
SUBSTANCE**
STRATEGY

**WECOSS Harm Reduction
Working Group Meeting:
*2025 Project Planning Discussion***

*Thursday, October 3rd from
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.*

2025 Project Planning

- ❖ Aiming to generate a 2025 project proposal for review at the next meeting
- ❖ Seeking input from the group on where to focus our efforts next year
- ❖ Will provide overview of goals and activities of the HRWG and key data/resources to inform discussion

2025 Project Planning

HRWG Refresher: What are the goals of the HRWG?

Reduce the health, social, and economic harms associated with substance use

Increase awareness about lower-risk use methods

Reduce the spread of communicable diseases

Prevent overdose harms and deaths

Reduce consumption of substances in unsafe settings

2025 Project Planning

**HRWG Refresher:
What kinds of interventions have been implemented by the
HRWG in the past?**

Community
Engagement for
Consumption and
Treatment Services

Needle Syringe
Programming

Ontario Naloxone
Program Promotion
and Expansion

Needle Drop Boxes

Label Me Person
Anti-Stigma
Campaign

Official Position
Statement on Safe
Supply

Assessing
Alternatives to
Criminalization

Community
Overdose
Prevention
Trainings

2025 Project Planning

Local Statistics (WECOSS Data Dashboard)

- ❖ **385** opioid-related emergency department (ED) visits in 2022.
- ❖ **126** opioid-related deaths in 2023 (rate of **28.7** per 100,000 population), which was significantly higher than the provincial rate (**16.8**).
- ❖ **82.5% (104)** of opioid-related deaths were accidental.
- ❖ Opioid-related ED visits and deaths occurred most frequently in **men ages 25-44**, followed by **men ages 45-64**.
- ❖ Deaths occurred most frequently in indoor/private residences (**70.3%**), followed by inns/shelters/congregate living settings (**13.6%**).
- ❖ The most common opioid present at death was fentanyl (**86.4%**).
- ❖ The N9A (**30+ deaths**) and N8W, N9B, N8Y, and N8X (**21-30 deaths**) postal code areas were most impacted by opioid overdose deaths (though deaths occurred in many postal code areas).

2025 Project Planning

Harm Reduction Priorities Identified by the WECOSS Leadership Committee:

- ❖ Tailor harm reduction interventions and education to those using alone versus in groups (e.g., overdose prevention, safer use, Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act education)
- ❖ Expand access to harm reduction kits and education to those who cannot access fixed locations
- ❖ Increase access to wound care services
- ❖ Continue to expand access to naloxone through distribution and outreach
- ❖ Expand partnerships with outreach, housing, and law enforcement organizations to reach priority populations through harm reduction
- ❖ Collaborate with community partners to engage in drug policy advocacy
- ❖ Support community partners in working within harm reduction models

Open Discussion – 2025 Project Planning