



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

## **WECOSS Leadership Committee Meeting**

**Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup> from  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

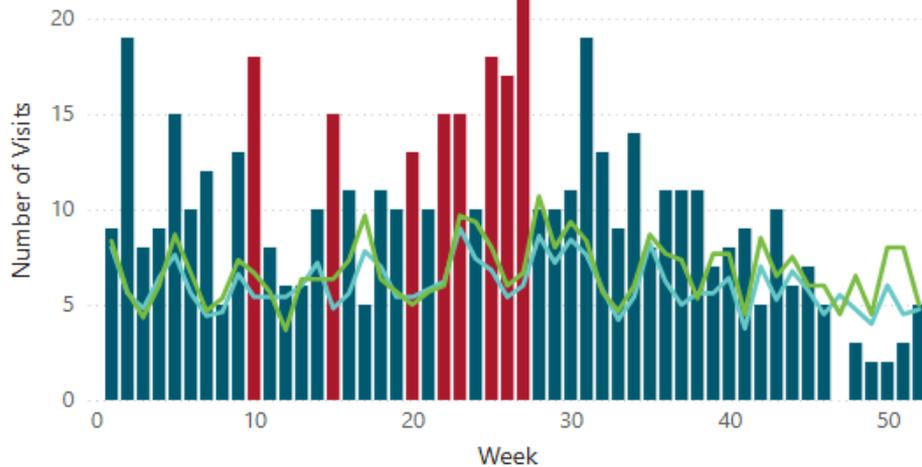
# Opioids and Substances Data Dashboard Review

# Emergency Department Visits for Opioid Overdose by Calendar Week

\* 2024 data reflects the number of opioid overdoses reported directly by local hospitals. Prior to 2024, Ministry of Health (MOH) data was used for number of opioid overdoses in the ED and is reflected in the historical averages in the trend lines below. Because the cyberattack precluded collecting data from week 41 forward in 2023, averages that include 2023 do not include 2023 data from week 41 forward. **Weeks with red bars indicate a public opioid alert was issued.**

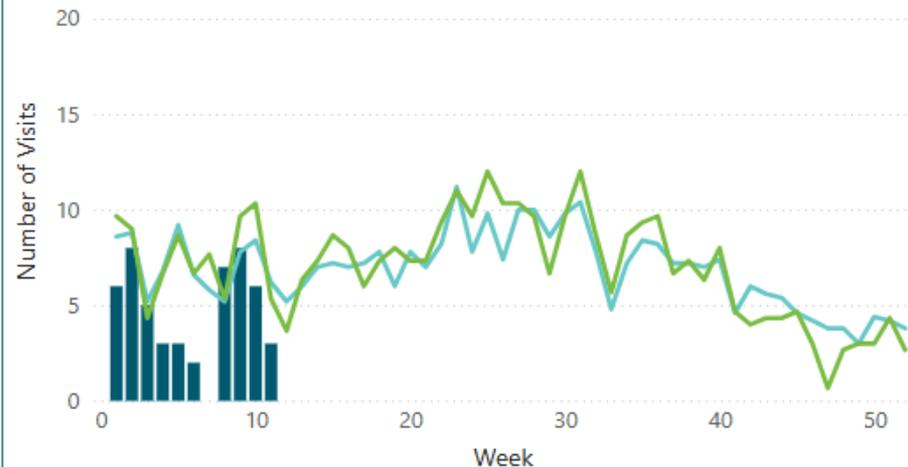
### Emergency Department Visits for Opioid Overdose in 2024 by Calendar Week

● Hospital reported opioid ODs\_2024 ● 2019-2023 avg ● 2021-2023 avg



### Emergency Department Visits for Opioid Overdose in 2025 by Calendar Week

● Hospital reported opioid ODs\_2025 ● 2020-2024 avg ● 2022-2024 avg



# EMS Calls for Suspected Drug Misuse and Suspected Opioid Overdose by Month

### EMS Calls for Suspected Drug Misuse by Month

● 2025 ● 2023-24 avg.



### EMS Calls for Suspected Opioid Overdose by Month

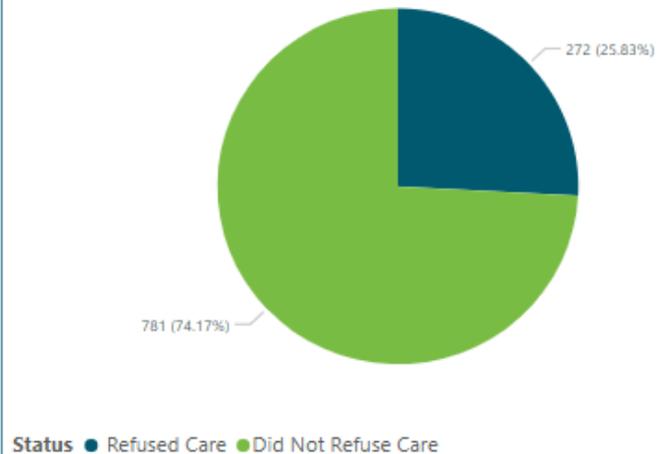
● 2025 ● 2023-24 avg.



# EMS Calls for Suspected Opioid Overdose: Refusals for Care

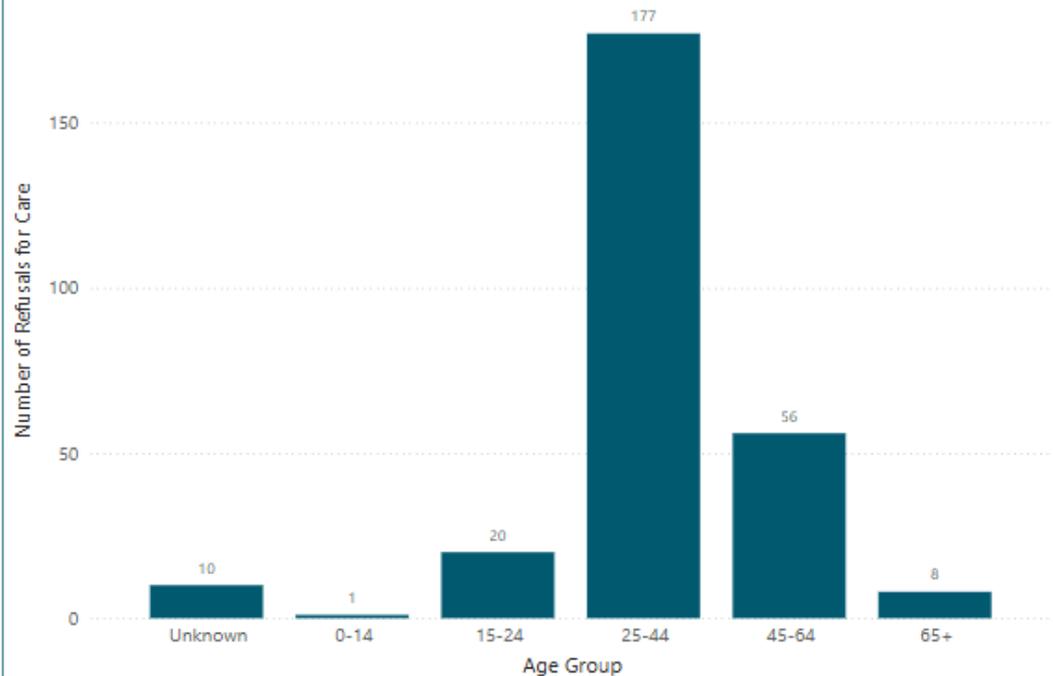
**Percentage of Refusals for Suspected Opioid Overdose EMS Calls**

January 1, 2023 - March 26, 2025

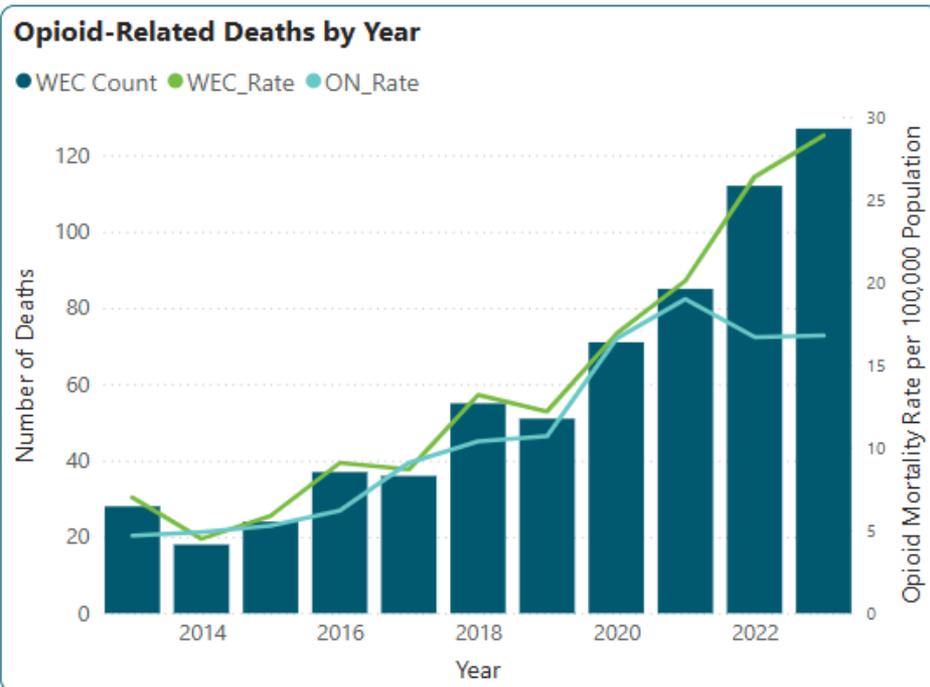


**Number of Refusals for Suspected Opioid Overdose EMS Calls by Age Group**

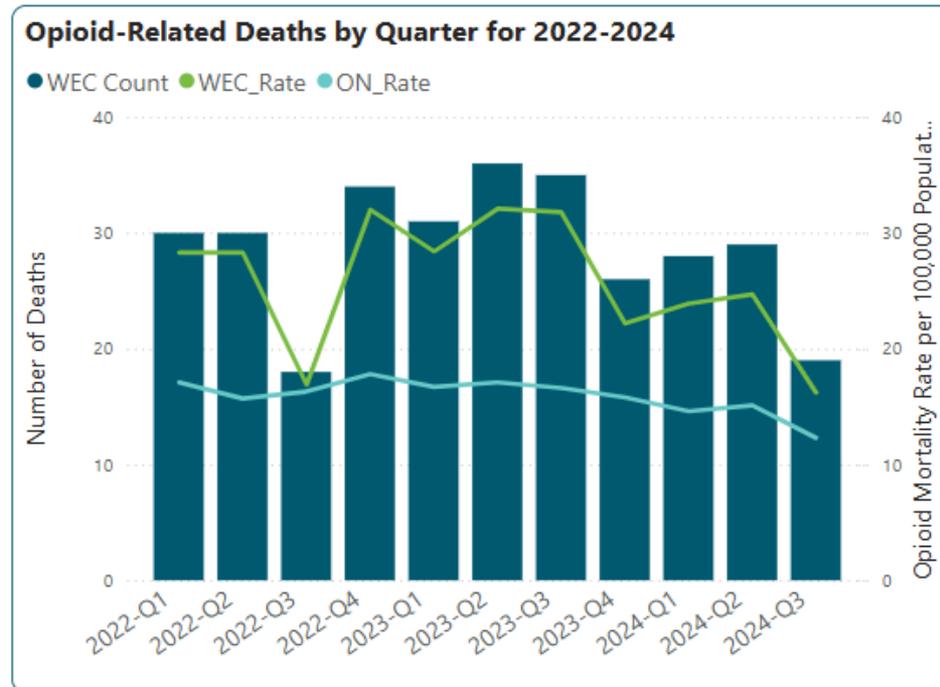
January 1, 2023 - March 26, 2025



# Opioid-Related Deaths by Year and Quarter in Windsor-Essex County and Ontario

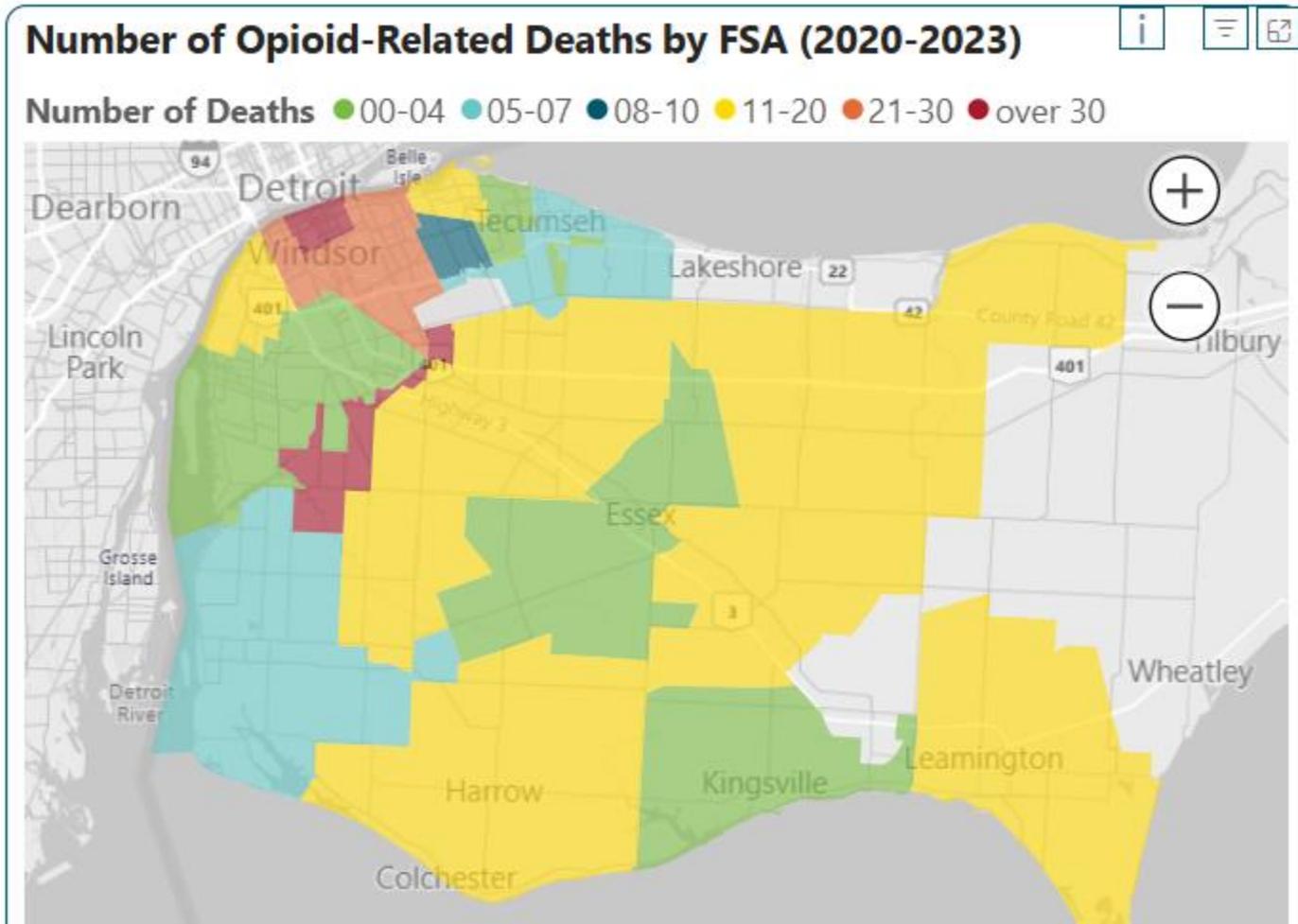


Note: Data include both probable and confirmed opioid-related deaths. Data for 2023 is preliminary and subject to change as deaths continue to be reviewed.



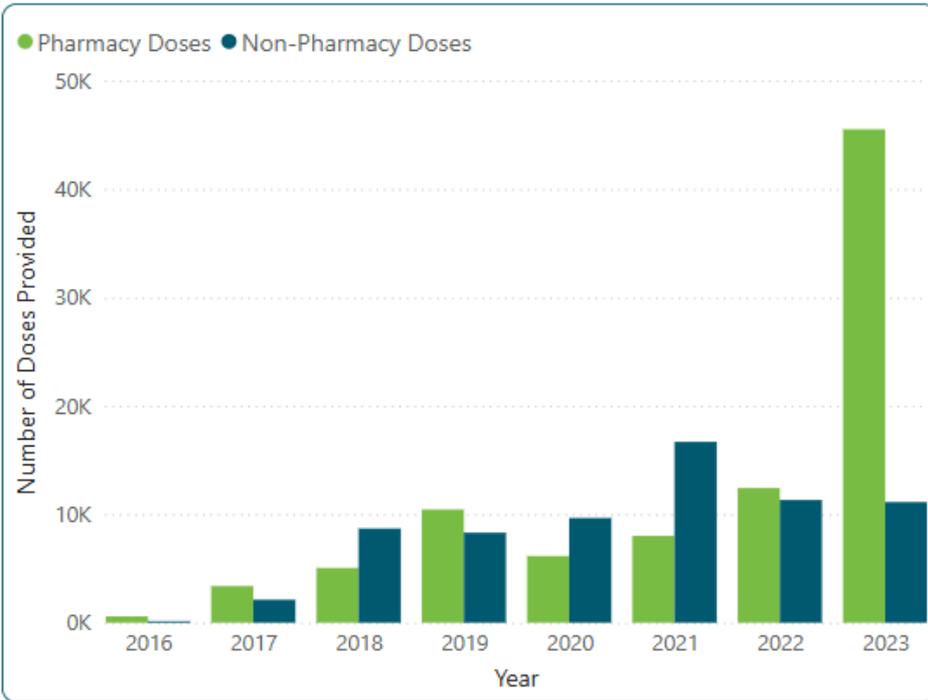
Note: Data for 2024 are preliminary and subject to change. Rates represent estimated annual rate per 100,000.

# Opioid-Related Deaths by FSA (2020-2023)

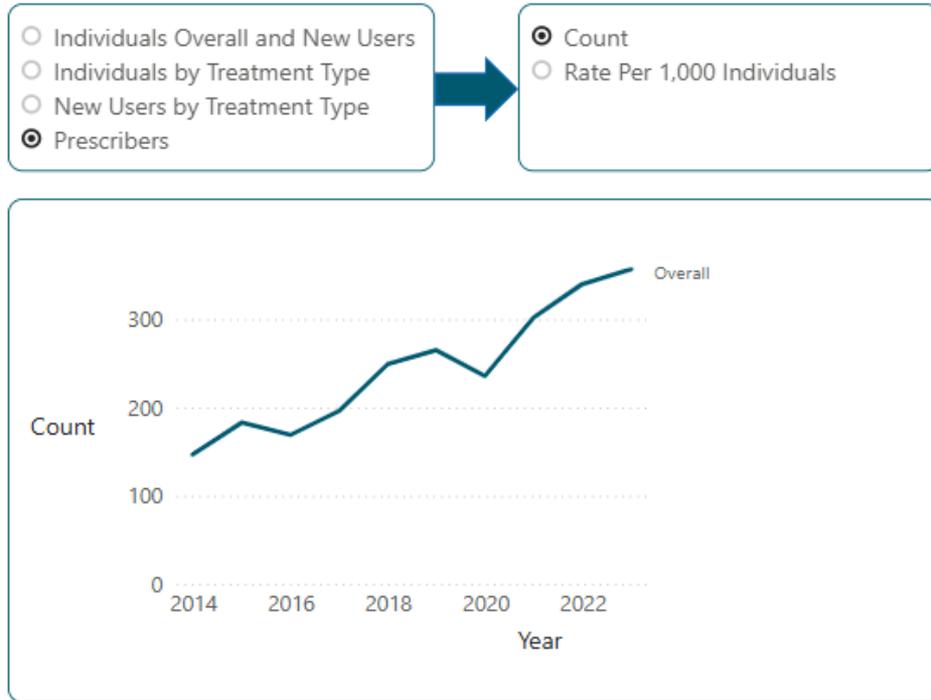


# Opioid Treatments

**Number of Naloxone Doses Provided by Pharmacies and Non-Pharmacies by Year**



**Opioid Agonist Therapy by Type of User, Treatment, and Number of Prescribers (2014-2023)**



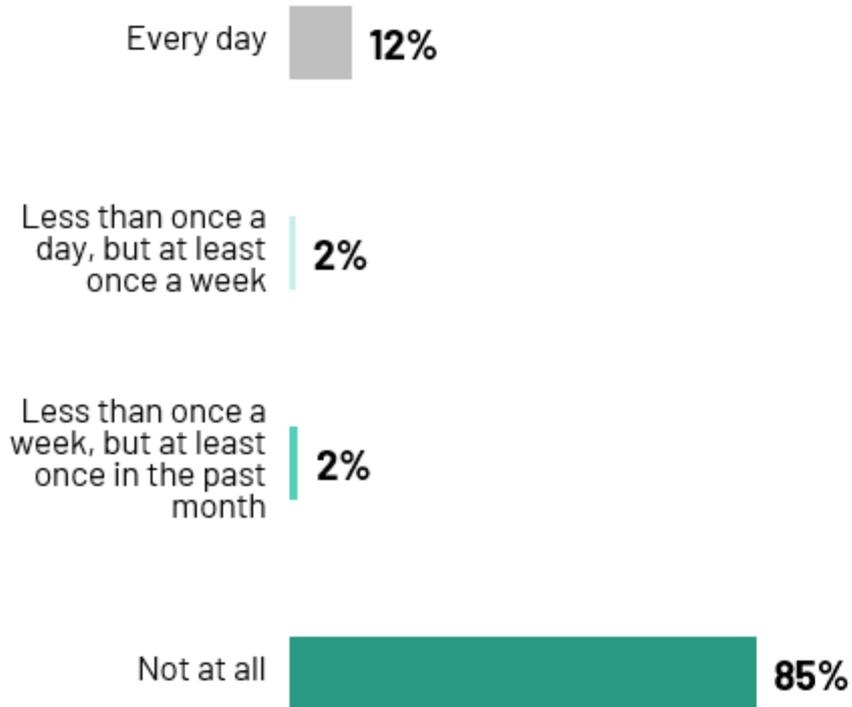
# IPSOS 2024 Substance Preliminary Data Review

# Methodology

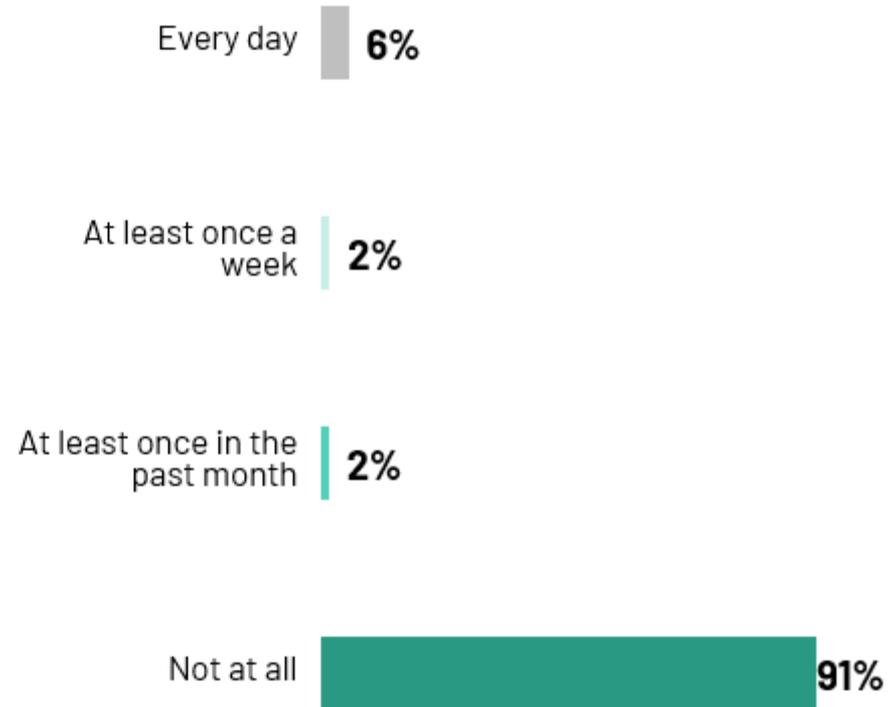
- 800 Windsor-Essex residents were surveyed
  - The sample was comprised of 216 individuals living in low socioeconomic status (SES) areas and highly marginalized neighborhoods
- The overall data was weighted by age, gender, and region to be representative of the Windsor-Essex population

# Frequency of Cigarette / Vape Use

## SMOKED CIGARETTES



## USED AN E-CIGARETTE OR VAPING DEVICE



Data are preliminary and subject to change

Questions posed:

- In the past 30 days, how often did you smoke cigarettes?
- In the past 30 days, how often did you use an e-cigarette or vaping device?

# Frequency of Cigarette / Vape Use by Demographics

	Total	AGE			GENDER		HOUSEHOLD INCOME				RESIDE IN			SES STATUS	
		16 to 34 [A]	35 to 64 [B]	65+ [C]	Male [D]	Female [E]	<\$30K [F]	\$30K to \$65K [G]	\$65K to \$100K [H]	\$100K+ [I]	Urban [J]	Semi Urban [K]	Rural [L]	Low SES [M]	Other [N]
Base: All respondents	800	157	400	243	370	419	129	179	153	243	473	184	143	216	584
<b>SMOKED CIGARETTES</b>															
Every day	12%	8%	16% AC	8%	14%	10%	18% I	18% I	12%	6%	12% K	7%	16% K	18% N	9%
Less than once a day, but at least once a week	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	3%	1%	2%
Less than once a week, but at least once in the past month	2%	5% BC	1%	0%	4% E	0%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%
Not at all	85%	86%	82%	90% B	81%	89% D	77%	78%	87% F	90% FG	84%	92% JL	80%	78%	88% M
<b>USED E-CIGARETTE / VAPING DEVICE</b>															
Every day	6%	13% BC	3%	1%	5%	6%	4%	10% FH	4%	7%	7% K	2%	4%	8%	5%
At least once a week	2%	4% C	2%	0%	1%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%	3%	3%	2%
At least once in the past month	2%	5% BC	1%	1%	3% E	1%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%
Not at all	91%	79%	94% A	98% AB	91%	90%	94% G	85%	92%	90%	89%	96% JL	90%	88%	91%

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN Significantly higher than subgroup indicated by letter.

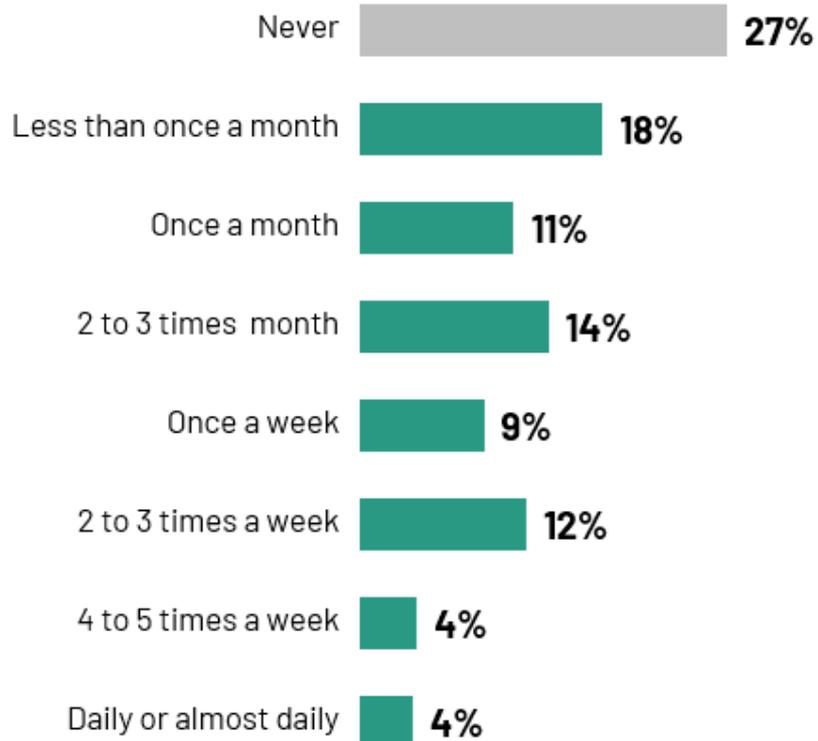
Data are preliminary and subject to change

Questions posed:

- In the past 30 days, how often did you smoke cigarettes?
- In the past 30 days, how often did you use an e-cigarette or vaping device?

# Frequency of Drinking Alcoholic Beverages

## DRANK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN PAST 12 MONTHS



Data are preliminary and subject to change

Question posed:

- In the past 12 months, how often did you drink alcoholic beverages?

# Frequency of Drinking Alcoholic Beverages by Demographics

	Total	AGE			GENDER		HOUSEHOLD INCOME				RESIDE IN			SES STATUS	
		16 to 34 [A]	35 to 64 [B]	65+ [C]	Male [D]	Female [E]	<\$30K [F]	\$30K to \$65K [G]	\$65K to \$100K [H]	\$100K+ [I]	Urban [J]	Semi Urban [K]	Rural [L]	Low SES [M]	Other [N]
Base: All respondents	800	157	400	243	370	419	129	179	153	243	473	184	143	216	584
Never	27%	30%	25%	28%	25%	28%	40% <sup>HI</sup>	32% <sup>I</sup>	23% <sup>I</sup>	14%	30%	23%	22%	38% <sup>N</sup>	23%
Less than once a month	18%	22%	15%	18%	15%	21%	20%	17%	22%	14%	19%	17%	17%	21%	17%
Once a month	11%	16% <sup>B</sup>	9%	11%	12%	11%	14%	12%	12%	10%	11%	12%	12%	14%	11%
2 to 3 times a month	14%	17%	14%	11%	13%	15%	14%	15%	12%	17%	14%	14%	12%	13%	15%
Once a week	9%	8%	11%	9%	9%	10%	4%	7%	9%	15% <sup>FG</sup>	9%	10%	11%	5%	11% <sup>M</sup>
2 to 3 times a week	12%	5%	17% <sup>AC</sup>	11% <sup>A</sup>	15% <sup>E</sup>	10%	5%	10%	13% <sup>F</sup>	19% <sup>FG</sup>	9%	16% <sup>J</sup>	19% <sup>J</sup>	6%	15% <sup>M</sup>
4 to 5 times a week	4%	3%	5%	5%	5%	4%	-	4%	7%	6%	3%	5%	7%	2%	5% <sup>M</sup>
Daily or almost daily	4%	1%	4%	8% <sup>AB</sup>	6% <sup>E</sup>	2%	4%	3%	3%	4%	5%	4%	2%	4%	4%

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN Significantly higher than subgroup indicated by letter.

Data are preliminary and subject to change

Question posed:

- In the past 12 months, how often did you drink alcoholic beverages?

# WECOSS Working Group Updates

# Harm Reduction (A. Adams)

## 2025 Project Kick Off

### 2025 Project: Building Community for Harm Reduction – Anti-Stigma Programming

- ❖ **Purpose:** Implement policy solutions and community education interventions to dispel harmful ideologies, improve knowledge/attitudes, and reduce barriers to accessing harm reduction.
- ❖ **Key Activities and Outputs:**
  1. Development and distribution of an organizational policy template, guided by the principles of trauma-informed care and harm reduction, to promote non-judgmental and inclusive service environments for people who use substances.
  2. Anti-stigma training and workshops for organizations who adopt the policy to support implementation within their organization.
  3. An anti-stigma social media and public education campaign to promote understanding of harm reduction strategies.
- ❖ **Next Steps for Project Kick-Off:**
  - ❖ Issue an assessment survey to community partners to examine local understanding and attitudes towards harm reduction, priority settings for intervention, policy needs, and training opportunities (May 2025).
  - ❖ Confirm priority settings for intervention and prepare policy template using results from the survey (June 2025).
  - ❖ Prepare social media and public education messages (June 2025 – September 2025).

# Harm Reduction (A. Adams)

## *Action Items for the WECOSS-LC*

### Assessment Survey

- Share and encourage participation in the initial assessment survey amongst your staff, organizations, and networks (coming in May of 2025).

### Anti-Stigma Policy and Training

- If your organization does not have existing anti-stigma policies on substance use and harm reduction and would be interested in receiving support with policy development and training, please contact A. Adams.
- If your organization has existing anti-stigma policies or training materials that you would be willing to share to support this project, please contact A. Adams.

# Prevention and Education (K. Willis/J. Bradt)

## 2025 Project Kick Off

### 2025 Project: Youth and Family Engagement and Outreach for Substance Use Prevention

- ❖ **Purpose:** To educate and build community capacity for substance use prevention among youth and families.
- ❖ **Key Activities and Outputs:**
  1. Partnering with CMHA-WECB to implement the Icelandic Prevention Model, *Planet Youth*, within Windsor-Essex County, pending grant approval.
  2. Hosting in-person and virtual education sessions for parents, caregivers, and high-priority families.
  3. Collaborating with school boards to provide resources and lesson plans to support schools.
  4. Launching a mass communication campaign aimed at parents/caregivers and families with messages focused on improving the family environment for youth substance use prevention.
  5. Participating as guest speakers at community events, such as youth symposiums.
- ❖ **Next Steps for Project Kick-Off:**
  - ❖ A Youth Mental Health Grant application for Planet Youth interventions has been submitted by CMHA-WECB and is awaiting approval.
  - ❖ A social media campaign schedule has been developed and will be shared with the WECOSS-LC following the meeting.
  - ❖ Content and resource development for education sessions and community events will be finalized by mid-May, for delivery in late May to December.
  - ❖ Upcoming community events are planned at the Devonshire Mall in May (Police Week) and June (Party Safer this Prom!) to share substance use prevention information with youth and families.

# Prevention and Education (K. Willis/J. Bradt)

## *Action Items for the WECOSS-LC*

### Substance Use Prevention Education Sessions

- Contact K. Willis/J. Bradt if your agency serves marginalized youth and/or families and would be interested in partnering to offer education sessions to your clients.

### Substance Use Prevention Social Media Campaign

- Use the social media schedule to amplify campaign messaging on your organization's social media channels.

### Community Events

- Contact K. Willis/J. Bradt if you are organizing or aware of any upcoming events targeted to youth or families that the PEWG can support.
- Contact K. Willis/J. Bradt if your organization has any relevant resources targeted to youth or families that can be shared at upcoming events.

# Treatment and Recovery (J. Lear-Zylstra)

## 2025 Project Kick Off

### 2025 Project: Enhancing Access of Opioid Agonist Therapies (OAT)

- ❖ **Purpose:** Support improved access to opioid agonist therapy (OAT) for individuals living with opioid use disorder in the community.
- ❖ **How Will This Be Achieved?**
  - ❖ Training for frontline service providers within community health, substance use, and mental health agencies on OAT to improve understanding, reduce stigma, and increase connections to this service.
- ❖ **Key Activities and Outputs:**
  - ❖ Development of an online e-learning module on OAT for frontline providers.
  - ❖ Creation of a resource with a list of local OAT experts that can be contacted for in-person training opportunities upon request.
  - ❖ Improving navigability of OAT on WEC Connect and developing other tools for service providers to support referral pathways for OAT.
- ❖ **Next Steps for Project Kick-Off:**
  - ❖ Comprise a list of key community partners to consult with about existing local capacities, education needs, and knowledge gaps regarding OAT.
  - ❖ Consult with identified community partners to inform the development of training material.

# Treatment and Recovery (J. Lear-Zylstra)

## Ongoing Project Updates

### WEC Connect Updates

- ❖ The **WEC Connect online program and service inventory** was launched on **WECOSS.ca** on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024: [https://wecoss.ca/wec\\_connect](https://wecoss.ca/wec_connect).
- ❖ From the launch date to January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, there were a **total of 4,579 web visits** to WEC Connect.
- ❖ Promotion is ongoing and includes social media messaging, Google and in-transit bus advertisements, and print resource materials.
- ❖ The inventory is **updated every six months** through a data-sharing agreement with 2-1-1. Services that are not listed on 2-1-1 are contacted directly to update their inventory listing.
- ❖ **Next steps include:**
  - ❖ Completing a bi-annual inventory update in April of 2025.
  - ❖ Delivering promotional resources and educational materials to additional target centers, including schools, libraries, community centers, and pharmacies.
  - ❖ Evaluating WEC Connect through the development of an end-user experience survey on the inventory.
  - ❖ Creating a survey on the inventory that organizations can use regularly to submit updates to their program and service information.

**\*The TRWG's WECOSS Wallet Card has also been updated. The new version will be circulated with the minutes.\***

# Treatment and Recovery (J. Lear-Zylstra)

## Action Items for the WECOSS-LC

### OAT Education and Training

- Connect with J. Lear-Zylstra if anyone from your agency is experienced in the delivery of OAT and would be willing to inform/support the development of training material.
- Connect with J. Lear-Zylstra if your agency is interested in receiving OAT education and training.

### WEC Connect & WECOSS Wallet Card

- Encourage the use of WEC Connect and the WECOSS wallet card amongst your clients, staff, and organizational networks.
- Reach out to the WECHU (K. Barill) to request print WEC Connect materials or wallet cards to distribute at your organization.

# Enforcement and Justice (J. Rafuse)

## 2025 Project Kick Off

### 2025 Project: Strengthening Community Safety and Well-Being

- ❖ **Purpose:** Sustain and expand the neighbourhood safety planning project initiated by the Substance Supports in Neighbourhoods Accessed through Police Partnerships (SSNAPP) team.
- ❖ **Key Activities and Outputs:**
  - ❖ Educate and train community housing residents and staff on the existing neighbourhood safety plans developed by SSNAPP (N9A, N8W, N8Y, N8X). This will be completed at community housing events coordinated over the course of the year by CMHA-WECB, the WEC Housing Corporation, the WPS, and other community partners.
  - ❖ Consult with key stakeholders to develop an additional neighbourhood safety plan targeted to the Municipality of Leamington.
- ❖ **Accomplishments to Date:**
  - ❖ Three community housing events have been attended in 2025 thus far – 920 Ouellette Community Care Fair (January 30<sup>th</sup>), Chateau Masson Health Fair (March 11<sup>th</sup>), and the Sandwich Teen Action Group Event (March 13<sup>th</sup>).
- ❖ **Next Steps:**
  - ❖ Continue to attend scheduled community housing events to offer training and education on the existing safety plans.
  - ❖ Identify key stakeholders to consult with and update existing consultation materials and data collection tools to support the development of the Leamington safety plan.

# Enforcement and Justice (J. Rafuse)

## *Action Items for the WECOSS-LC*

### Neighbourhood Safety Plan for Leamington

- Contact J. Rafuse if your agency services the Leamington area and would be interested in participating in the consultation for the Leamington safety plan.
- Contact J. Rafuse if you have any other recommendations on key stakeholders to engage with through the consultation.



# Substance Supports in Neighbourhoods Accessed through Police Partnerships (SSNAPP)

Celine Damphouse, Program Coordinator  
Substance Use Prevention & Harm Reduction  
March 31, 2025

# Background

- SSNAPP launched in April 2022 through a 3-year Community Safety and Policing Grant.
- Funding ending March 31, 2025.
- Collaborative initiative between the Windsor Police Service, the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, and the City of Windsor
- Goal: Address gaps in support and response to mental health and addictions crises in high-priority areas through **engagement, education, and training.**



Substance Supports.  
Neighbourhood Resources.  
Community Partnerships.



# Key Initiatives



Neighbourhood Safety Plans



Training Workshops

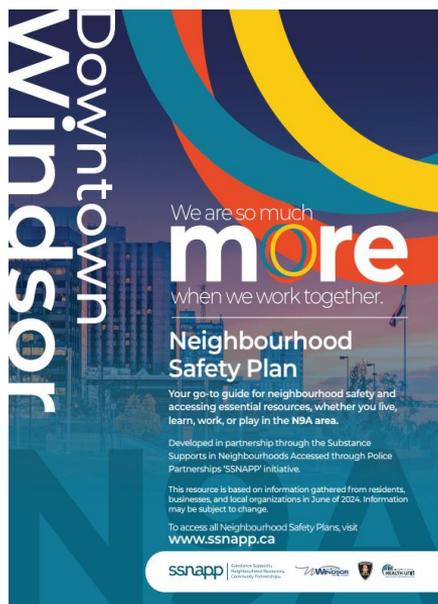


Community Engagement Events



Educational Campaigns

# Neighbourhood Safety Plans



Developed for four high-priority postal code areas:

- N9A, N8W, N8X, and N8Y.

Topics covered:

- Responding to substance use and mental health crises
- De-escalation techniques
- Homelessness, vandalism, and discrimination

Distribution Stats:

- 1,905 online downloads (as of February 20, 2025)
- 1,281 plans distributed (as of March 24, 2025)

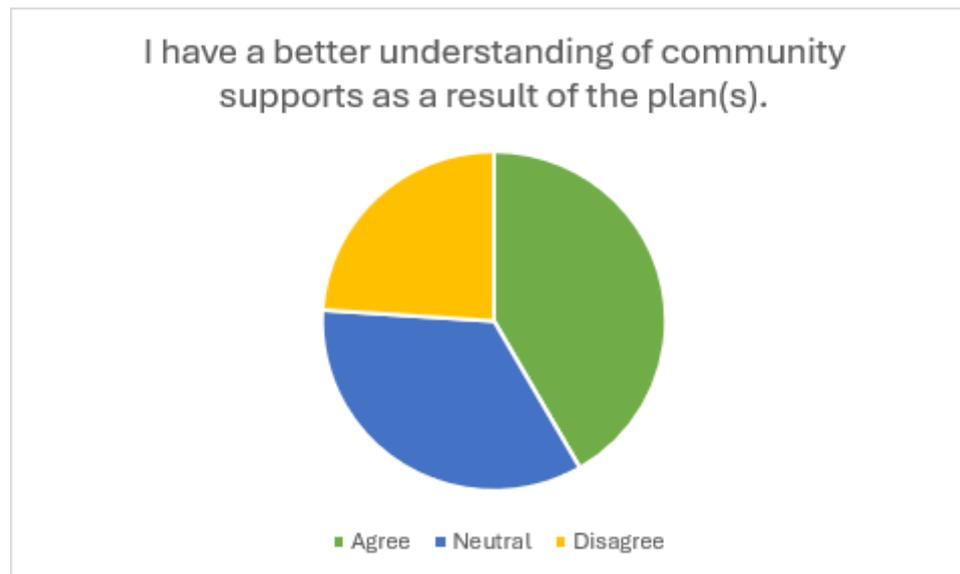


- ❖ Improved support/response to mental health and addictions crises
  - Increase in the number of community members who are aware of mental health/addictions services
- ❖ Increase community safety and well-being
  - Increase in citizen satisfaction in high priority areas

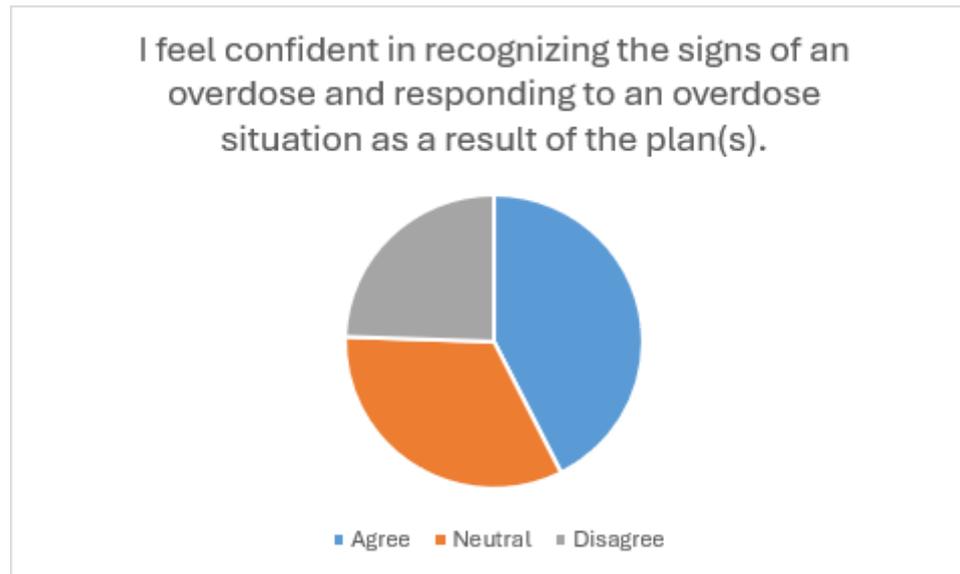
# Safety Plans - Feedback Survey Results

*Based on 150 completed online feedback surveys:*

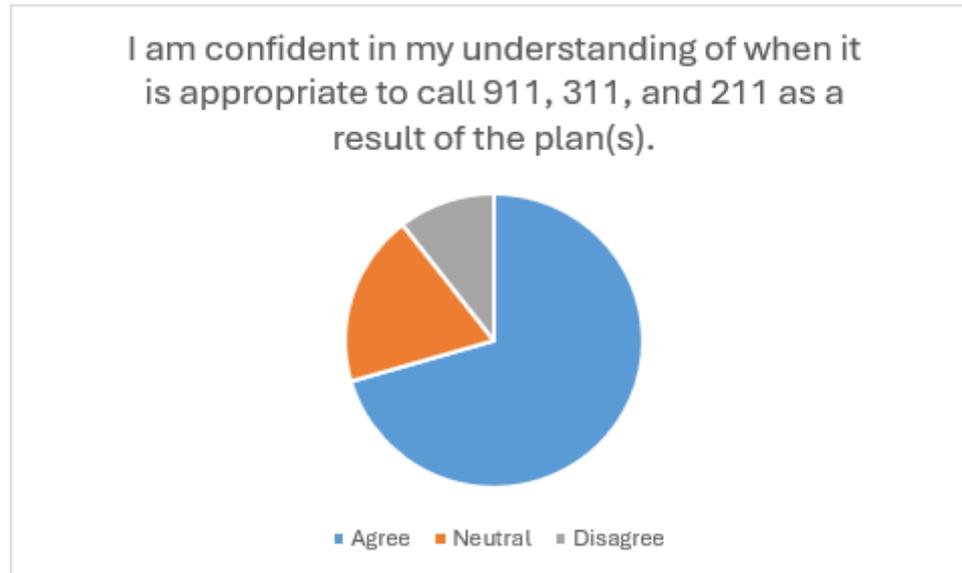
42% respondents had a better understanding of community supports because of the Plan(s).



Almost 43% of respondents felt confident in recognizing the signs of an overdose and responding to an overdose situation because of the Plans.



70.5% of respondents are confident in their understanding of when it is appropriate to call 911, 311, and 211 because of the Plans.



# Training Workshops



25 workshops held for 820 local service providers



Topics include:

De-escalation Techniques  
Addictions and Mental Health  
Motivational Interviewing  
Trauma-Informed Care



- ❖ Improved support/response to mental health and addictions crises
  - Percentage of service providers who report improvements in their knowledge of resources to meet the unique needs of mental health or addictions clients.

# Community Engagement Events

- Overdose prevention training sessions: 52 naloxone kits distributed
- 9 community park events in high-priority areas
  - 80% of participants report better understanding of community supports as a result.



- ❖ Improved support/response to mental health and addictions crises
  - Increase in the number of community members who are aware of mental health/addictions services
- ❖ Increase community safety and well-being
  - Increase in citizen satisfaction in high priority areas

# Next Steps & Future Directions

- WECOSS Enforcement & Justice Working Group to expand Neighbourhood Safety Plans to additional high-priority areas (i.e., Municipality of Leamington)
- Support letter sent to the Ministry of the Solicitor General from WECHU Board of Health requesting extended funding for the SSNAPP initiative.

# WECOSS/MHAST Project Objectives

# WECOSS Project Objectives:

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

Improve availability and accessibility of harm reduction options for priority populations.

Improve community understanding and attitudes towards harm reduction.

Increase the capacity of community partners to address the harm reduction needs of priority populations.

Increase the number of high-risk community settings (e.g., shelters, social services, corrections facilities) which provide substance use prevention, treatment, and harm reduction programs.

Increase supports amongst local service providers for the prevention, treatment, or management of substance use.

Increase the number of prevention and harm reduction programs related to regulated and unregulated substance use within the local education system.

Reduce the number of school-aged children at risk for substance use and overdose.

Maintain community partner engagement in a collective approach to preventing harms associated with substance use through leadership of the Windsor-Essex Community Opioid and Substance Strategy.

Increased coordinated actions taken at the community-level to prevent, delay, and reduce the harms associated with substance use.

Reduce stigmatizing ideologies and attitudes towards substance use and harm reduction.

Engage people who use substances in the development and implementation of policies related to substance use and stigma reduction.

Improve access to and exchange of population health assessment and surveillance data to support community planning and action related to substance use.