



Overdose Prevention & Education
Network of Niagara
Newsletter

Spring 2021

Selection of Co-Chair

Brenda Yeandle, Manager of Addiction Services with Niagara Health, has stepped forward to accept the position as Co-Chair of OPENN.



Since the Adverse Reaction Advisory Alert was launched in October 2019, there have been over 70 reports submitted.

10 advisories have been generated, 6 of which have been based on local reports.

The reporting page has been accessed 1059 times! A brief survey will be circulated in the coming weeks to Network members.

niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/alc-sub-abuse/drugs/overdose-prevention.aspx

Data Updates



The ongoing crisis in our community has been highlighted recently by an article in the St. Catharines Standard, as well as interviews on CHCH News and Talk Radio 610 CKTB.

Preliminary data is showing an increase of 32%, for suspected opioid-related deaths from 2019 to 2020. Many of these deaths occurred in private residences, when people were using alone.

Due to COVID-19, and the need to physically distance and self-isolate, people have been cut off from their support and supply systems, creating stress, anxiety and desperation during isolation.

In Niagara, there has also been a 25.3% increase in calls to Niagara Emergency Medical Services for possible overdoses, between 2019 and 2020.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EMS Calls 2019	44	42	65	66	67	46	26	27	21	28	34	33
EMS Calls 2020	30	46	54	55	46	65	52	52	75	35	58	57

Data source: Niagara Emergency Medical Services, 2020.

Services and supports are available to those in need:

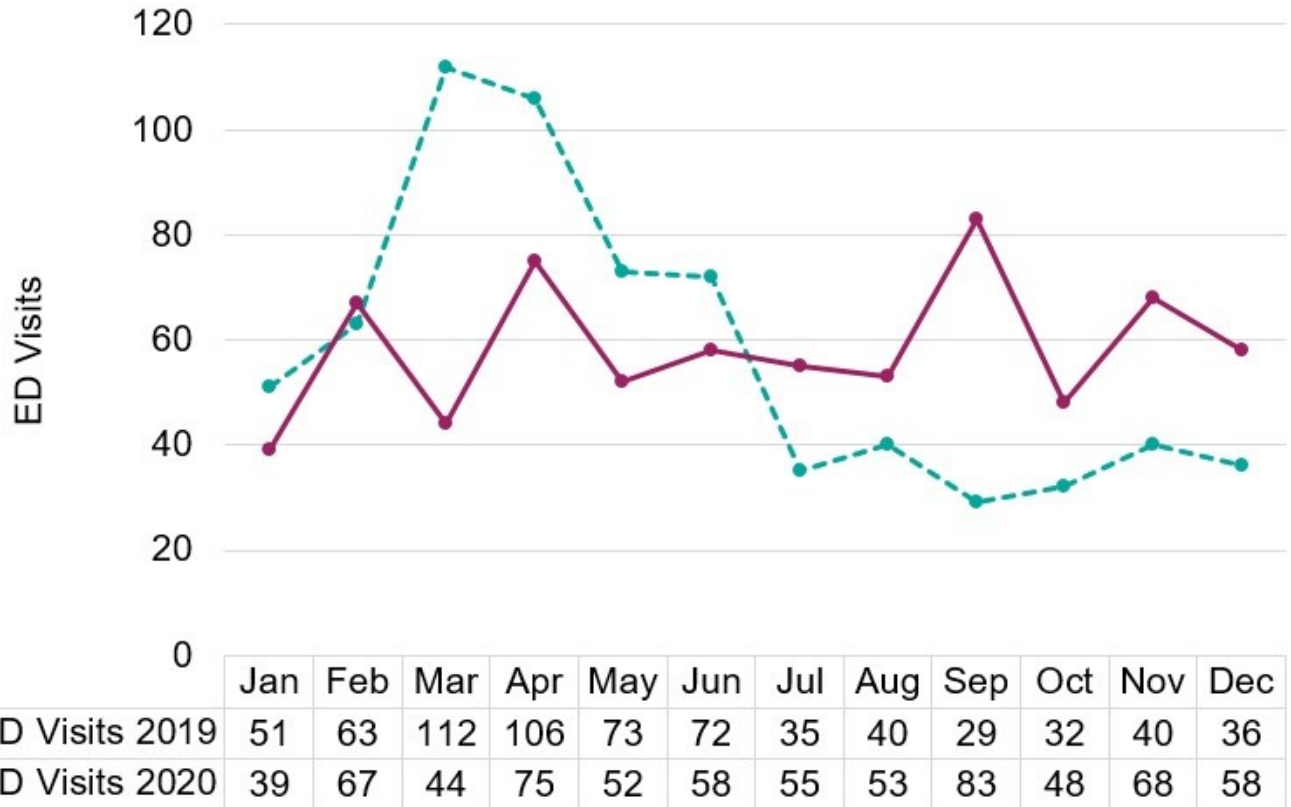
Mental Health and Addictions Access Line: 1-866-550-5205

Or www.accesslineniagara.com

211 Call Centre: Dial 211

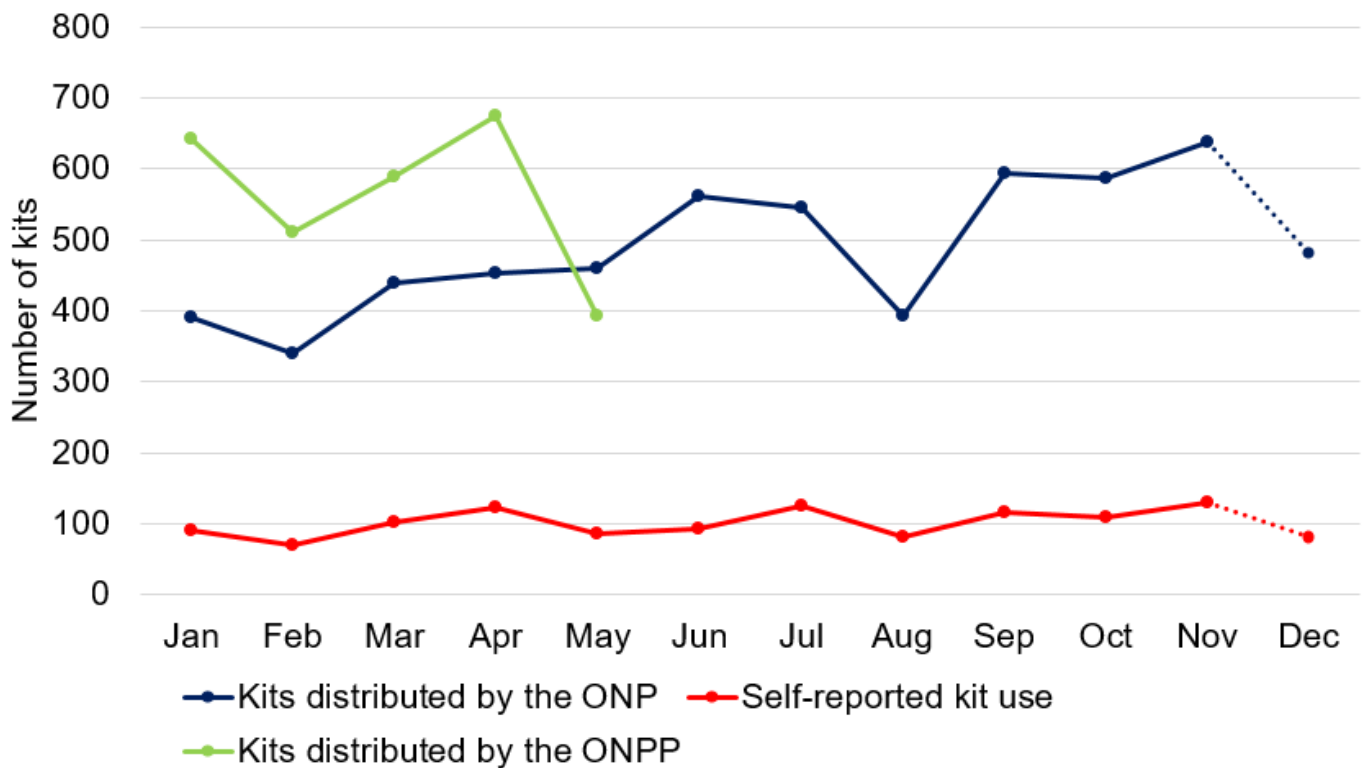
Or <https://www.incommunitites.ca/en/211-niagara/dial211/>

In 2020, there were 700 emergency department visits for opioid overdoses, compared to 689 in 2019.



Data source: Niagara Emergency Medical Services, 2020.

The total number of Naloxone kits used/distributed has also increased in this period.



Data source: Niagara Region Public Health, 2020.

Working Group Updates



Safe Supply Working Group

A CME (Continuing Medical Education) planning committee has been created, to organize a virtual expert panel discussion on safe supply for physicians, nurse practitioners and others to encourage uptake in Niagara. Working group members were provided with some training on how to use a special filter developed for People who Use Drugs.

We are moving forward with forming more working groups!

Advocacy - Safe Supply

Lived/Living Experience

Knowledge Transfer

Substance Strategy Working Group (formerly Prevention + Planning)

