



Lakeridge Health

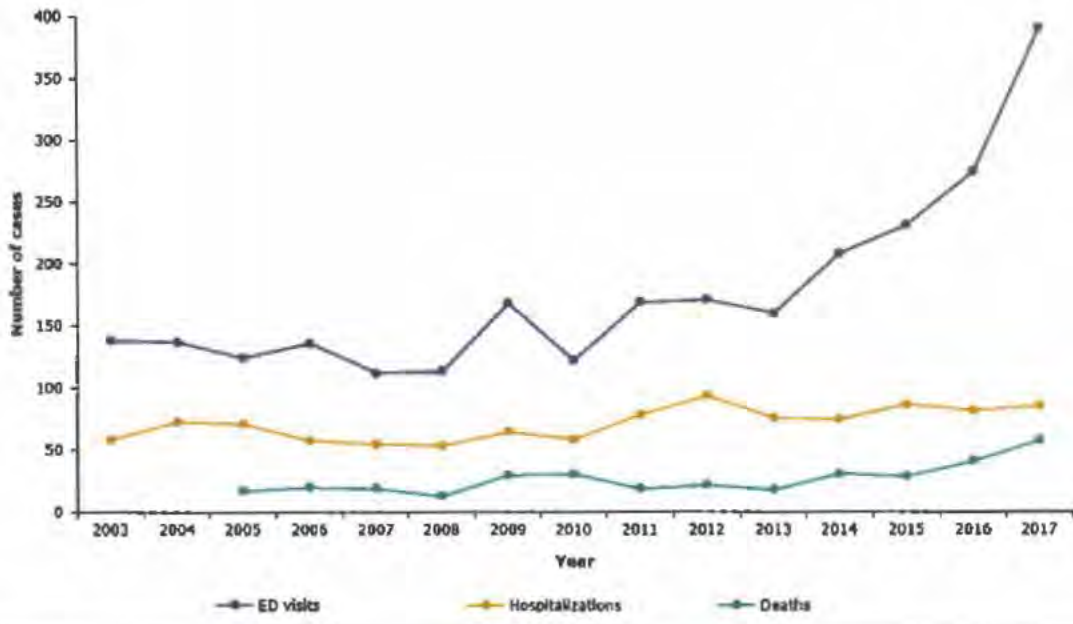


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Briefing Note: Consumption Treatment Services Site in Oshawa February 1, 2019

Context of the Opioid Crisis in Oshawa

In 2017, the number of opioid-related deaths in Ontario increased approximately 46 per cent from 2016. Oshawa has a relatively high and rapidly increasing rate of opioid addiction, mortality and opioid-related ED visits.



Graph: Opioid-related morbidity and mortality Durham Region, 2003-2017

- In Durham Region, there was a 222 per cent increase in the number of opioid-related deaths between 2013 and 2017. In fact, there were 18 deaths in 2013 compared with 58 in 2017. Also, there was a 124 per cent increase in the number of people who visited the ED for opioid related poisonings.
- Lakeridge Health's population data shows that Oshawa has the highest concentration of opioid overdoses in Durham Region.
- According to a recent CIHI report, Oshawa currently has the sixth highest Emergency Department (ED) visit rate for opioid poisoning in Ontario.
 - Compared to peer community hospitals in the GTA, Lakeridge Health's ED sees the highest volumes of opioid poisonings.



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A number of key steps have been taken to increase support for people with addictions in Durham Region.

Lakeridge Health has implemented two Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) clinics that provide a barrier-free, walk-in service for those living with addictions and has begun to distribute naloxone kits in the Oshawa Hospital ED. Fentanyl test kits are being distributed through the Pinewood Centre, John Howard Society and Carea.

As part of the comprehensive Central East LHIN Opioid Strategy that is focused on preventing, treating and reducing the harms associated with opioid use, Lakeridge Health, Durham Region Health Department and the John Howard Society have partnered to develop a proposal for a Consumption Treatment and Services (CTS) site in Oshawa.

CTS Sites: Better Access to Care in a Stigma-free/Judgement-free Environment

As an interdisciplinary community health service, a CTS site in Oshawa will serve as an entry point to health care services for people with addictions who require this level of support. Through access to primary health care and support services, CTS will:

- Save lives.
- Provide immediate onsite treatment for anyone who visits the site.
- Reduce drug overdoses through offering real-time education on safer use practices and a supervised and safe environment for the consumption of drugs.
- Improve people's health by reducing the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis C; distribute and collect harm reduction supplies; and link clients to RAAM clinics, withdrawal management facilities, mental health and social services.

Community Benefits

A CTS will improve community safety by preventing people from injecting drugs in public places. Evidence to date shows that CTS sites were not associated with an increase in drug use or crime in the surrounding environments. In fact, the evidence indicates that CTS sites prevent people from injecting in public restrooms, streets, parks or parking lots thereby increasing the safety of those areas.

A CTS site will benefit the health care system by:

- Preventing infectious diseases.
- Reducing ED visits and decreasing demand on other services.
- Reducing related health care expenditures.



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CTS Proposal

The deadline for submitting the proposal to the federal and provincial governments is March 31. The location of the CTS site is being determined and will be identified in the proposal.

A coordinated stakeholder and community engagement and communications plan is being undertaken to create awareness about the facts and benefits of a proposed CTS site in Oshawa, address misperceptions and concerns about the impact of a CTS, mitigate resistance and build support for the proposal.

In December 2018, the partners implemented a survey of the Oshawa BIA to seek input and feedback related to the potential implementation of a site. Over 40 businesses responded. The partners will present to Oshawa City Council on February 19 and undertake a public survey along with other activities to inform and seek input from people living with mental health conditions and addictions and other local stakeholders.