



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 21, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Hamilton Drug Strategy Year End Report (BOH20006) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not Applicable.

INFORMATION

Hamilton Drug Strategy (HDS) is providing an annual report to the Board of Health on the collective actions undertaken by members of HDS to address the harms associated with substance use experienced by individuals, families and the community.

The HDS aims to foster dynamic community collaboration and action to address substance use disorders and related harms. The substances of concern include alcohol, opioids, cannabis, cocaine and stimulants such as methamphetamines (e.g. crystal meth). Substance related deaths and overdoses are increasing in Hamilton and are higher than the provincial rates. According to Public Health Ontario, in 2018 the rate of opioid related deaths in Hamilton was 21.5 deaths per 100,000 population, significantly higher than the provincial rate at 10.2 deaths per 100,000 population¹.

To address substance use and related harms in our community, the HDS uses an evidence-based four-pillar approach. The four pillars are:

1. Prevention;

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

2. Harm Reduction;
3. Social Justice and Justice; and,
4. Treatment.

The four HDS work groups, based on these inter-related pillars, developed evidence and community informed plans with the following objectives:

- Reduce substance use related deaths and overdoses;
- Reduce youth substance use; and,
- Increase diversion from the justice system to community services.

The HDS work groups and community partners strengthened or initiated activities to address the goals of each of the pillars. The 2019 Hamilton Drug Strategy Report to the Community (Appendix “A” to Report BOH20006) outlines the activities and accomplishments of the HDS and its partners over this past year.

REFERENCES

1. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Interactive Opioid Tool. Toronto, ON: Queen’s Printer for Ontario; 2019. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/substance-use/interactive-opioid-tool>. Extracted January 2020

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report BOH20006: 2019 Hamilton Drug Strategy Community Report