



Hamilton Opioid Action Plan

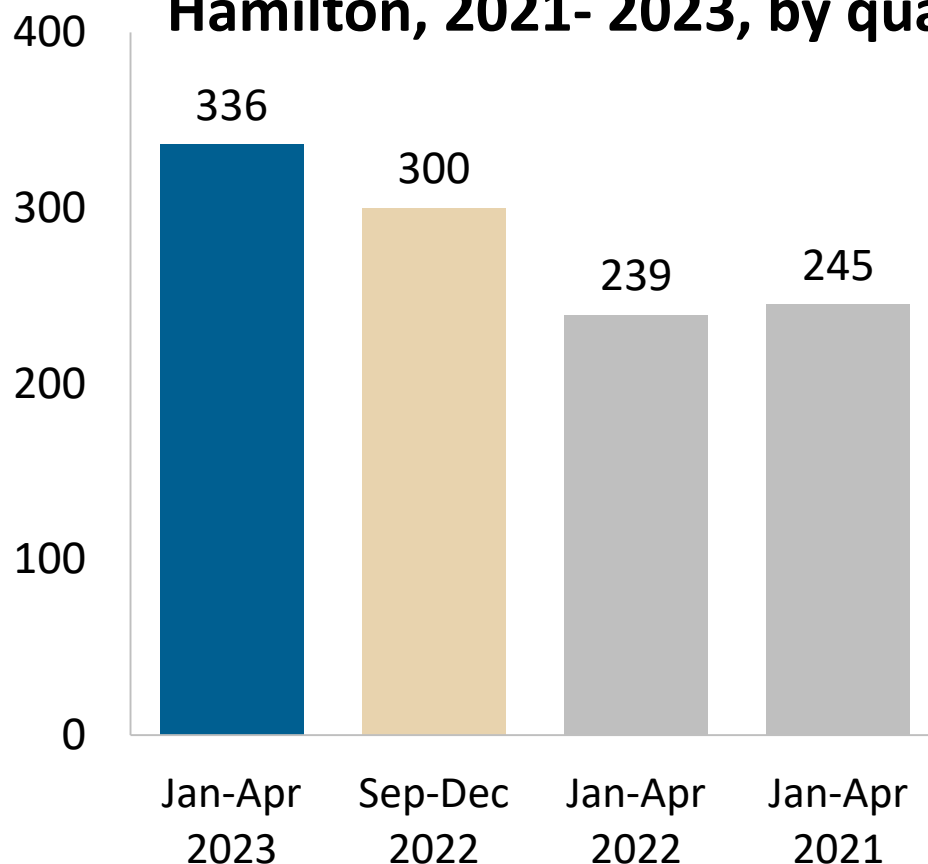
June 12, 2023

Agenda

1. Review of local data
2. Background
3. Hamilton Opioid Action Plan Process and Timelines
4. Community Conversations
5. The Plan
6. Recommendations
7. Immediate Actions
8. Next Steps

Local Data

Opioid-Related Paramedic Calls in Hamilton, 2021- 2023, by quarter

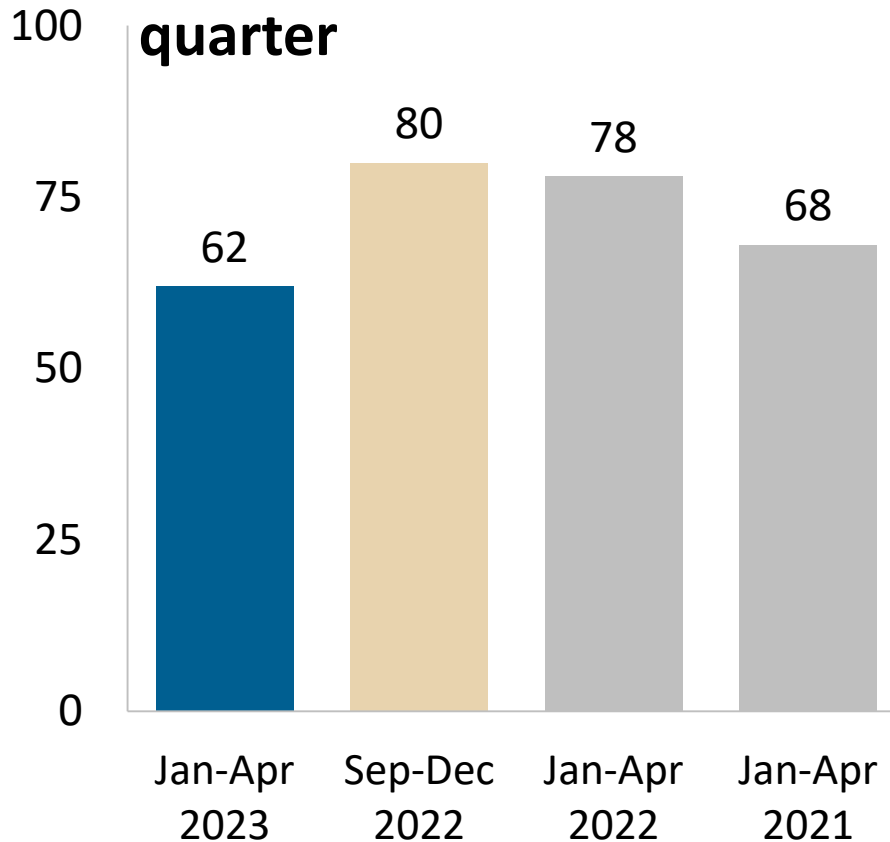


Calls across all wards but concentrated in Ward 2 (56%) and Ward 3 (20%)

Source: Hamilton Paramedic Services, May 2023

Local Data

Suspect Drug-Related Deaths in Hamilton, from 2021-2023, by quarter

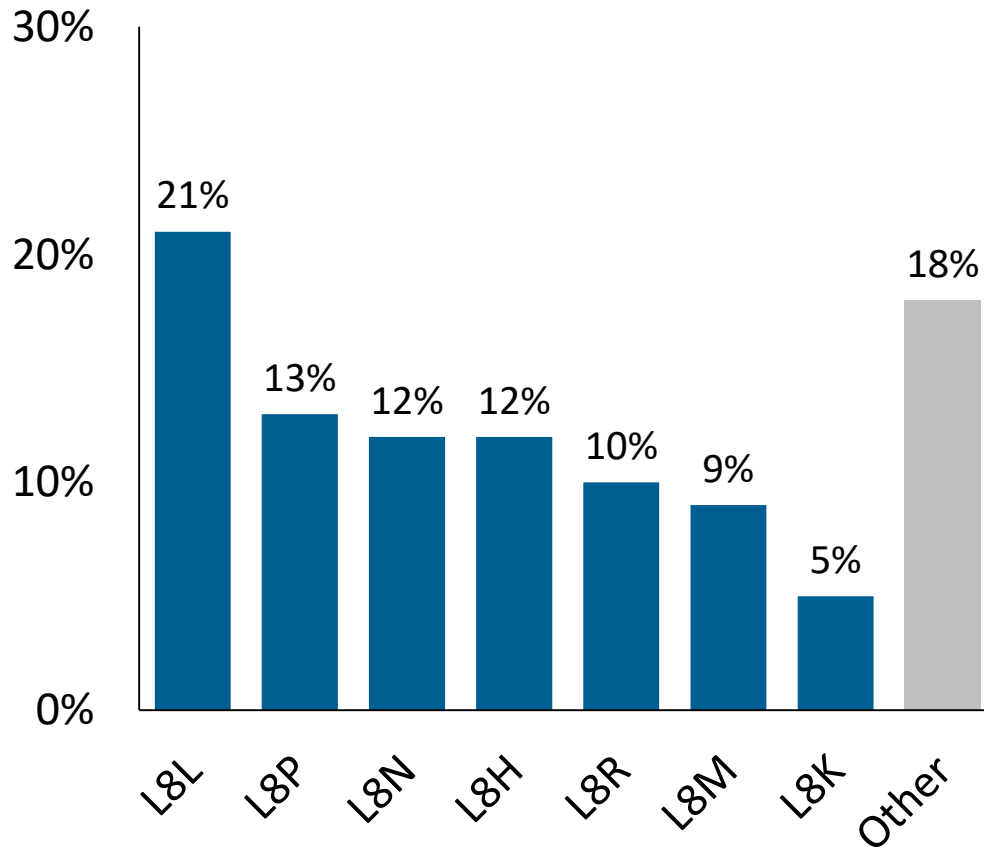


Represents 1 death every two days, or 3.6 deaths per week.

Source: Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, Death Investigation System, May 2023
Data are preliminary and subject to change

Suspect Drug-Related Deaths by Forward Sortation Area (FSA), 2022-2023

Local Data



Highest percentage in Forward Sortation Area L8L (21%) and L8P (13%).

Most occur in private residences (73%) followed by congregate living (9%) and outdoors (9%).

Source: Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, Death Investigation System, May 2023
Data are preliminary and subject to change

Background

February 2023

- Council directed staff to engage with a diverse group of community partners to create an evidence-based harm reduction plan.
- Hamilton Drug Strategy (HDS) identified the development of a coordinated opioid-specific action plan as part of the Hamilton Drug Strategy strategy renewal and a priority area of action in 2023.

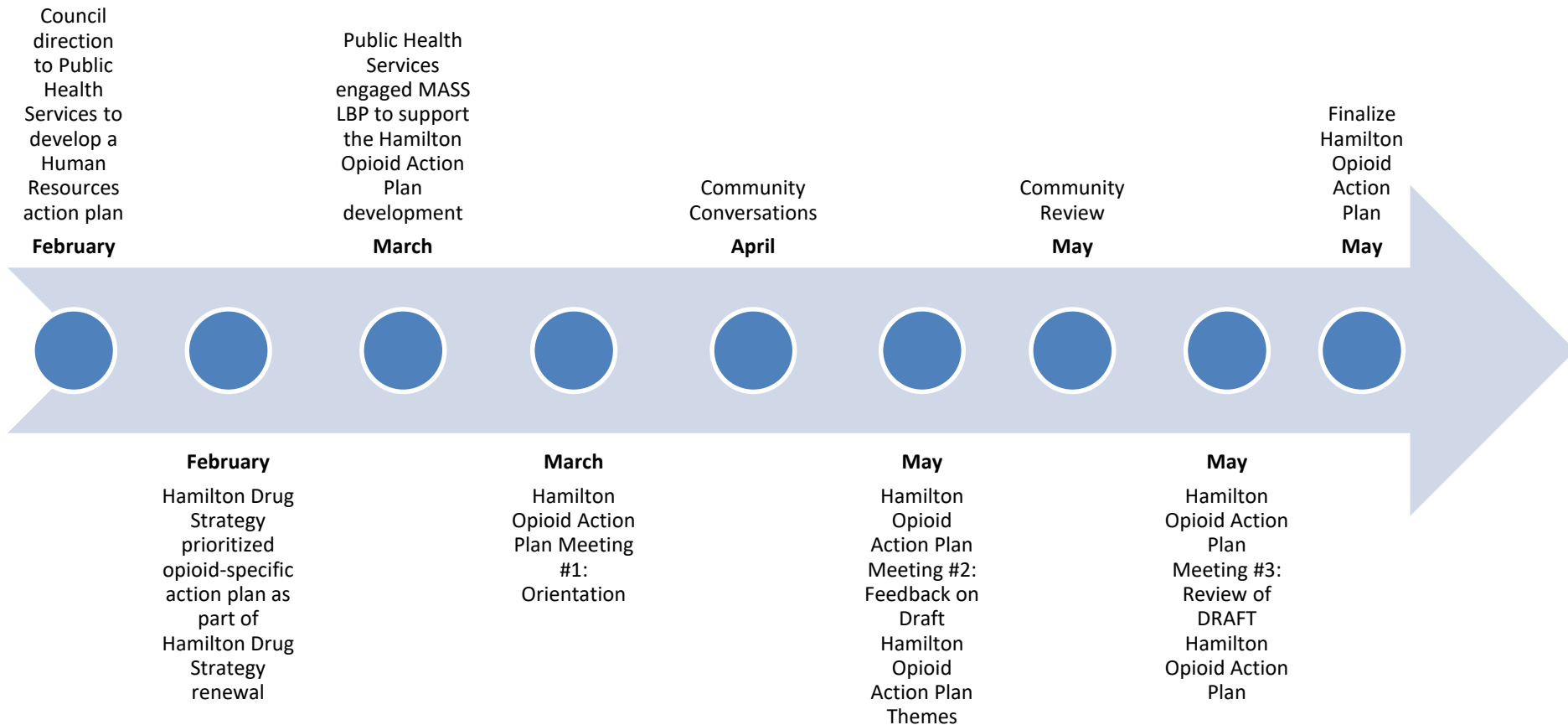
March 2023

- Public Health Services has engaged MASS LBP to support the facilitation of the Hamilton Opioid Action Plan (HOAP) process with the HDS Steering Committee.

April 2023

- Council directed the Mayor to declare an emergency in the areas of opioid, mental health and homelessness in Hamilton

Hamilton Opioid Action Plan Process and Timelines



Hamilton Opioid Action Plan Objectives

1. Reduce the number of deaths associated with opioids
2. Reduce the harms associated with opioid use
3. Increase access to a spectrum of treatment options

Community Conversations – Who We Spoke With

Hamilton Drug Strategy Steering Committee Members

- Community members
- Canadian Mental Health Association Hamilton Branch
- City of Hamilton - Community Services; Hamilton Paramedic Services; Housing Services; Mayor's Office; Public Health Services
- De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre
- Greater Hamilton Health Network
- Hamilton Health Sciences
- Hamilton Police Services
- Mission Services of Hamilton
- McMaster Family Practice
- St. Joseph's Healthcare
- The AIDS Network
- Wayside House of Hamilton
- Wesley
- YWCA Hamilton

Community Members & Organizations

- People with living/lived experience
- Indigenous community members
- Canadian Drug Policy Coalition (CDPC)
- De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre
- Good Shepherd Centres
- Grenfell Ministries
- Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion
- Hamilton Community Foundation
- Harm Reduction Working Group
- Keeping Six
- Primary Care Leadership Team
- Social Navigator Team – Hamilton Police Services
- Salvation Army

Community Conversations – What We Heard

- The crisis is deepening and requires focus and leadership
- Poverty, inadequate housing, overstretched shelter services are exacerbating the crisis.
- Limited coordination between service providers is reducing impact
- “We can get our hands around this” if we concentrate on those most at-risk
- We need to address public stigma
- We need to show results
- We need to hear each other even when advocating for different approaches and treatment modalities
- Families need support
- Primary care providers need support
- Frontline workers are struggling and burning out
- Empathy, community, and skill building are key to meaningful recovery

Hamilton Opioid Action Plan Actions

Immediate Actions: 0-6 months

1. Establish an Opioid Action Table
2. Scale up Supervised Consumption Sites across Hamilton
3. Develop safer use policies in hospitals and care settings
4. Increase availability of drug-checking services and resources
5. Engage and support primary care providers

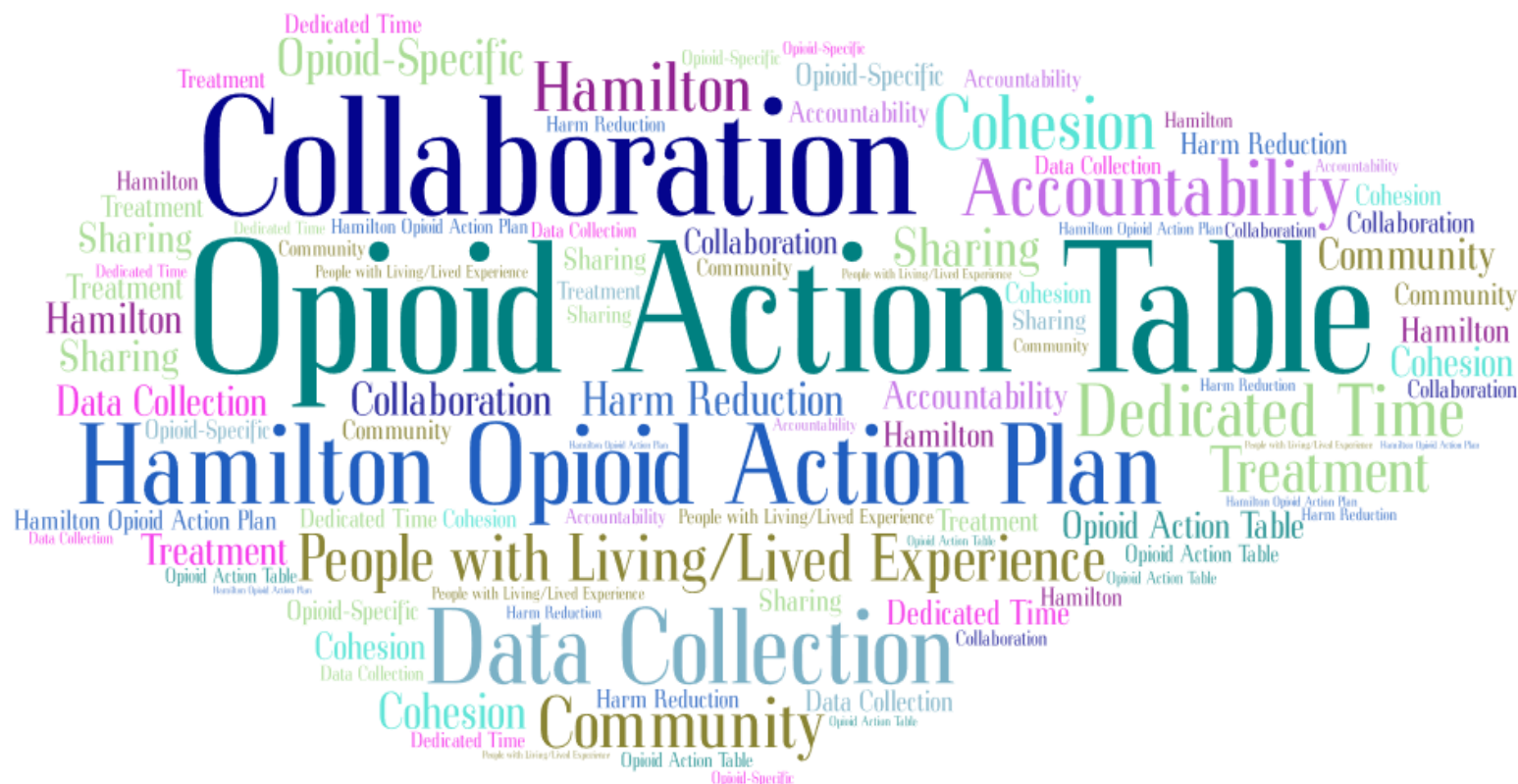
Medium-Term Actions: 6 months

1. Clarify service pathways and options for individuals who use substances, care providers, and first responders
2. Develop and implement new youth prevention programs
3. Expand supports available to families
4. Increase access and support to shelters and drop-ins

Long-Term Actions: 12 Months

1. Increase number of physicians able to prescribe opioid agonist therapy (OAT) and safer supply programs
2. Expand availability of stabilization services
3. Increase access to rapid detox and residential treatment programs
4. Develop additional Supervised Consumption Sites throughout Hamilton

Municipal Support and Investment



Opioid Action Table

Action: Establish an Opioid Action Table

- Oversee Hamilton Opioid Action Plan implementation and increase collaboration.
- Composed of people with living/lived experience & health and social service leaders.
- Reports to the Hamilton Drug Strategy Steering Committee.
- Develops task-oriented working groups.

Supervised Consumption Sites

Action: Scale up Supervised Consumption Site across Hamilton

- Expand supervised consumption sites to shelter-based settings
 - Initiate a Call for Applicants to pilot an 18-month safer use space in a men's shelter.
- Expand supervised consumption sites to other community settings, including exploration of a mobile Supervised Consumption Site and Supervised Consumption Sites within local hospitals.

Drug Checking Services

Action: Increase availability of drug checking services and resources

- Distribute drug checking strips within the community
- Provide two point-of-care drug checking devices for use in the community
- Investigate opportunities for additional analysis through mass spectrometry

Recommendations

- a) Endorse the Hamilton Opioid Action Plan.
- b) Increase Public Health Staff complement by 1.0 FTE Health Strategy Specialist to support planning and coordination of the Hamilton Opioid Action Plan.
- c) Allocate funding for operational costs to initiate a one-year drug checking surveillance system pilot from October 2023 to September 2024.
- d) Allocate funding to Housing Services to execute a Call for Applicants to pilot a Supervised Consumption Site for 18-months in a men's shelter.
- e) Direct Public Health Services to conduct an evaluation of the Supervised Consumption Sites and report back in Q4 2024.
- f) Authorize and direct the General Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities or delegate to, on behalf of the City of Hamilton, enter into, execute and administer all agreements and documents necessary to implement the Call for Applications for a shelter based Supervised Consumption Site.

Next Steps

- Establish the Opioid Action Table
- Initiate task-oriented working groups
- Report back on Hamilton Opioid Action Plan progress and performance measures in Q1 2024



Hamilton

QUESTIONS?