



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE



THE OPIOID CRISIS

THE ROLE OF POLICE



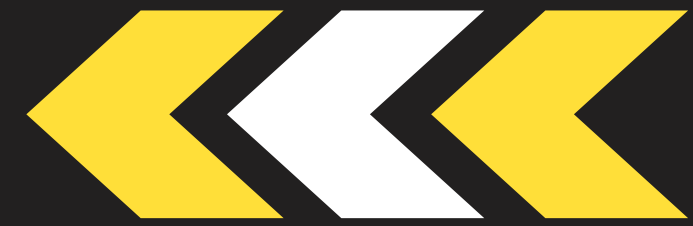


INTRODUCTIONS

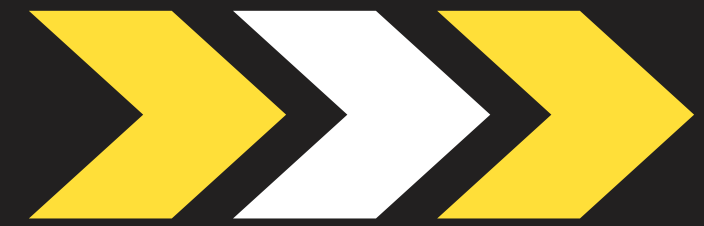
Detective Inspector Kevin Veillieux
Criminal Investigation Branch

A/Inspector Ben Curtis
North West Region Operations





THE OPIOID CRISIS



BACKGROUND AND GROWTH

This crisis and its grip on society has no barriers, it does not differentiate between race, color, ancestry or position in life.

Policing in Northwest Region brings us into many communities, some policed by OPP, others by our Indigenous Police Partners, which requires cooperation at all levels.

Regionally we experience higher rates of opioid related deaths than other areas of the province. Cooperation through communication, understanding and empathy is paramount to success.

Wise Words – “We cannot arrest our way out of this”

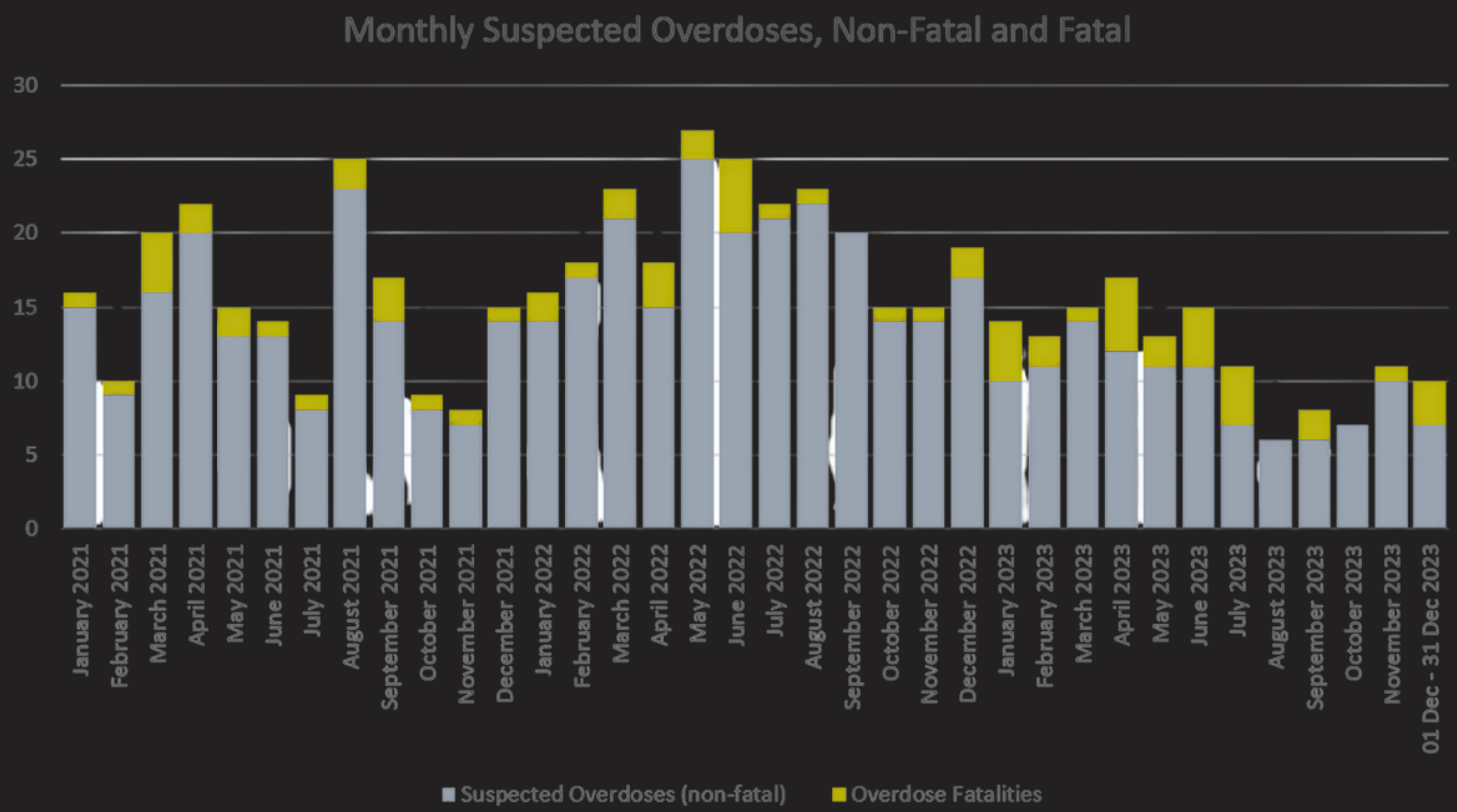
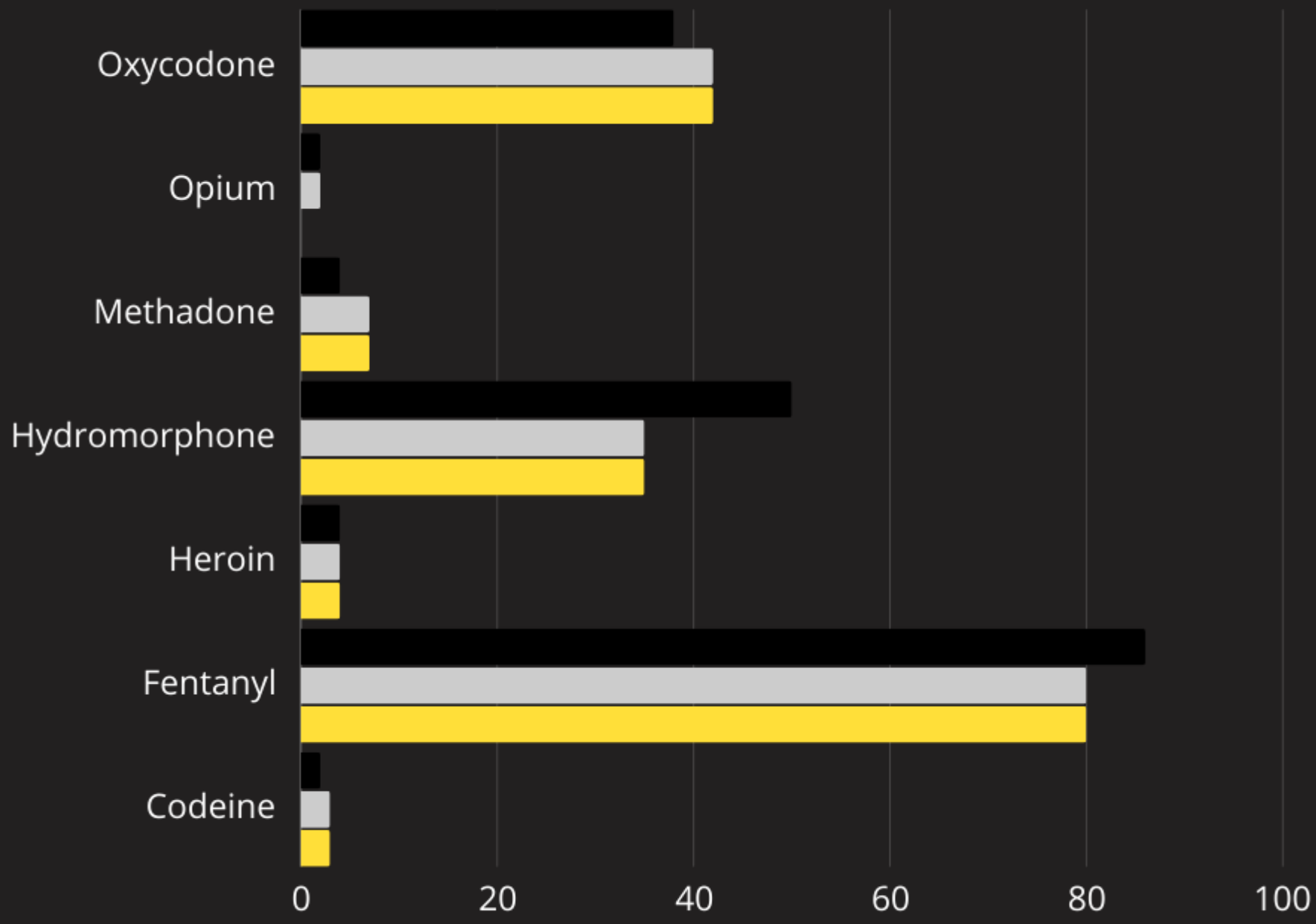
FRONTLINE FOCUSED FIRST RESPONSE

- OPP Frontline Operational Policies
- Mandatory Naloxone Carry
- Opioid Occurrence Reporting
- SIU considerations
- Officer Safety & OPP Facilities
- 60 Naloxone Deployments by OPP in NWR in 2023





INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYTICS



- Frontline Naloxone Deployments 60% Female and 40% Male
- In Opioid related occurrences, Fentanyl was seized more than any other substance
- Overdose incidents show as trending down likely due to increase in naloxone awareness and use
- Impact of 'Invincibility Syndrome'
- Post Naloxone deployment officer and public safety concerns



THE NEXT STEPS ... CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Mandate, Challenges, Policies

Criminal Charges and Prosecution



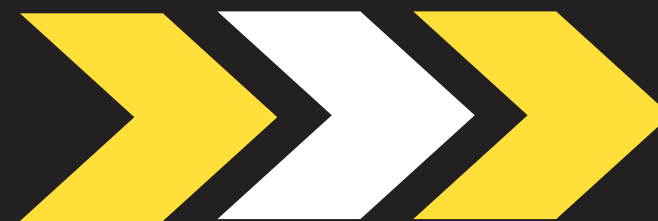


MANDATE - CHALLENGES - POLICIES

September 2018 Drug Overdose Investigations Framework implemented.

Framework included mandatory notification to the Criminal Investigation Branch -
monitor vs. engage

Challenging to investigate from resource perspective due to number of
CFS





OPIOID VERSUS NON-OPIOID RELATED OVERDOSE DEATHS:

Drug Type Suspected in Overdose Deaths	# of Occurrences in 2020	# of Occurrences in 2021	# of Occurrences in 2022	# of Occurrences in 2023
Opioid Related - overdose/suspected overdose - opioid related and sudden death	242	260	178	154
Non-Opioid Related - Overdose/Suspected Overdose and Sudden Death	48	38	66	25
Total Number of Occurrences	290	298	244	179



CHARGES AND PROSECUTION

PROSECUTION

- Reasonable grounds to lay charges vs reasonable prospect of conviction
- Is it in public interest to see someone charged – was it culpable
- Accused an addict/friends
- Traffic for profit
- Challenges with prosecution re PPSC vs MAG crown – crown consult

CHARGES

- Criminal negligence cause death
- Manslaughter
- Trafficking

Trafficking Definition – To sell, administer, give, transfer, transport. Send or deliver the substance.

- Accountability, deterrent, help for involved persons with substance issues



VICTIMS

- Family - Survivors
- Trauma/pain
- Closure
- Concerns about justice being served – directly related to prosecution
- Victim Specialists
- VWAP – Victim Witness Assistance Program



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MOBILIZATION AND ENGAGEMENT

A PATHWAY FORWARD

- Naloxone Roll-out
- Pathway Project
- Fort Frances Opioid Focus Group
- Opioid Crisis Working Group
- Good Samaritan Act
- Community Partnerships





THE PATHWAY PROJECT

- Transformative Partnership between community partners in Dryden
- Addiction Specialist with lived experience
- Intervention completed at crucial moment in someones life
- Warrant Execution
- Overdose Incident
- Frontline Referral

Follow up and wrap around support while treatment is obtained

www.thepathwayproject.ca





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FORT FRANCES OPIOID FOCUS GROUP



- Formed in 2020 to address the high number of overdose occurrences in the Rainy River District
- Multi-Sectoral Approach
- Frontline MCRT response with follow up from appropriate community agency
- Full community support

OVERDOSE FOCUS GROUP WHO ARE THE PARTICIPANTS?

- Riverside Health Care
- Northwestern Health Unit
- EMS
- Paramed
- Fort Frances Family Centre
- TOFF
- Fort Frances Area Tribal Health
- T3PS
- Coroner – Dr. Whittaker (Dryden)
- UNFC
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- RRDSSAB
- Substance Abuse Prevention Team (SAPT)
- Victim Services
- OPP RESOURCES
 - Community Mobilization Officer (MCRT)
 - OCEB
 - CIB
 - Local Detachment Uniform & Crime Unit

SEE AN OVERDOSE? CALL 911.

Even if you've taken drugs or have some on you,
the **Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act** can protect you.

THIS LAW IS SUPPORTED BY THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

OPP.CA/OVERDOSE



THE LAW **DOES PROVIDE PROTECTION** AGAINST CHARGES FOR:

- Possessing drugs for your own use
- Violating conditions of your parole, bail, probation or conditional sentence for a simple drug possession charge

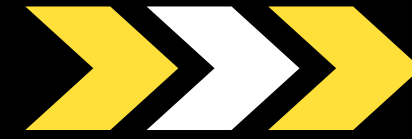


THE LAW **DOES NOT PROVIDE PROTECTION** AGAINST CHARGES FOR:

- Trafficking illegal drugs
- Offences other than drug possession
- Any outstanding arrest warrants
- Violating conditions of your parole, bail, probation or conditional sentence for an offence that is not simple possession



PHOTO CONTEXT: GSDOA



GSDOA INFO



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



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THANK YOU

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