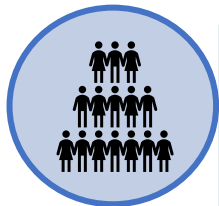


Peel's Interim Urgent Public Health Need Site

Dr. Gayane Hovhannisyan, Associate Medical Officer of Health
Natalie Lapos, Acting Director, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention
Region of Peel - Public Health

Peel's drug-toxicity crisis continues with 705 deaths in the last five years (2019-2023)



More people are dying, with a 34% increase in deaths when comparing 2023 to 2019.

There were 70 opioid toxicity deaths in Peel Jan to Sept 2024



Adults aged 25-44, males, and housed individuals are most impacted. In 2023, 62% of deaths were among individuals aged 25-44, 70% occurred in males, and 1 in 6 occurred among unhoused individuals.



People are dying alone, with nearly half (49%) of deaths occurring when there was no one present who could intervene. This is higher than in Ontario (42%).



People are not getting the help they need, with less than a quarter (17%) of deaths involving naloxone use.



People are not getting the help they need, with less than a third (31%) of deaths involving a resuscitation attempt.

Data note: Death data for 2024 should be considered preliminary and are subject to change as remaining cases are closed by the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario.

Source: Coroner's Opioid Investigative Aid, Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, extracted Oct 24, 2024. Opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario by public health unit region, Jan 10, 2025

On July 7th, 2022, Regional Council endorsed an Urgent Public Health Need Site



Model Interim, Urgent

Begin with an interim,
Urgent Public Health Need
Site.

Operated by Moyo Health
& Community Services.
WellFort Community
Health Services as clinical
lead.



Location Based on community need

Location informed by the
Peel SCS Study, ongoing
opioid surveillance data,
and input from Peel Drug
Users Advisory Panel and
Partners.

8.2-10



Funding Region of Peel

Approved funding for up
to 24 months.

Learn from site and scale
up to a model which
would rely on provincial
funding.

Peel's Interim Urgent Public Health Need Site

Under a Federal exemption, Peel's UPHNS has successfully delivered services to over **210 unique visitors** with **over 760 total visits** to this life-saving intervention.

Provides:

- Overdose prevention and education
- Sterile supplies
- Basic health care via Nursing Professionals
- Drug checking services
- Harm reduction teaching and counselling via Harm Reduction Workers and Peers
- Onsite services and referrals to other social and health services (e.g., housing, income supports, mental health/addictions treatment)



Testimonial

"I'm tired. My heart just wants love and peace. I was so lost before coming here. I hope my body can recover enough to give back to the very tough men and women who put their lives on the line to keep us safe. One day I can help the way I was helped. Thank you all so very much. Words will never be enough for me to say thanks, so I am going to prove by example. Never thought I'd be accepted like this. Honoured and humbled and forever loyal to you all."

Safety and security is of the utmost importance to all

- Collaboration with Peel Regional Police and 10 Peel / UPHNS staff
- No incidents reported in proximity to the UPHNS
 - No discarded needles/ drug equipment; needle sweeps conducted 3+ times daily
 - No loitering reported
 - No complaints or concerns voiced by Community Advisory Committee inclusive of neighbouring businesses, police, social service agencies, community residents and service users

Bill 223: Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act, 2024

Schedule 4: Community Care and Recovery Act, 2024

- Closure of SCS across the province for sites located within 200 meters of a school, child care and/or EarlyON child and family centre.
- Municipalities and local boards of health will require provincial approval before applying for an exemption or renewal of an exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act for the purpose of operating a Supervised Consumption Site
- A municipality or local board does not have the power, without the approval of the Minister, to support, including by passing a by-law or making a resolution, an application made to Health Canada

Impact to Peel's UPHNS

- Can not be funded under CTS program unless seek prior ministerial approval
- Must cease supervised consumption and drug checking services by March 31, 2025
- 60-day wind down of operations to support service users with referrals to Public Health and community harm reduction programs and related services to mitigate substance-related harms and deaths

Evidence-based interventions are needed to help reduce hospitalizations related to substance-related harms and overdoses

- Immediate life-saving interventions
- Referrals to other supports
- System-level advocacy
- Policy changes to support broader social determinants of health

Peel Public Health and community partners are committed to supporting a Community for Life

Community co-design process will be initiated in 2025 for development of a Substances Strategy to:

- Address causes and effects of harms of substances use
- Help reduce emergency department visits and strain on emergency services

Thank you