

# DRUG POISONING AWARENESS DAY 2024

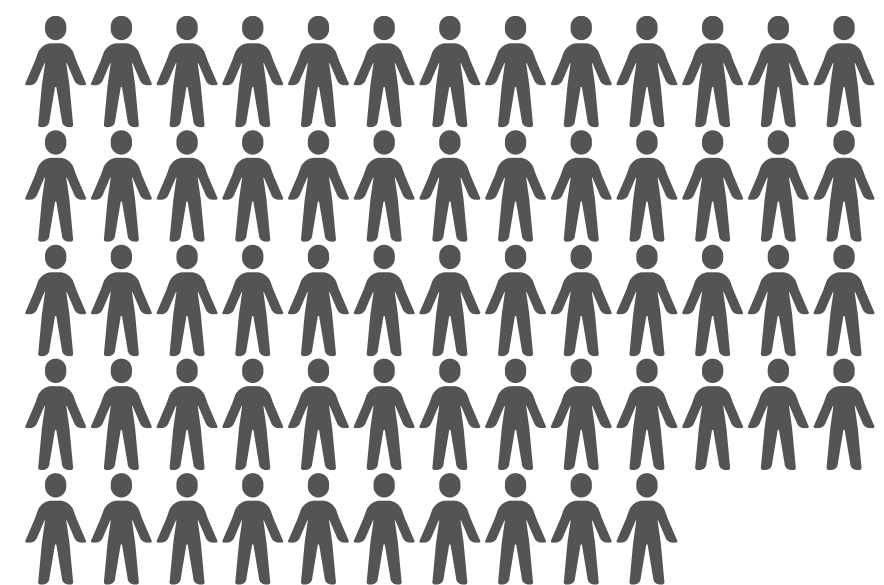
## Information & Resources

Drug Poisoning Awareness Day is an annual event held in alignment with International Overdose Awareness Day. It aims to raise awareness to end accidental drug poisonings, remember community members we have lost without stigma, and advocate for health-focused policies for people who use substances.

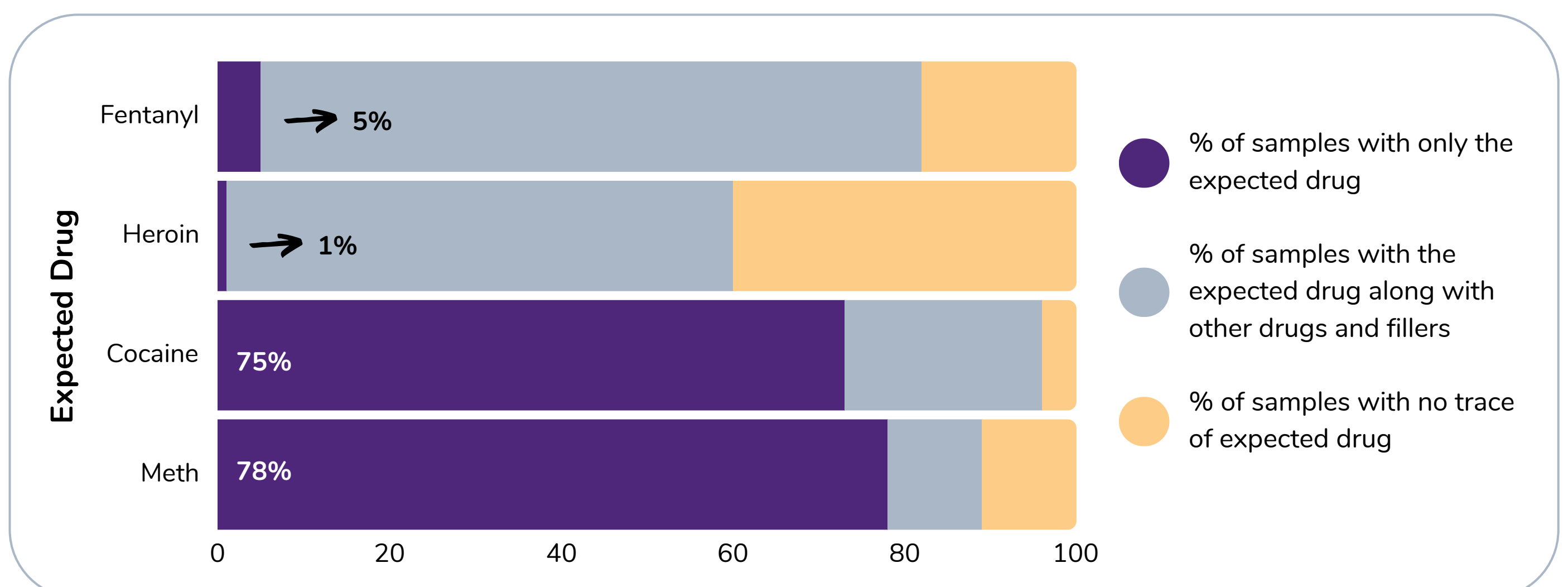
Many people in our community have been touched by drug poisonings. The following information is shared with the intent to offer knowledge about the drug toxicity crisis and actions that can be taken to address it.

**Thousands of people in our community are impacted by the drug poisoning crisis.**

- Since 2016, more than **40,400** lives have been lost from opioid-related deaths in Canada.
- On average, **10 people a day** die from accidental drug poisoning deaths in Ontario.
- In 2023, there were at least **62 deaths** from drug poisoning in Guelph & Wellington County.



The unregulated drug supply is toxic and unpredictable because there are no quality control measures in place. Testing done at drug-checking sites tells us that there are many high strength and unpredictable substances currently in circulation. The Toronto Drug Checking Service have been gathering the following data since 2019:



## Support is available.

Many people are experiencing grief and loss. If you are interested in receiving support for you or others in your community, please consider reaching out to the following organizations:

Moms Stop the Harm

<https://www.momsstoptheharm.com/>

Bereaved Families of Ontario

<https://bereavedfamilies.net/>

The Nightingale Centre for Grieving  
Children, Youth and Families

<https://nightingalecentre.org/>

## Want to see change? Here's how to get involved.

The drug toxicity crisis is an ongoing public health emergency and requires a **continuum of evidence-based services and programming to decrease drug poisoning and other related harms**. It is imperative that Guelph, Wellington County, and other communities across Ontario have access to **harm reduction, prevention, treatment, and recovery supports** to ensure the safety and well-being of all community members. Here are some ways to get involved:

- **Engage with your MP, MPP, Mayor and City Councilors** to let them know that we **need to see changes** in the way our society treats people who experience challenges with substances, including health-focused policies and services. Share your ideas and give your vote to the candidates who represent the change you want to see.
- The **Pathways to Remembering Memorial** is being built to show respect and compassion for community members whose lives have been lost to drug poisoning. **Community partners are seeking donations for the construction of the memorial**. For more information, please visit this link: [Pathways to Remembering Memorial – Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy \(wgdrugstrategy.ca\)](https://www.wgdrugstrategy.ca/pathways-to-remembering-memorial).
- Knowing how to **recognize and respond to opioid poisonings** and **carrying naloxone** can help save lives. For a list of pharmacies & services providing naloxone, please visit this link: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/where-get-free-naloxone-kit>