



November 15, 2024

JANE WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG
MLA, MONFWI

Oral Question 397-20(1): Overdose-Related RCMP Calls

This letter is in response to the Oral Question you raised on October 30, 2024, regarding overdose-related RCMP calls. Specifically, you inquired as to the number of RCMP and ambulance responses to overdose-related calls, and the average response time in Yellowknife. I committed to determine what relevant GNWT information was available, and suggested the City of Yellowknife might be better placed to respond regarding ambulance services.

The RCMP provided the following information related to calls in the territory where they are attending primarily as first responders:

Naloxone

- In 2023 RCMP administered Naloxone 3 times – 100% successful with 0 deaths.
- From January 1 to October 31, 2024, RCMP administered Naloxone 8 times – 75% successful with 2 deaths to date.

Emergency RCMP Transport of Patients

- In 2023 RCMP had incidents where they transported persons 785 times.
- From January 1 to October 31, 2024, the RCMP have transported civilians for medical purposes 325 times.

Mental Health Act (MHA) Calls

- In 2023, the RCMP had 1,828 MHA calls.
- From January 1 to October 31, 2024, the RCMP attended 1,671 MHA calls.

The RCMP do not have statistics for emergency service response calls specifically to address overdoses. Members are trained in standard First Aid, as well as in treating subjects as required with Naloxone which is carried while on patrol. The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO) and Health and Social Services (HSS) also do not receive, or track overdose/suspected overdose related calls responded to by RCMP. Currently, HSS does receive Yellowknife Fire Division responses to suspected opioid-related overdoses, however, this is limited to Yellowknife only. Generally, there are less than 5 calls per year in Yellowknife.¹

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¹ You can see the data online here: <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/substance-related-harms/opioids-stimulants/graphs.html?ind=922&unit=0>.

In addition, as you may be aware, the NWT Coroner Service does collect data on deaths involving drugs and alcohol. In 2023 there was one death determined to be suicide by overdose, and six accidental deaths by toxicity involving drugs and alcohol (four where only drugs were detected).²

I hope the information provided here is helpful in answering your questions.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.J. Simpson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R.J. Simpson
Minister, Justice

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Deputy Minister, Justice
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

² Northwest Territories, Legislative Assembly, [Northwest Territories Coroner Service 2023 Annual Report](#), 20-(1), (31 October 2024), p 12-14.