

## Situational Assessment of the Four Pillar Approach to Addressing the Drug Poisoning Crisis in the County of Haliburton, City of Kawartha Lakes and Northumberland County

### Recommendations For Action

A situational assessment was completed in 2024 to analyze the drug poisoning crisis in the County of Haliburton, City of Kawartha, and Northumberland County that outlines evidence-informed recommendations for actions.

#### *Implications for Policy and Practice*

#### Engage People with Lived and Living Experience



1. Adopt a practice of “nothing about us without us” and meaningfully engage people with lived and living experience in all planning and decisions on programs and services.

#### Address the Urgency



2. Advocate for the creation of a Provincial Drug Strategy Task Force and paid coordinator to focus on a provincial response to the drug poisoning crisis that includes building partnerships between government and community agencies.
3. Advocate for access to real-time data on drug poisonings.

#### *Local Actions Under the Four Pillars*

4. Invest in upstream prevention and early interventions.
5. Proactively address structural stigma within your organization.
6. Expand harm reduction service provision.
7. Expand mobile outreach for harm reduction and medical treatment.
8. Build capacity in the HKLN Drug Strategy Network.
9. Establish direct access pathways to care, withdrawal management and treatment.
10. Pursue evidence-based and health-centred diversion programs.