

# FEDERAL ACTIONS ON OPIOIDS


As of June 2019

- Allowed the import of medications approved elsewhere for urgent public health needs
- Facilitated methadone prescribing and use of medical heroin
- Removed regulatory barriers to allow nurses to transport controlled substances
- Increased opioid agonist therapy in federal correctional facilities
- Enhanced the delivery of culturally appropriate substance use treatment and prevention services in First Nations and Inuit communities
- Improving access to treatment services through an Emergency Treatment Fund for provinces and territories
- Supporting the development of a national treatment guideline for injectable opioid agonist treatment
- Funding pilot projects on injectable opioid agonist treatment
- Supporting up to an additional 25 community based opioid agonist treatment sites in First Nations and Inuit communities
- Funding Isuarsivik Inuit Nation to support reconstruction of their treatment centre



access to  
treatment

- Approved more than 39 supervised consumption sites and enabled establishment of overdose prevention sites
- Supported the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act which provides some legal protection for individuals who seek emergency help during an overdose
- Authorized drug-checking services at supervised consumption sites
- Launched a drug-checking technology challenge
- Launched a pilot project to examine needle exchange programs in federal correctional facilities and made it possible for overdose prevention sites to operate in federal correctional facilities
- Providing enhanced funding through the Substance Use and Addiction Program
- Facilitating access to naloxone, including for remote and isolated First Nations and Inuit communities



access  
to harm  
reduction

- Supported the development of opioid prescribing guidelines and national treatment guidelines for opioid use disorders
- Updated opioid product monographs
- Further restricted opioid marketing activities and provided new resources to enforce existing rules
- Expanding public awareness around opioids and the harms of stigma:
  - Know More Campaign awareness tour for teenagers and young adults
  - Summer festivals and post-secondary orientation activities and resources
  - National advertising campaign
  - Audio series In Plain Sight that highlights recovery stories
- Working with health professionals to decrease stigma and related barriers to care



awareness  
&  
prevention

- Equipped border agents with tools to intercept fentanyl and other dangerous substances at the border
- Pursued scheduling amendments to restrict importation of chemicals used to produce fentanyl, fentanyl-related compounds and amphetamines illegally
- Implementing a national operational strategy aimed at detecting, disrupting and dismantling criminal networks
- Working with domestic and international partners to reduce the illegal opioid supply
- Supporting education and training for law enforcement
- Supporting law enforcement with drug seizures and dismantlement of illegal drug operations
- Working with private sector partners to address the laundering of the proceeds of fentanyl trafficking



tainted  
drug  
supply

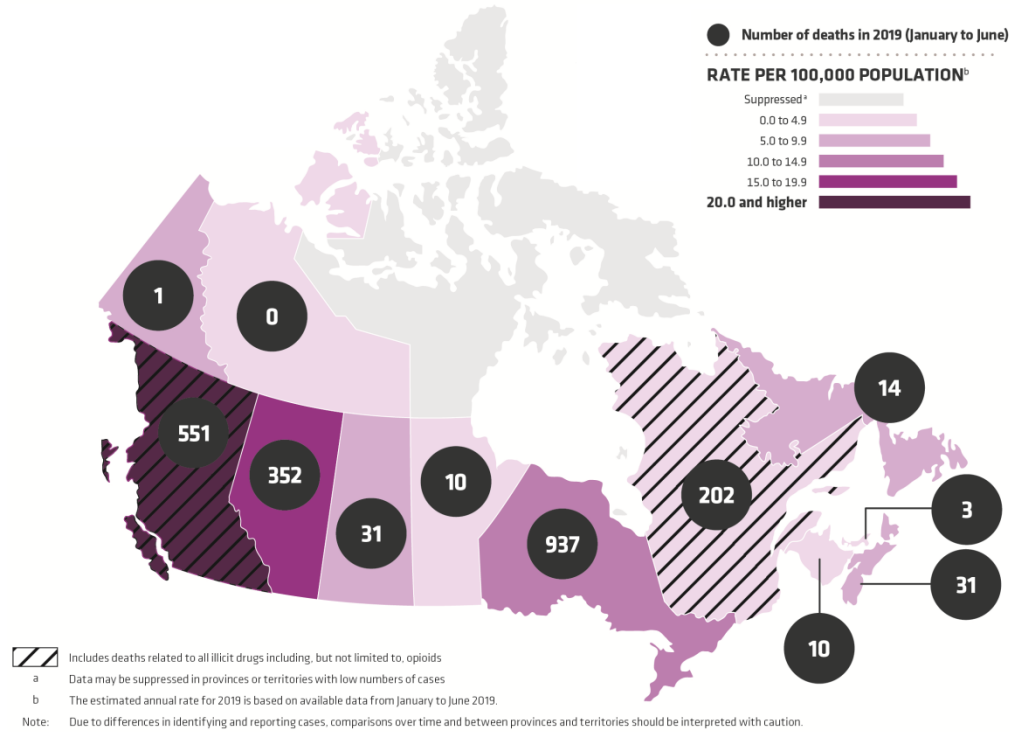
- Coordinating national data collection and publishing quarterly reports on apparent opioid-related deaths and harms
- Releasing alerts on dangerous drugs; monthly data and quarterly reports on drugs submitted for analysis following law enforcement seizures
- Supporting research and knowledge sharing
- Increasing our understanding of Canadians' knowledge of the opioid issue, risks and willingness to act
- Established a Canadian Pain Task Force to assess best and leading practices that could improve the prevention and management of chronic pain in Canada



evidence

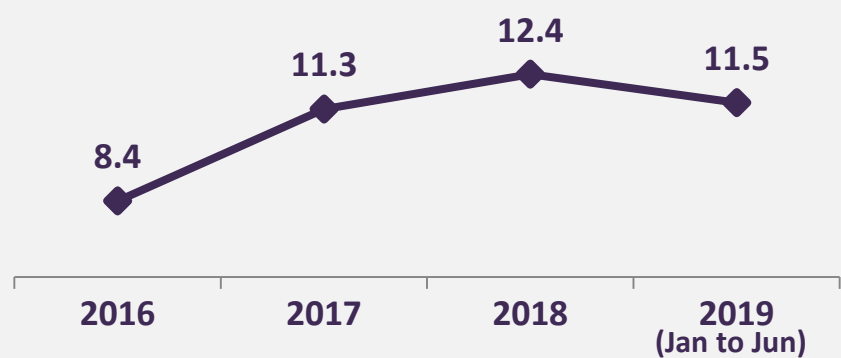
# Opioid-Related Deaths in Canada

More than 13,900 lives were lost from January 2016 to June 2019



Source: Special Advisory Committee on the Epidemic of Opioid Overdoses. National report: Opioid-related harms in Canada. Web-based Report. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada, December 2019.

## Death rate per 100,000 population

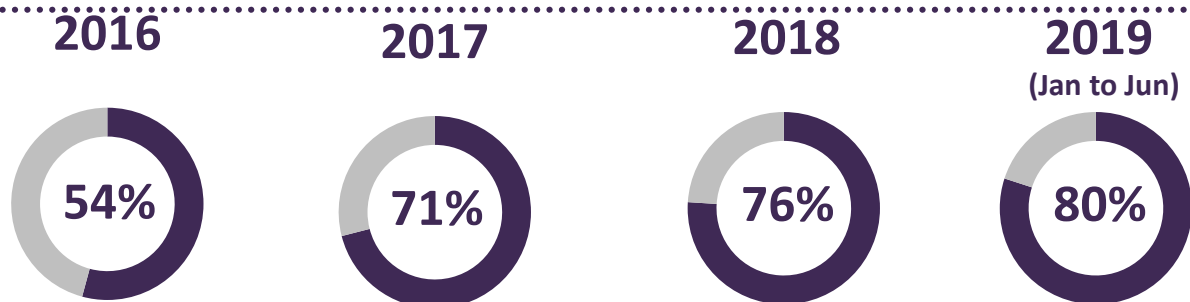


**75%** of accidental apparent opioid-related deaths in 2019 (Jan to Jun) occurred among males



**89%** of deaths in 2019 (Jan to Jun) were among young and middle aged adults, with those aged 30 to 39 particularly affected

Percent of accidental apparent opioid-related deaths involving fentanyl or fentanyl analogues



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