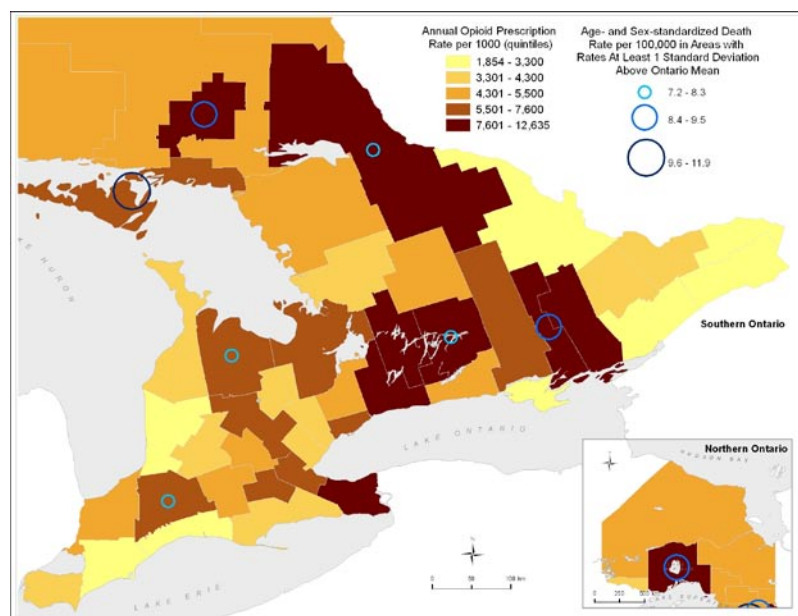


Geographic Variation in Opioid Prescribing and Mortality in Ontario

Counties with the highest rates of opioid prescribing and related mortality include: Thunder Bay District, Municipality of Sudbury, County of Lennox and Addington, Nipissing District, and County of Peterborough



Policy Implications

Opioid-related deaths are largely avoidable and unintentional. Public health interventions and education could be targeted to areas where opioid prescribing poses an especially large risk.

How do we know this?

These findings are the results of a population-based study of opioid prescribing and opioid-related mortality among Ontario's counties. Publically funded opioid prescriptions and opioid-related deaths were tracked for Ontario residents aged 15 to 64 between 2004 and 2006, and each person's county of residence was determined. The counties with the highest opioid prescribing rates and opioid-related mortality rates were identified. Within Ontario counties, for every additional publically funded opioid prescription dispensed, the opioid-related mortality rate increased by 0.54 per 100,000 residents.

Gomes T, Juurlink DN, Moineddin R, Gozdyra P, Dhalla IA, Paterson JM, Mamdani MM. Geographical variation in opioid prescribing and opioid-related mortality in Ontario. *Healthcare Quarterly* 2011;14(1):22-24.

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