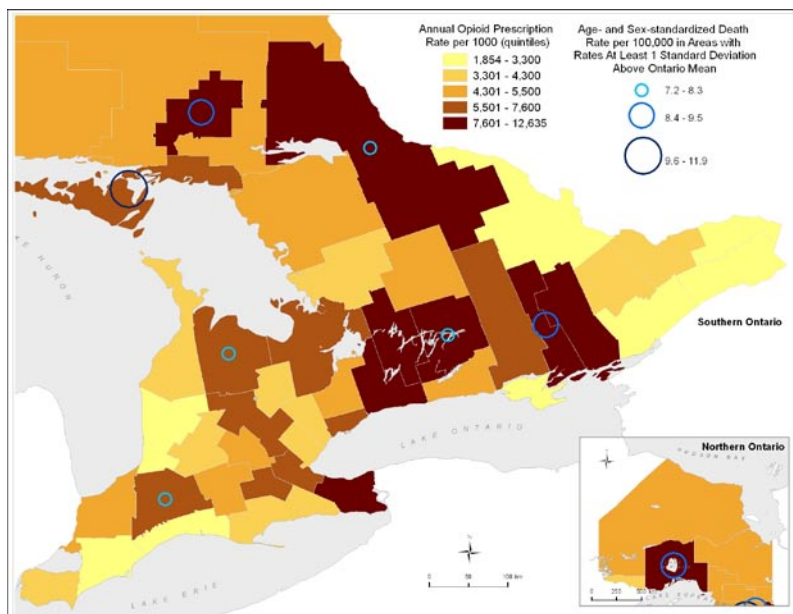


Geographic Variation in Opioid Prescribing and Mortality in Ontario

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



Clinical Implications

Clinicians living in areas of high opioid prescribing and related mortality may want to re-assess their patients' opioid needs and exercise caution when prescribing these drugs, especially at high doses.

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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