

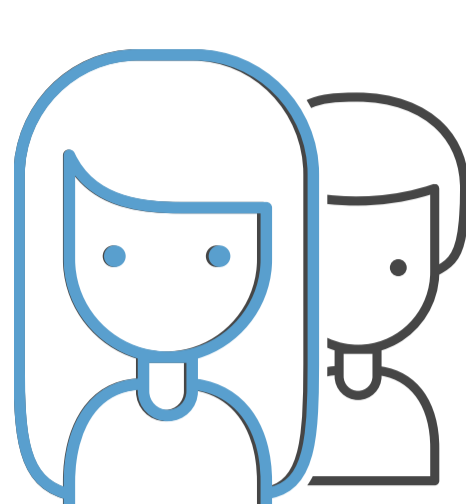
1 IN 7 ONTARIANS RECEIVED AN OPIOID IN 2016

1 in 8

(1.7 million)

were dispensed an opioid for 

PAIN



Mainly older **women** in urban settings across all income levels

55 median age
55% women
87% urban

1 in 43

(318 thousand)

were dispensed an opioid for 

COUGH



Mainly middle-aged **women** in urban settings across all income levels

49 median age
58% women
95% urban

1 in 243

(58 thousand)

were dispensed an opioid for 

ADDICTION



Mainly younger **men** in urban settings **within lower income levels**

36 median age
63% men
86% urban

Recent Medication Use

Percentage of people dispensed an opioid for

PAIN, **COUGH** or **ADDICTION**

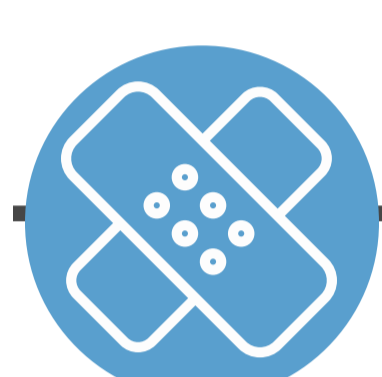
who also recently used:

Benzodiazepines

or **Stimulants**

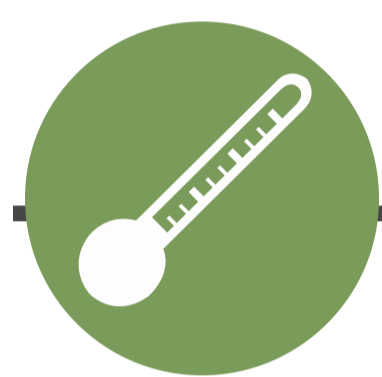
14%

1%



7%

1%



17%

5%



Healthcare System Use

People dispensed an opioid for

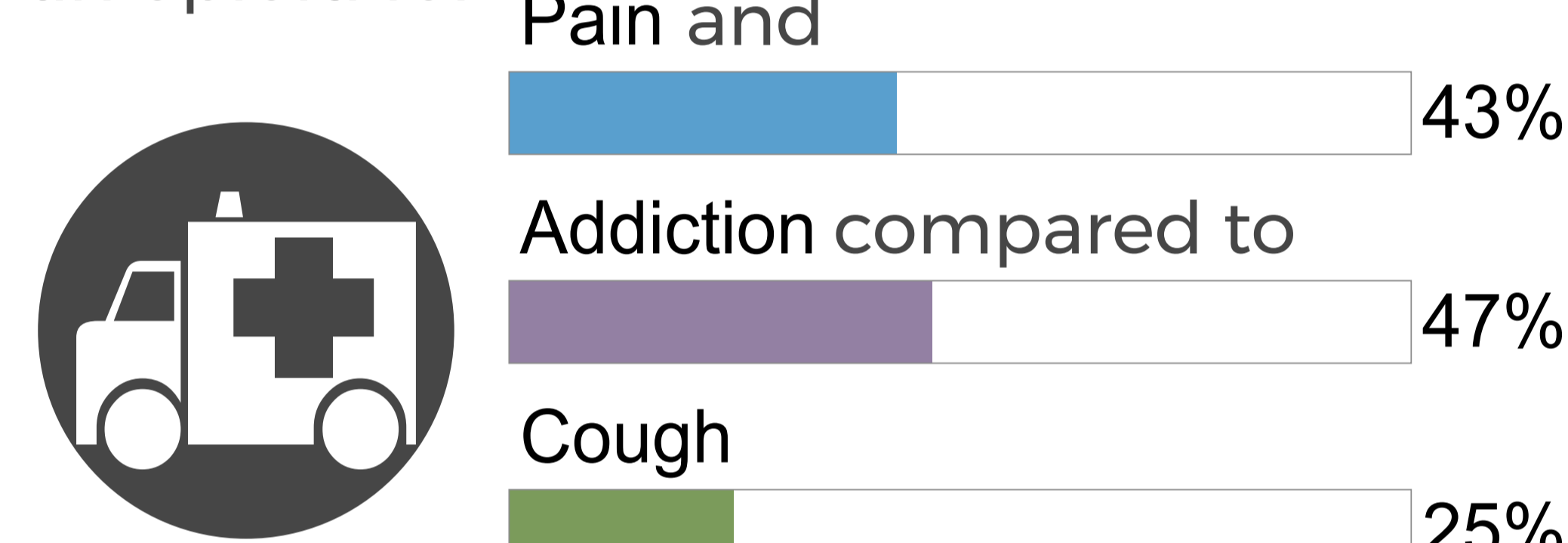
ADDICTION

visited their physician the most with a median of

42 office visits, compared to **7** for pain, and **6** for cough.

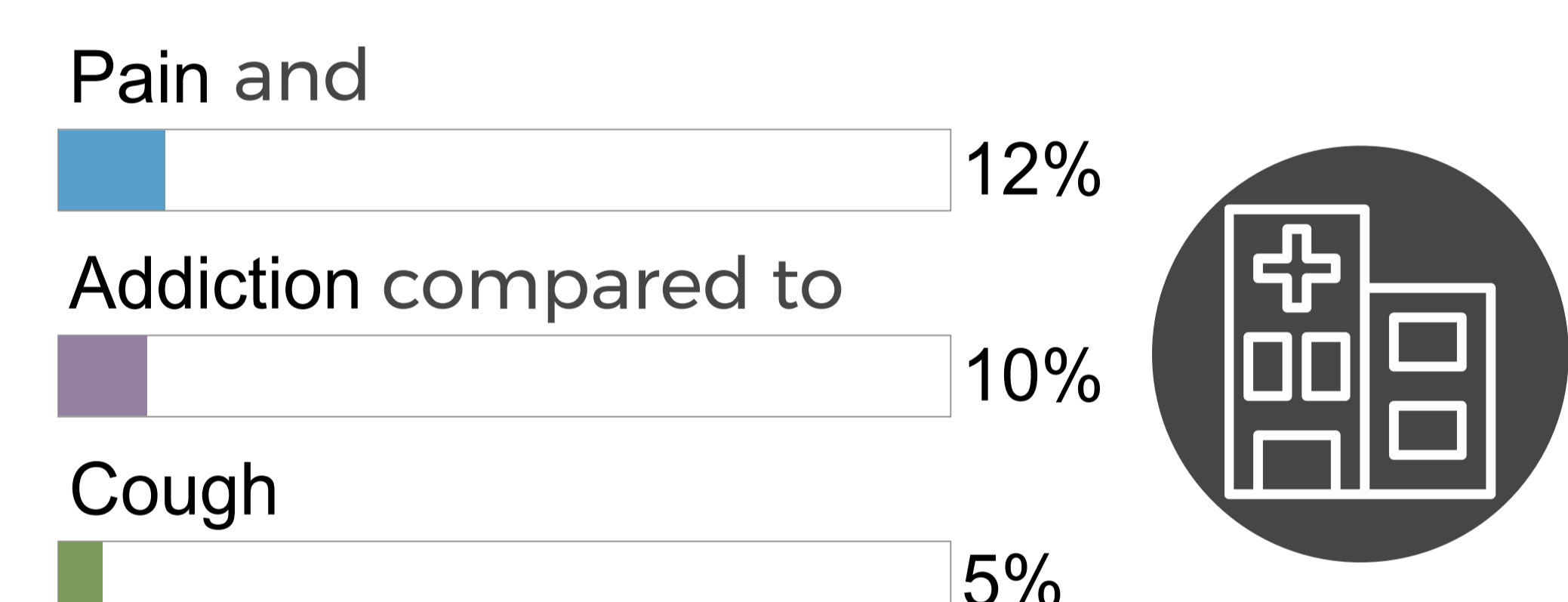


Emergency department visits were more common among people dispensed an opioid for



which was similar to the Ontario average: **23%**

Similarly, **hospitalizations** occurred more among people dispensed an opioid for



The highest rate of people with an **opioid overdose incident** occurred among those receiving an opioid for

ADDICTION

135 per 10,000 residents, compared to **8** for pain, and **2** for cough.



Geographic Variation

Pain or **Addiction** concentrated in northwestern and rural regions in Ontario

Cough clustered in southern and urban areas



However, **Pain ≠ Addiction**

Some regions with high addiction treatment had only moderate prescribing for pain.

This suggests illicitly obtained opioids may be contributors to addiction in these areas.

Opioids to Treat...

Pain

In 2 years, total opioid volume dispensed decreased by **18%** driven by reductions in long-acting opioid formulations.



Nearly **40%** of long-acting opioids dispensed to ongoing users had daily doses that exceed thresholds in the 2017 Canadian guidelines.

Most commonly dispensed long-acting opioids:

- #1** Hydromorphone
- #2** Oxycodone

Cough

Seasonal use in winter months, as expected. Average daily dose was low.



Addiction

The number of Ontarians accessing opioids to treat addiction is increasing. In 2016:

71% received **Methadone**
23% received **Buprenorphine/Naloxone**
6% received both.