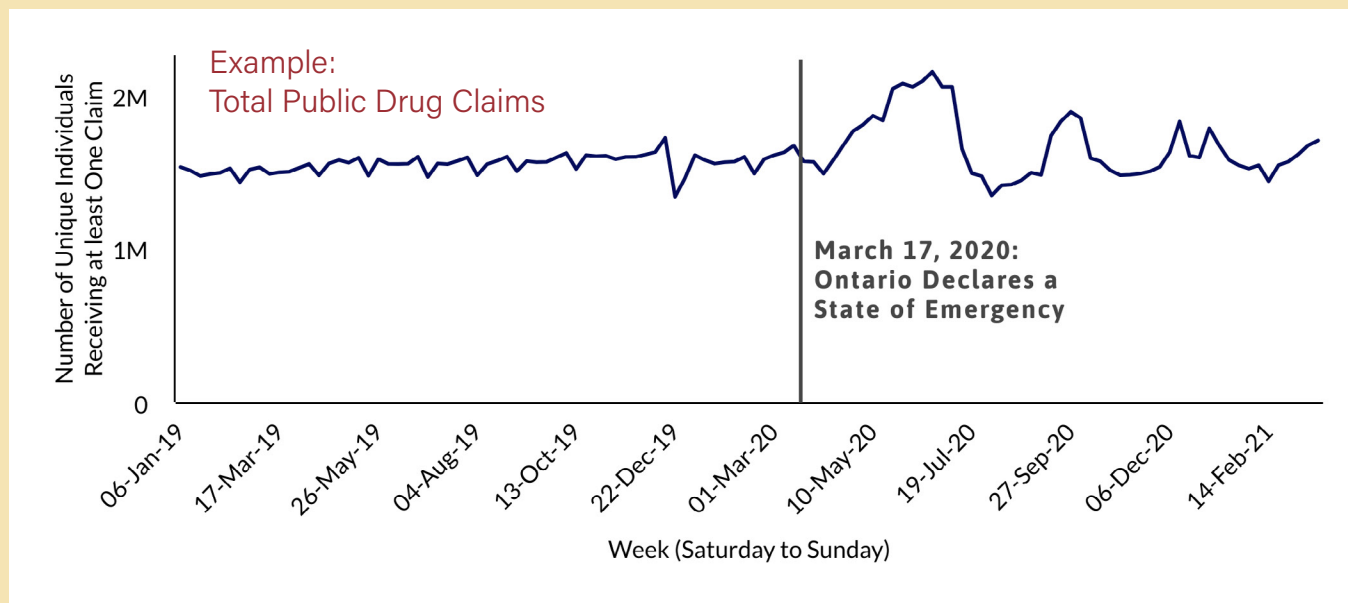


Below are recent highlights from the COVID-19 Ontario Prescription Drug Utilization Tool

The tool provides public access to data on drug utilization in Ontario during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic by reporting weekly trends on individuals who were dispensed a prescription drug or received a pharmacy service.

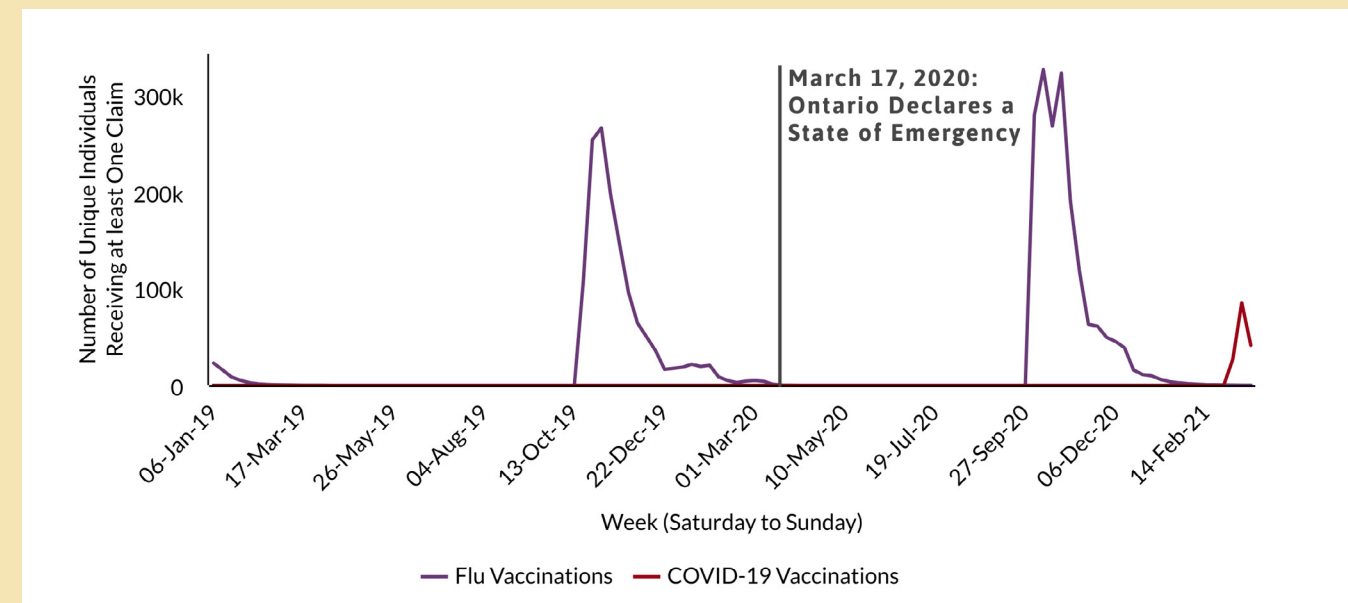
Drug use continues to be impacted by public health restrictions more than a year into the pandemic

Patterns of drug utilization continue to be disrupted by physical distancing measures and public health restrictions that have been in place in Ontario to differing degrees during the pandemic. This can be seen as high variation in dispensing rates from March 2020-March 2021 compared to relatively stable rates prior to this.



COVID-19 vaccinations vs. Flu vaccinations

The number of COVID-19 vaccinations administered in pharmacies is low compared to the peak number of weekly flu vaccinations administered each winter, demonstrating an untapped capacity for broader accessibility of the COVID-19 vaccine.



Initial findings were presented in a reflective piece and infographic, along with the tool located at: odprn.ca/covid-19-ontario-prescription-drug-utilization-tool