

What's new!

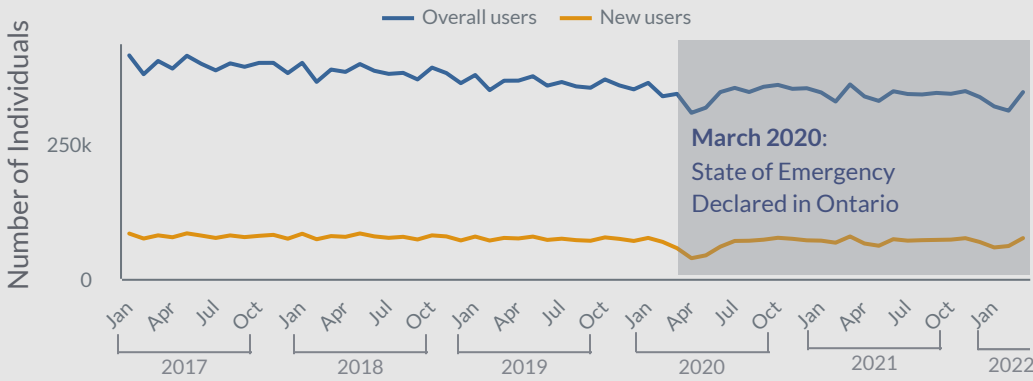
Since the ODPRN's initial launch of this tool in 2018, the landscape of the overdose crisis in Ontario has **shifted**, with an increasing recognition that the majority of opioid-related harms have been associated with the **unregulated opioid supply**, which is predominantly made up of **fentanyl**.

To better meet the needs of the current crisis, this tool has been **updated with new indicators** which focus less on the dispensing of opioids for pain and more on **opioids used for the treatment of opioid use disorder**, as well as **complications arising from opioid-related harms**.

The tool now has four separate dashboards:

Opioids for Pain

Monthly Count of Opioids for Pain Overall and New Users in Ontario



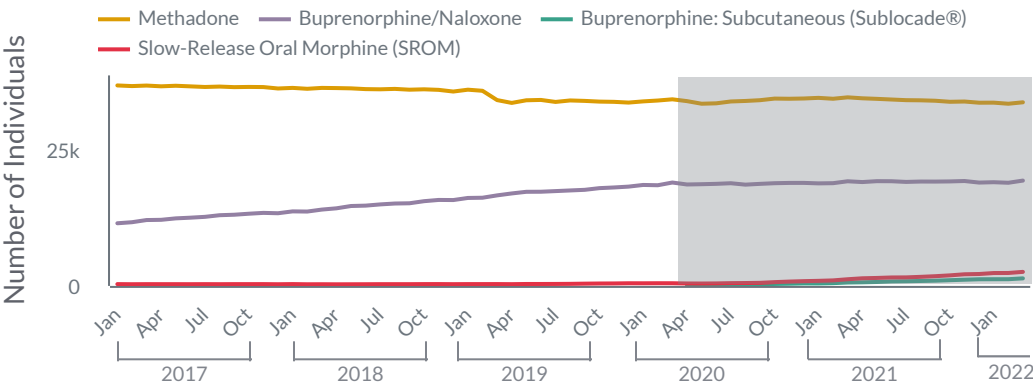
The total **volume** and monthly count of **high daily dose opioid prescriptions** for pain have remained stable during COVID-19, indicating that there has **likely not been a major impact on long-term opioid recipients**.

Opioid use for pain has **declined** during COVID-19. This is most apparent among **new users of opioids**. This may be due to fewer:

- Surgeries,**
- Emergency department and walk-in clinic visits, &**
- Dental procedures.**

Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT)

Monthly Count of OAT Individuals By Treatment Type in Ontario

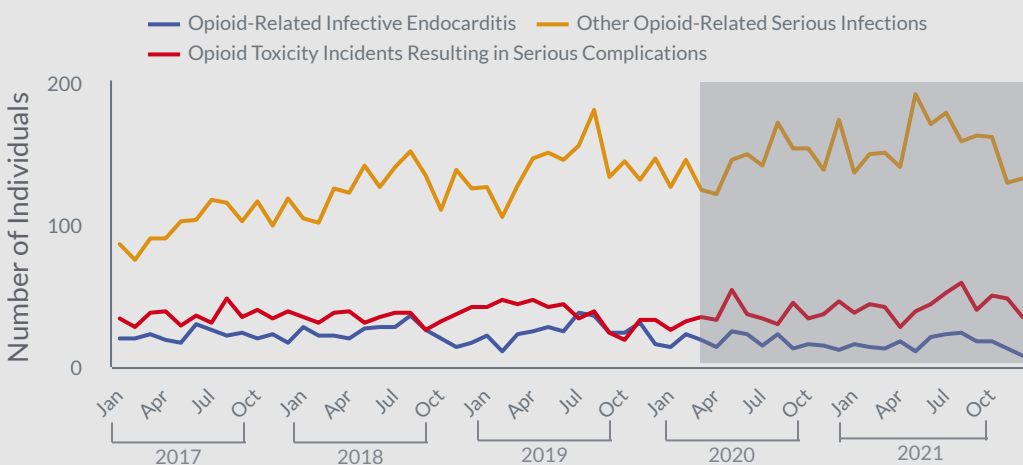


This indicator was **updated** to include **slow-release oral morphine (SROM)** prescribed for OAT, and further breaks down the **types of OAT dispensed**, including methadone, buprenorphine/naloxone, subcutaneous buprenorphine, implantable buprenorphine, and SROM.

Opioid-Related Harm



Monthly Count of Opioid-Related Harm Indicators in Ontario

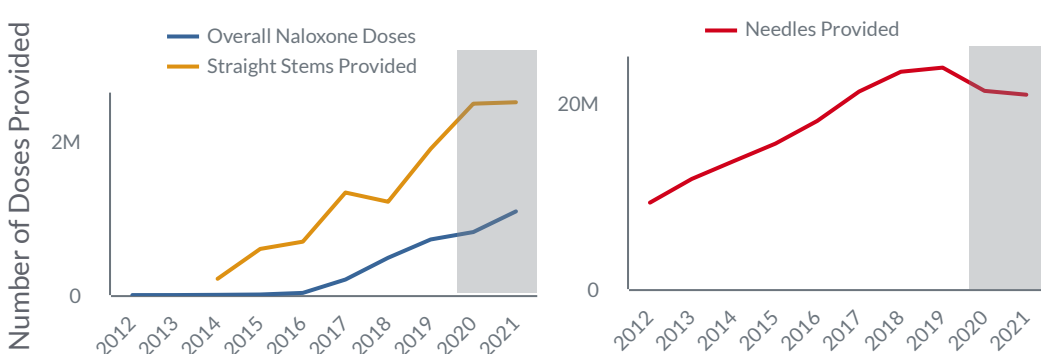


This **new dashboard** provides indicators of opioid-related harm, including the number and rate of healthcare encounters for **opioid-related infective endocarditis, invasive infections, and other serious complications associated with opioid toxicity** (including brain injuries, hospitalizations requiring intubation, and rhabdomyolysis).

Harm Reduction



Yearly Count of Harm Reduction Indicators in Ontario



This **new dashboard** focuses on harm reduction. **Needles and straight stems** provided address the need for information on provision of supplies to support safer injection and smoking of substances, respectively.

Community-provided naloxone doses is also a newly added indicator that complements our existing indicator on pharmacy-provided naloxone, and helps to provide a more complete picture of naloxone provision in Ontario.

As the overdose crisis continues to evolve, we hope these indicators will provide useful and timely information to policymakers and community members who are working to improve the lives of people who use drugs.