Understanding regional changes in harm reduction services in Ontario over the COVID-19 pandemic

This project compiled available evidence from the <u>ODPRN Ontario Opioid Indicator Tool</u> and the <u>PHO Interactive Opioid Tool</u> into regional snapshots to display trends related to harm reduction service delivery and opioid harms.

Changes in opioid-related morbidity and mortality from 2016 to 2021



3x 1

increase in opioidrelated emergency department (ED) visits in Ontario since 2016 32 per 100,000 in 2016 to

114 per 100,000 in 2021

3x 1

increase in
opioid-related
deaths in Ontario
since 2016

6.2 per 100,000 in 2016 to

19 per 100,000 in 2021

18%

increase in individuals on opioid agonist therapy (OAT)

in Ontario since 2016 **4.1** per 1,000 in 2016 to

4.6 per 100,000 in 2021

Naloxone doses

have increased since distribution programs launched in 2016

28.2K in 2016 to

1.1M in 2021 The number of **needles provided** rose from

17M in 2016 to **23.5M** in 2019

followed by a decrease to

20.6M

in 2021

42%

increase in **foils provided** in Ontario

5.7M in 2020 to

8.1M in 2021

(since their introduction to the Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program in 2019)

2021 by the numbers in Ontario



17,073

ED visits



2,907

Opioid-related deaths



67,646

Individuals on OAT



1.1M

Naloxone doses dispensed



20.6M

Needles provided



8.1M

Foils provided

Geographic variation

Public health unit regions between 2020 and 2021:

	Increased (≥10%)	Remained similar	Decreased (≤-10%)
ED visits	29 regions	5 regions	0 regions
Opioid-related deaths	23 regions	8 regions	3 regions
Individuals on OAT	2 regions	32 regions	0 regions
Naloxone doses	27 regions	4 regions	3 regions
Foils provided	30 regions	2 regions	2 regions
Needles provided	8 regions	11 regions	15 regions

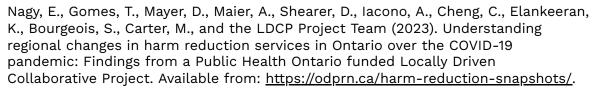




The accessibility and need for harm reduction services varies between regions in Ontario, reinforcing the need to invest in locally-driven responses that meet the needs of specific regions.

For more information







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