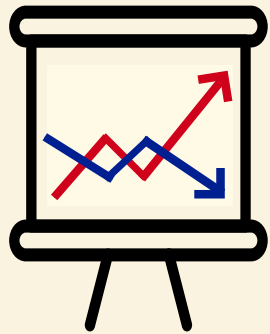


# Opioid-related deaths are increasing among youth in Ontario while opioid agonist treatment is declining

Opioid agonist treatment (OAT): The first-line treatment for individuals with opioid use disorder

Between 2013 and 2021

Among youth (aged 15-24)

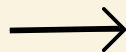


**369%** increase in opioid-related deaths  
↳ from 48 to **255** deaths

**56%** decrease in OAT use  
↳ from 3.4 to **1.5** per 1,000 population



**1,021** died from an opioid toxicity



**70%** were male

Among adults (aged 25-44)



**372%** increase in opioid-related deaths

**28%** increase in OAT use

*These findings warrant further attention on how to optimize access to treatment and harm reduction services among youth*

For more information

Rosic, T., Kolla, G., Leece, P., Kitchen, S., Gomes, T. (2023). Trends in rates of opioid agonist treatment and opioid-related deaths for youth in Ontario, Canada, 2013-2021. *Journal of the American Medical Association.*



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