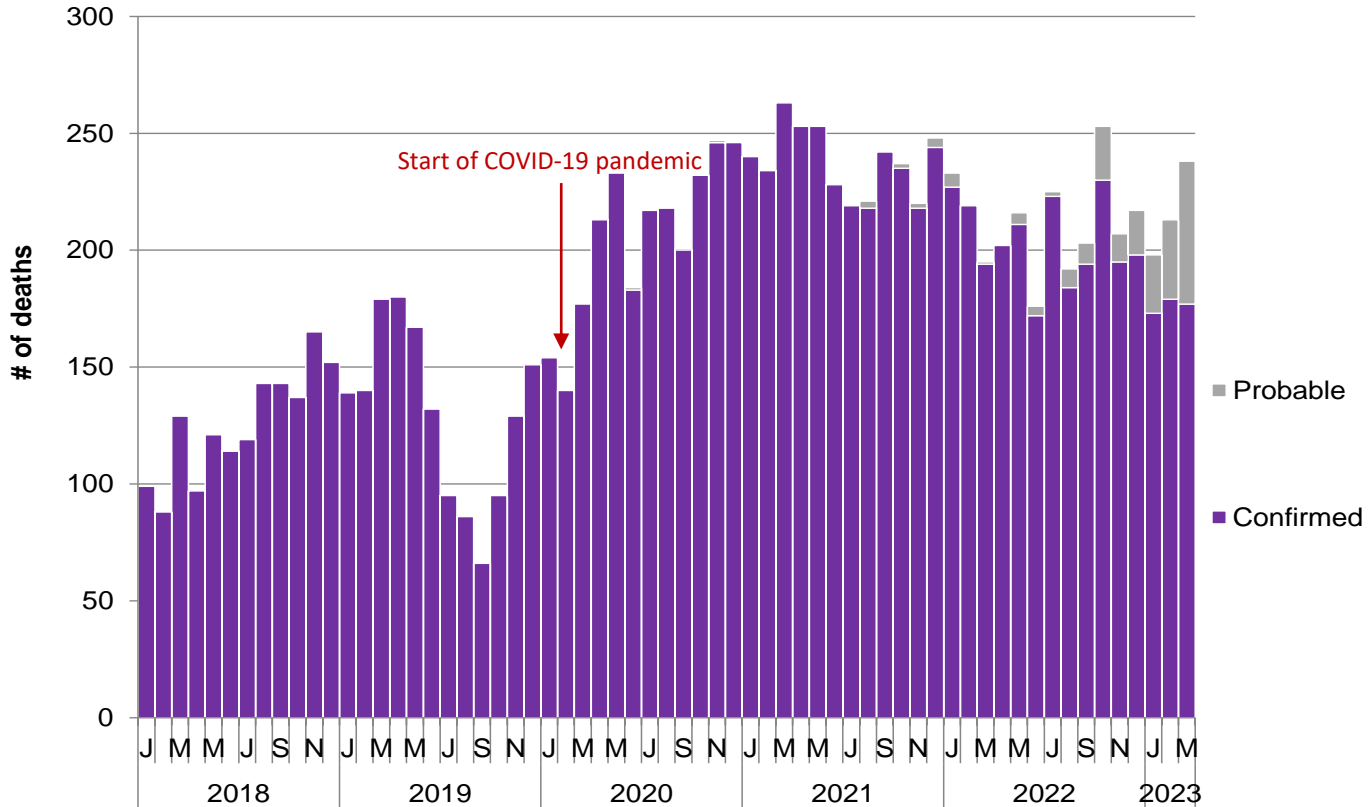


Quarterly Update from the Office of the Chief Coroner

Opioid Toxicity Deaths in Ontario

Opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario by month, Jan 2018-March 2023



Average deaths per month*

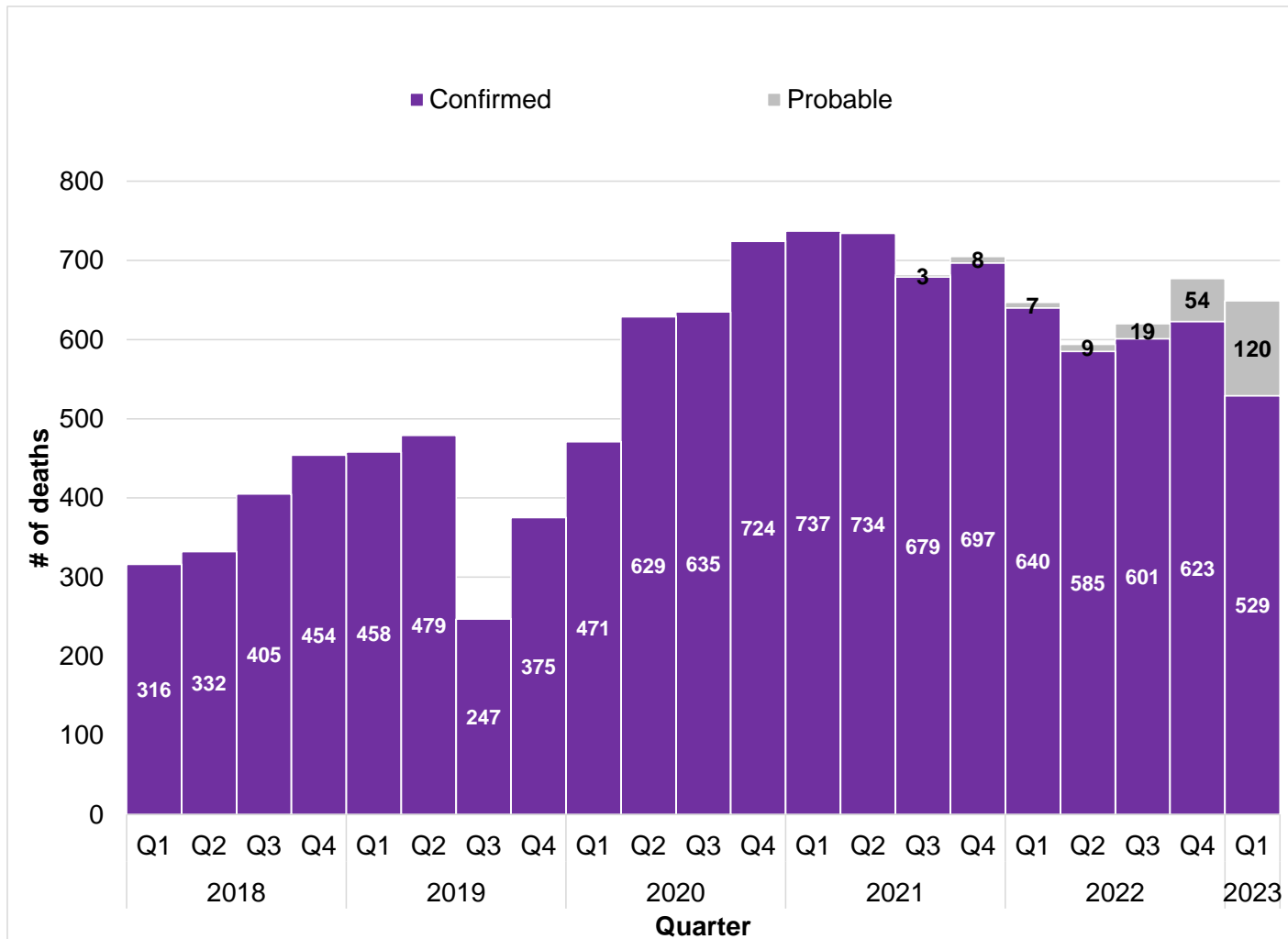
126	130	205	238	208	216
4	4	7	8	7	7

Average deaths per day*

Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective August 1, 2023

*includes both confirmed and probable opioid-related deaths, preliminary and subject to change

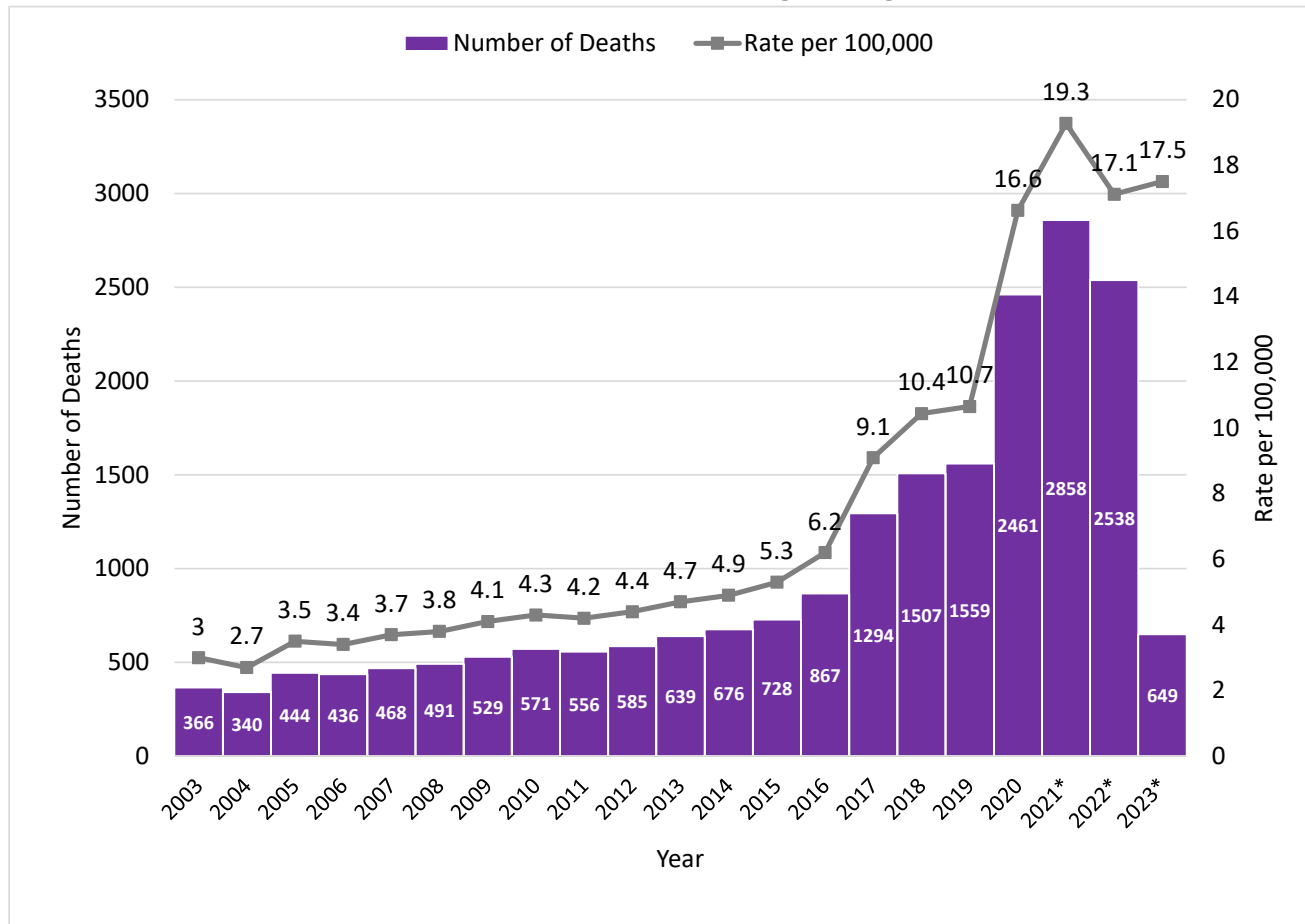
Opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario by quarter, 2018-2023 (Q1)



The number of opioid-related deaths* in the most recent quarter (Q1 2023; 649 deaths) is slightly lower than the number of deaths in quarter prior (Q4 2022; 675 deaths) (preliminary).

Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective August 1, 2023
 *includes both confirmed and probable opioid-related deaths, preliminary and subject to change

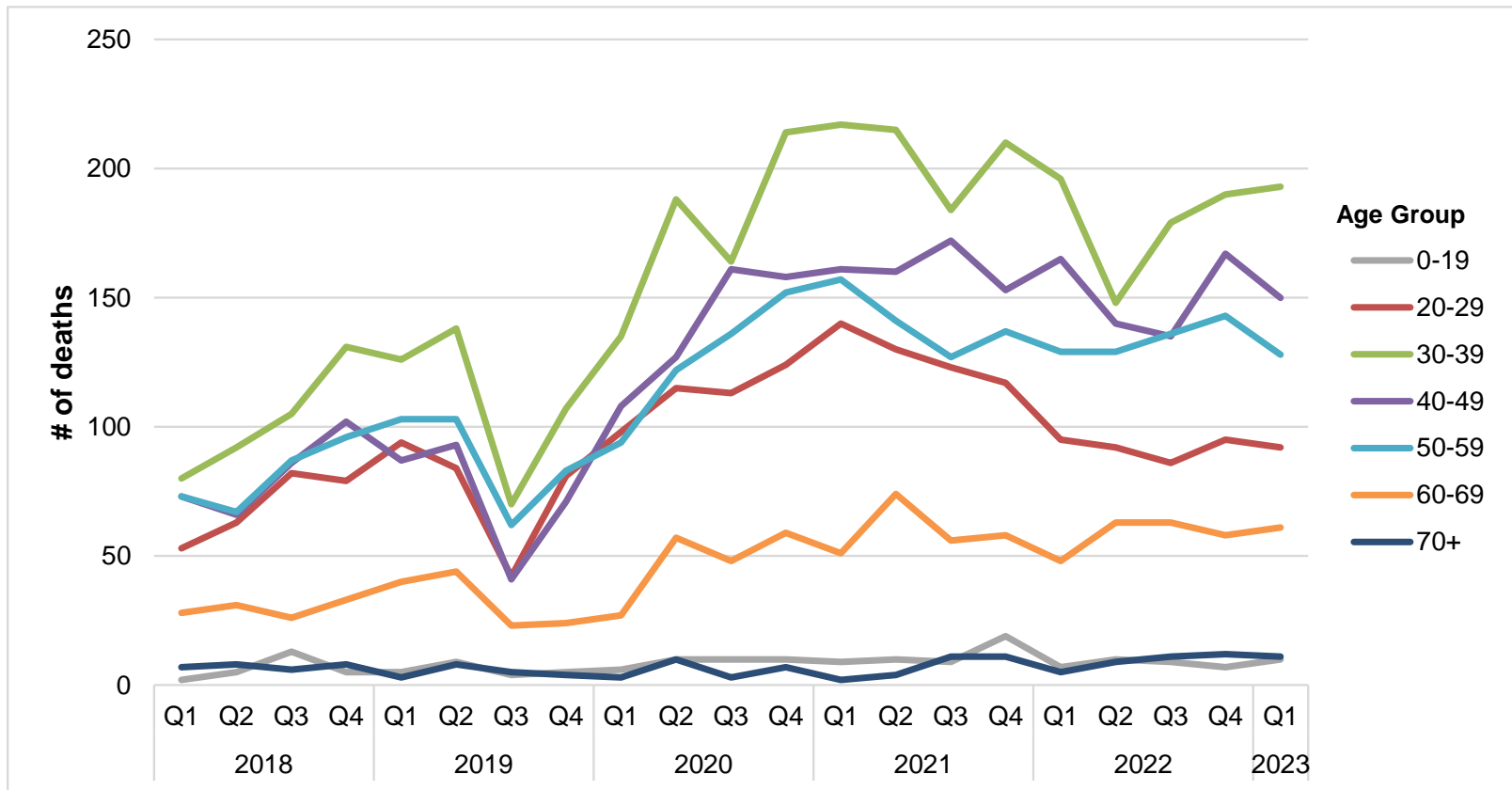
Opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario by year, 2003-2023 (Q1)



In **2021**, the mortality rate for opioid toxicity in Ontario was 19.3 per 100,000 population; **more than double** the rate in 2017 (9.1).

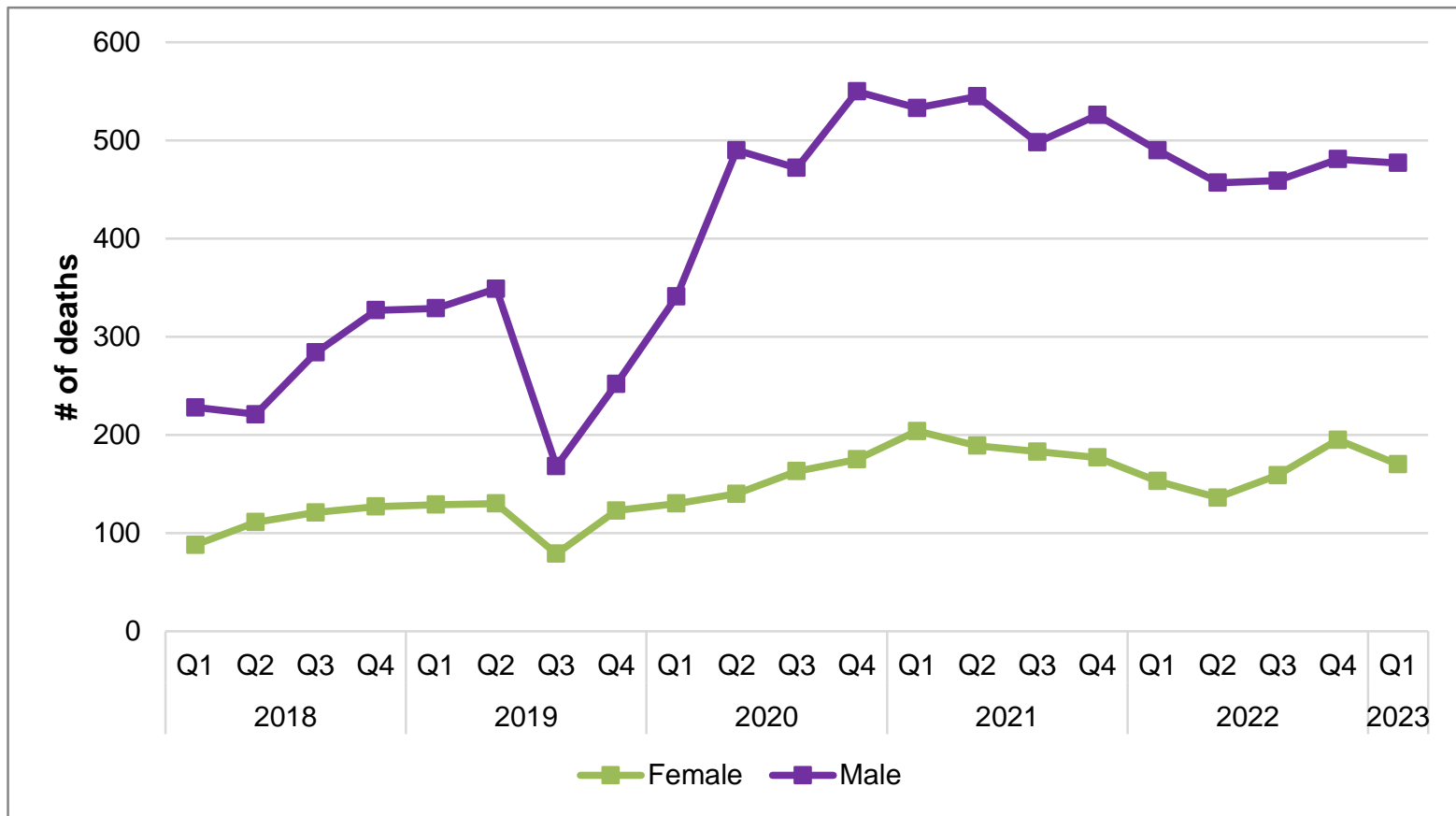
In **2023 (Q1)**, the mortality rate has **decreased by 9%** compared to 2021, however remains **64% higher** than in 2019.

Opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario by age group, 2018-2023 (Q1)



Age groups **30-59** continue to be **most impacted**, accounting for 73% of deaths in Q1 2023.

Opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario by sex, 2018-2023 (Q1)



3 in 4 deaths have been among **males** since the start of the pandemic.

Substances involved in opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario, 2018-2023 (Q1)

	% of Opioid Toxicity Deaths by Year					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Q1)
Non-Pharmaceutical Opioids						
Total fentanyl/Fentanyl analogues	67.9	75.0	85.7	88.8	83.5	85.6
Fentanyl	64.4	53.4	85.5	87.9	82.1	83.0
Carfentanil	6.3	31.4	0.5	4.3	7.7	5.7
Fluorofentanyl	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.2	14.2
Other Fentanyl Analogues**	1.5	1.4	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.6
Nitazenes*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.2
Heroin	7.2	4.1	1.7	0.8	0.3	0.2
Opioids Indicated for Pain						
Codeine	4.6	2.6	1.8	1.4	1.4	0.9
Oxycodone	11.1	9.1	4.9	3.8	5.7	4.3
Hydromorphone	10.8	10.1	6.1	5.8	6.7	8.1
Tramadol	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.6
Morphine	10.7	8.0	5.2	4.0	5.6	5.5
Opioid Agonist Treatment						
Methadone	12.9	12.9	10.4	10.3	9.8	8.1
Buprenorphine	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0
Other Substances						
Total Stimulant(s)	43.4	48.2	56.9	59.4	60.0	68.2
Methamphetamine	16.3	20.5	25.8	30.3	32.3	34.0
Cocaine	32.2	34.4	41.6	40.0	39.5	49.3
Other Stimulants	2.4	1.4	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.7
Alcohol	13.7	12.6	12.8	10.6	12.1	11.3
Benzodiazepines	11.9	8.4	9.2	10.7	10.2	22.3
Detection of nonpharmaceutical benzodiazepines*	32.7	29.8	45.1	63.0	47.4	59.4
Detection of xylazine*	0.0	0.0	0.2	2.1	2.4	2.1

Fentanyl continues to contribute to the majority (83%) of opioid toxicity deaths.
Stimulants are involved in 7 in 10 opioid toxicity deaths.

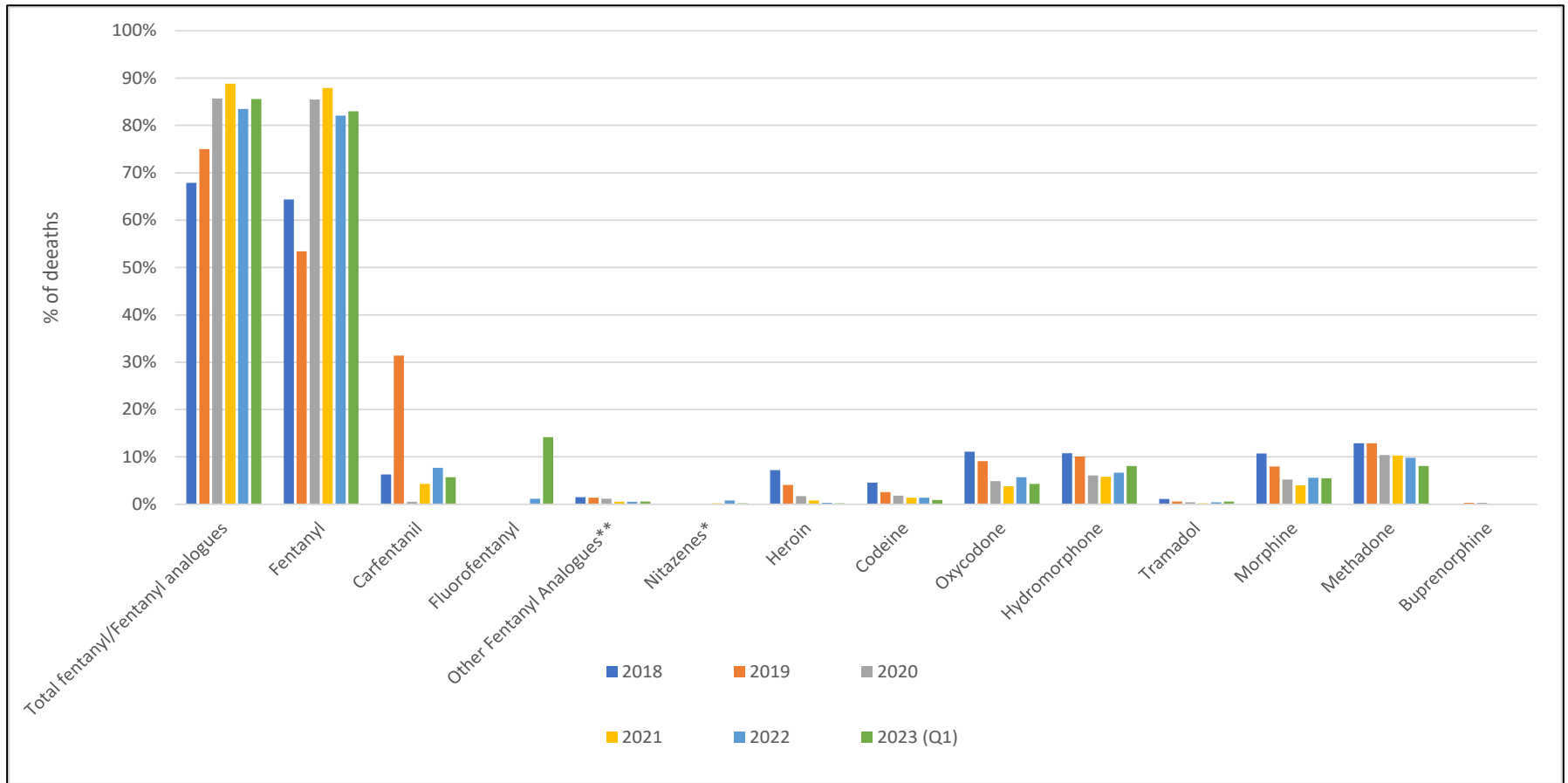
Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective August 1, 2023

Includes confirmed opioid toxicity deaths only. Data are preliminary and subject to change. Data reflect substances attributed to cause of death unless otherwise indicated.

*Due to evolving toxicology methods and best practices around quantifying and defining toxic levels of nitazenes, non-pharmaceutical benzodiazepines, and xylazine, these substances may not be consistently characterized in the cause of death.

**Includes Para-fluorobutyryl Fentanyl, Cyclopropylfentanyl, Furanylfentanyl, Despropionyl Fentanyl, Furanyl UF 17, and Acetylfentanyl

Opioids Involved in Opioid Toxicity Deaths in Ontario, 2018-2023 (Q1)



Fluorofentanyl (a fentanyl analogue) attribution in opioid toxicity deaths increased from 1.2% in 2022 to 14.2% in Q1 2023, the majority of deaths involving fluorofentanyl also involve fentanyl.

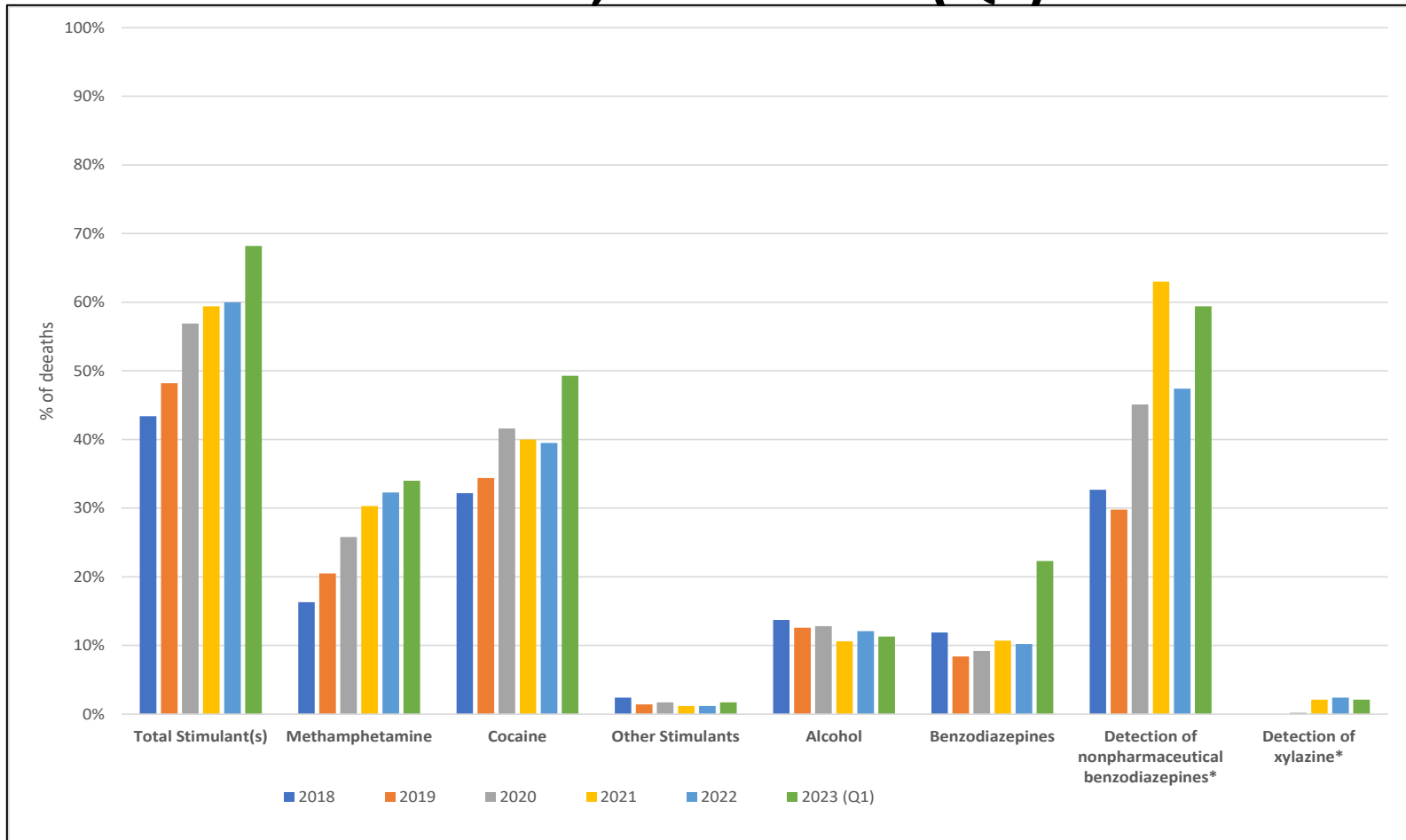
Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective August 1, 2023

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**Includes Para-fluorobutyryl Fentanyl, Cyclopropylfentanyl, Furanylfentanyl, Despropionyl Fentanyl, Furanyl UF 17, and Acetylfentanyl

Other Substances Involved in Opioid Toxicity Deaths in Ontario, 2018-2023 (Q1)



Benzodiazepines are involved in 3 in 5 opioid toxicity deaths (Q1 2023).
Cocaine is involved in nearly half of all opioid toxicity deaths (Q1 2023).

Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective August 1, 2023

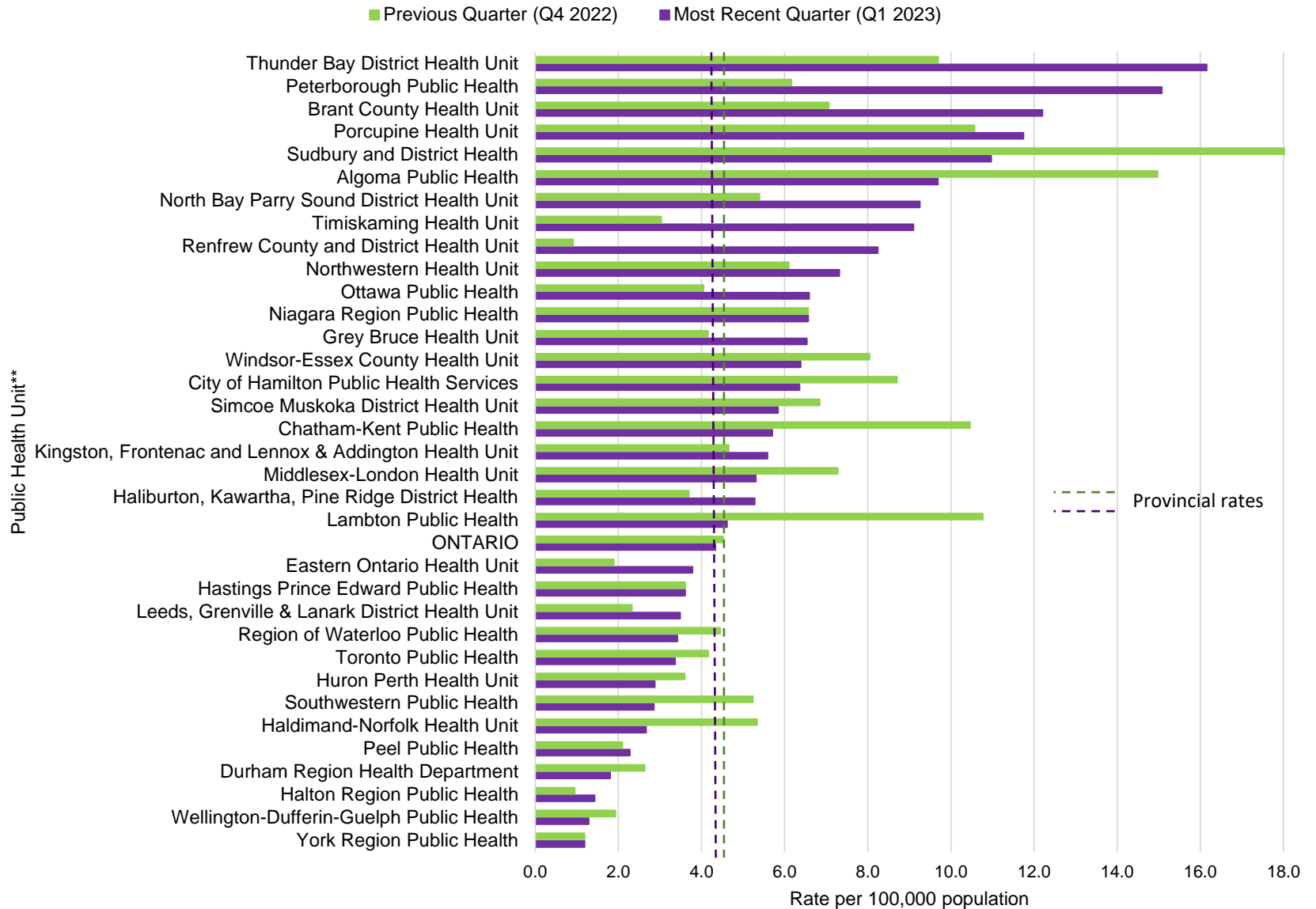
Includes confirmed opioid toxicity deaths only. Data are preliminary and subject to change. Data reflect substances attributed to cause of death unless otherwise indicated.

**Due to evolving toxicology methods and best practices around quantifying and defining toxic levels of nitazenes, non-pharmaceutical benzodiazepines, and xylazine, these substances may not be consistently characterized in the cause of death.*

Opioid Toxicity Deaths by Region

Opioid toxicity mortality rate by PHU region - Quarterly

Most recent two quarters of data available*



Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective August 1, 2023

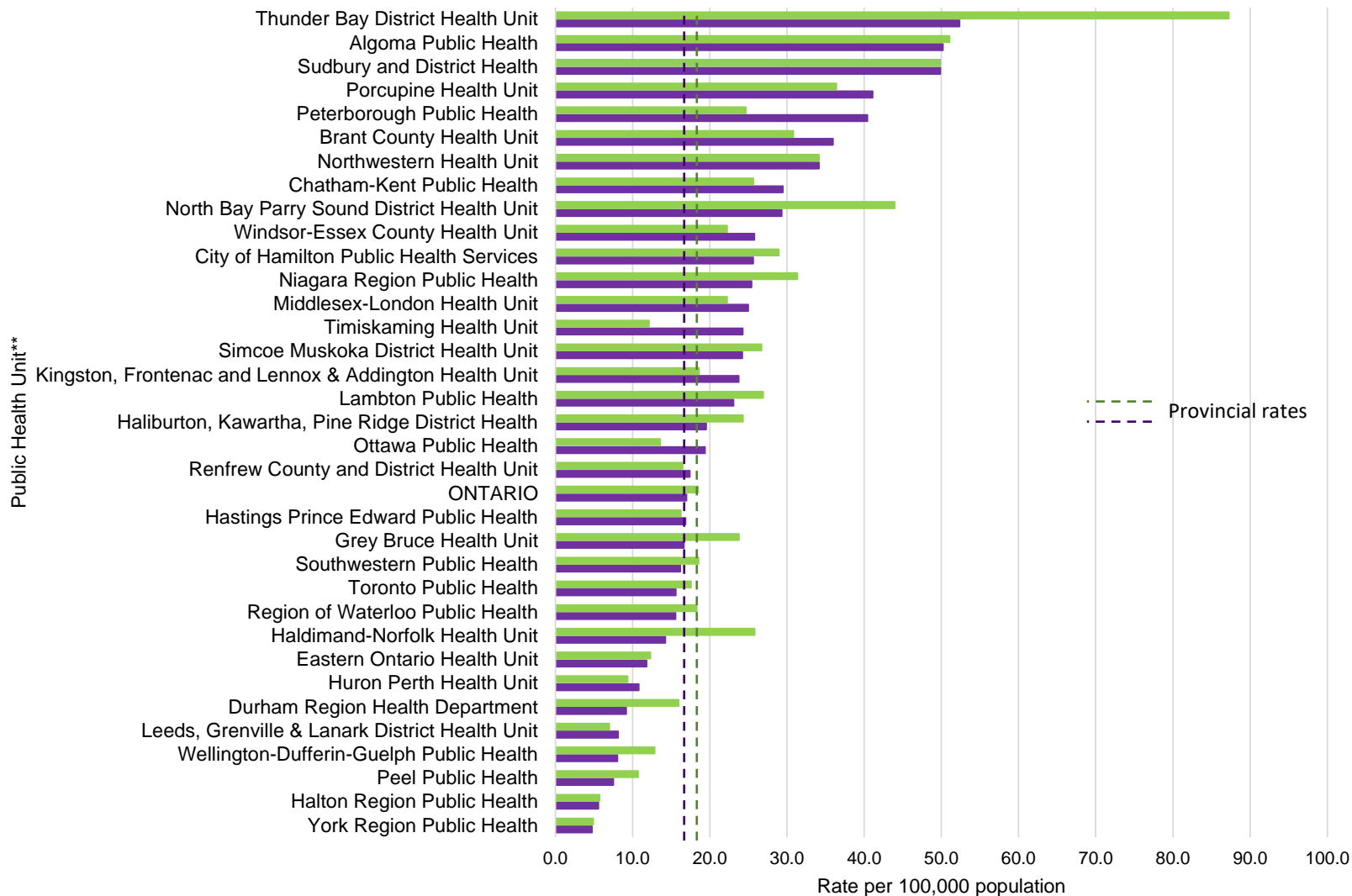
*includes both confirmed and probable opioid-related deaths, preliminary and subject to change

**based on location of incident

Opioid toxicity mortality rate by PHU region - Annual

Most recent two years of data available*

■ Previous Year (April 2021 to March 2022) ■ Most Recent Year (April 2022 to March 2023)



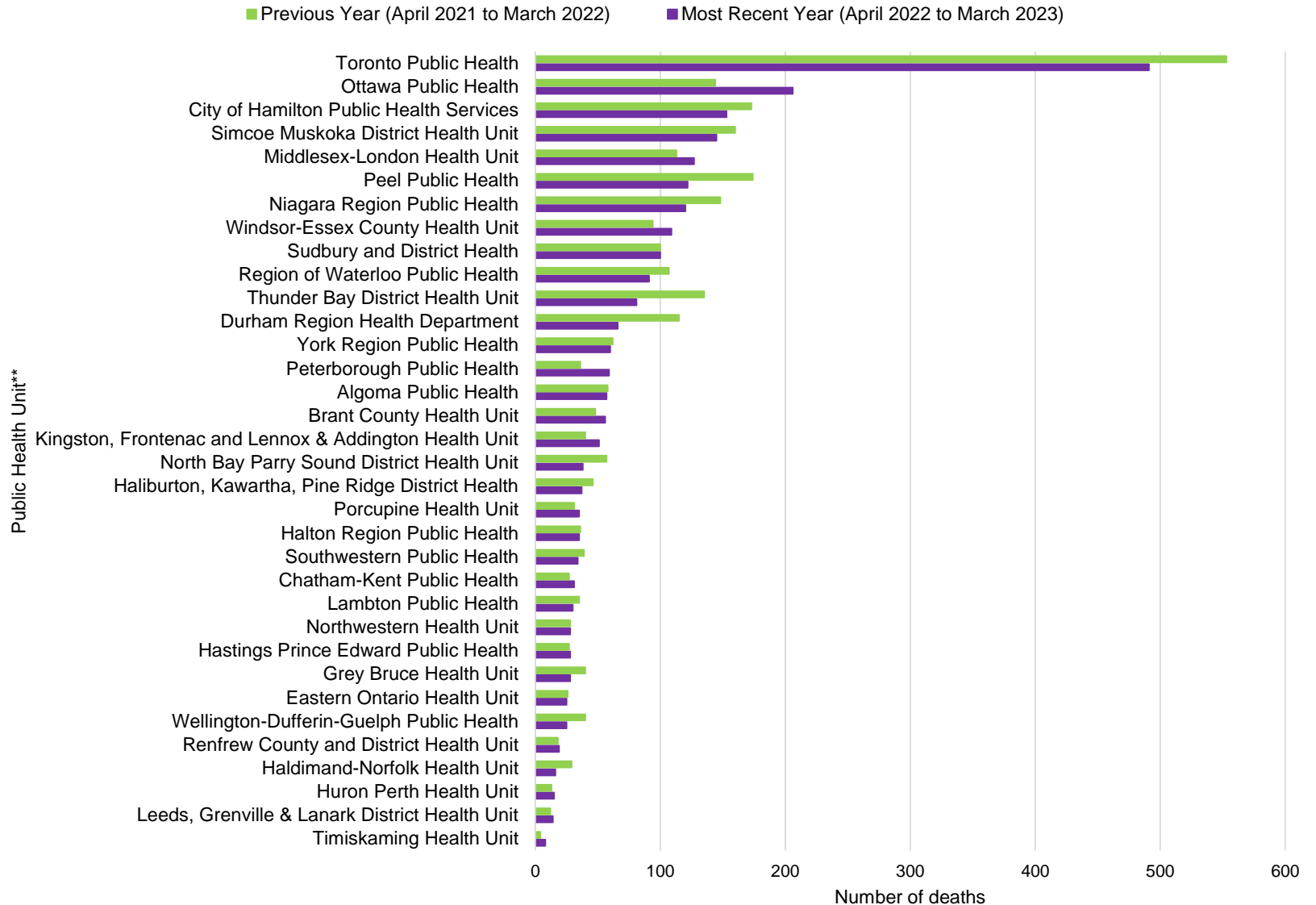
Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective August 1, 2023

*includes both confirmed and probable opioid-related deaths, preliminary and subject to change

**based on location of incident

Number of opioid toxicity deaths by PHU region

Most recent two years of data available*



Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective August 1, 2023

*includes both confirmed and probable opioid-related deaths, preliminary and subject to change

**based on location of incident

Opioid Toxicity Mortality Rate by Census Subdivision (CSD)

Ten (10) CSDs with the highest mortality rates in 2023 (Q1):

Census Subdivision**	Opioid toxicity* mortality rate per 100,000 population (annualized)	Number of Opioid toxicity deaths
PETERBOROUGH	88.9	19
TIMMINS	85.7	9
THUNDER BAY	83.0	23
BRANTFORD	63.0	17
NORTH BAY	58.9	8
CORNWALL	57.8	7
GREATER SUDBURY	52.0	22
ORILLIA	46.2	4
SAULT STE. MARIE	42.8	8
WINDSOR	38.2	22
<i>Ontario (for reference)</i>	17.5	649

Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective August 1, 2023

*Includes both confirmed and probable opioid-related deaths; **preliminary and subject to change.**

**Based on location of incident. Among CSDs with >30,000 population.