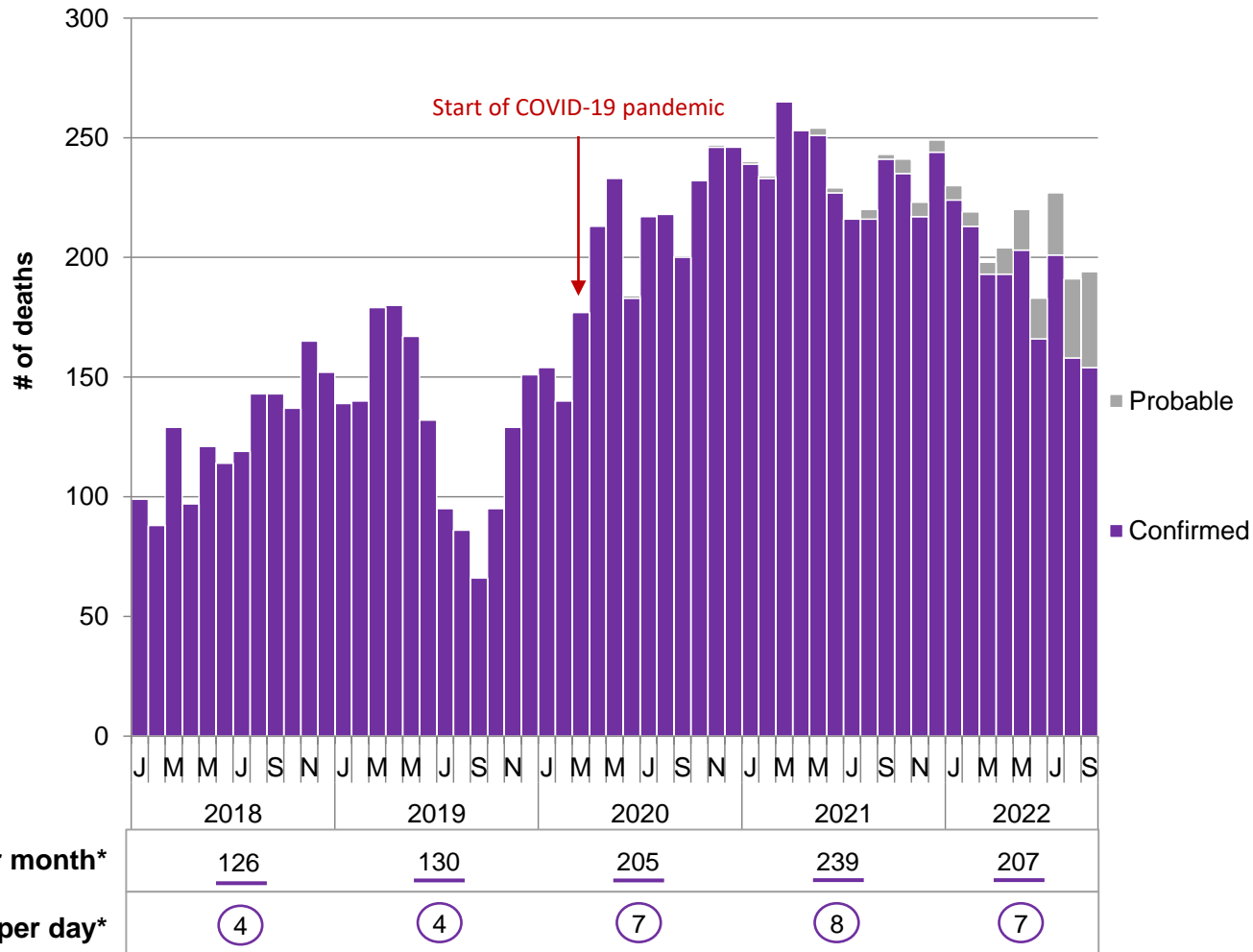


# Quarterly Update from the Office of the Chief Coroner

# Opioid Toxicity Deaths in Ontario

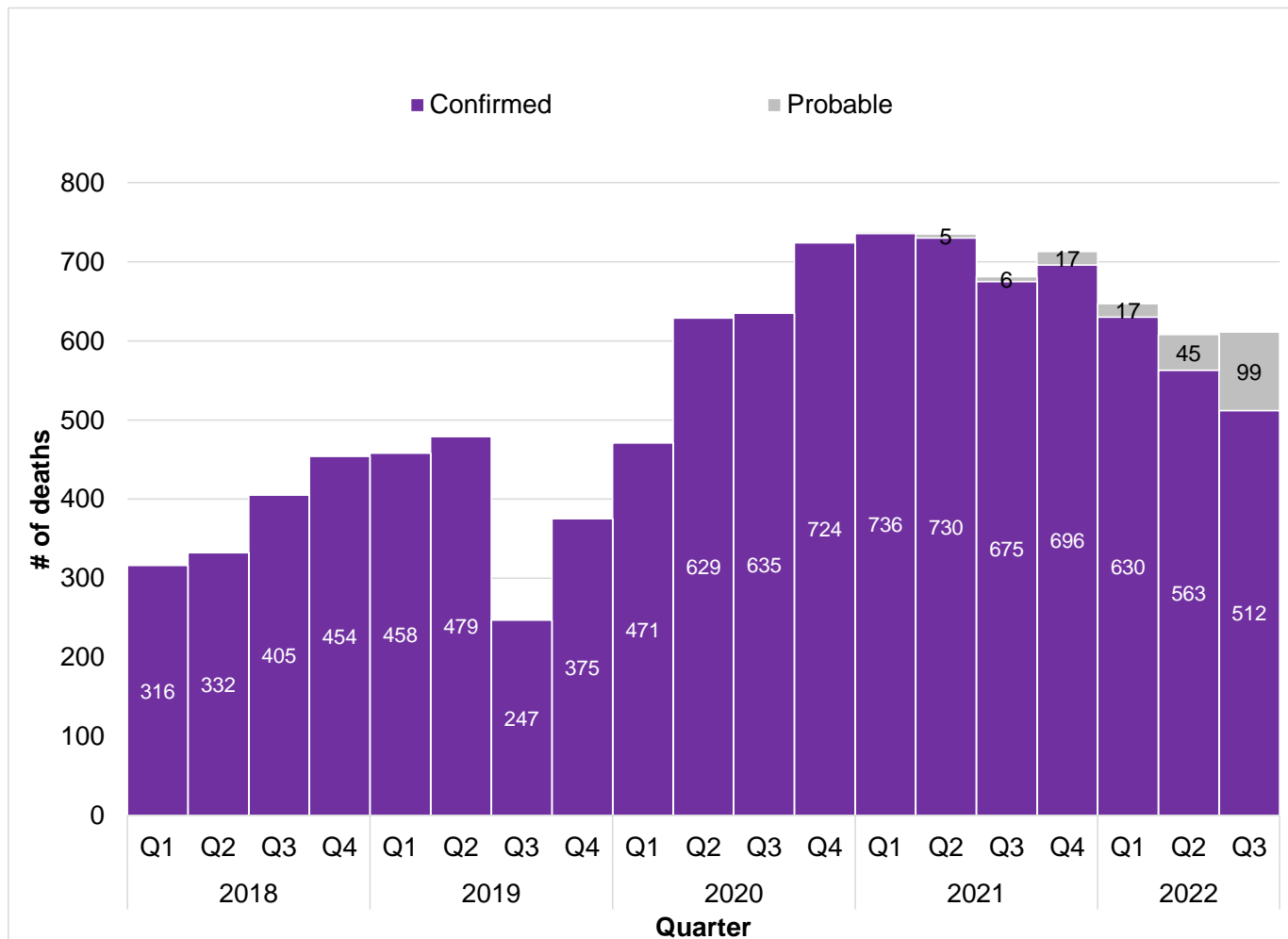
Opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario by month, Jan 2018-Sep 2022



Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective Feb 23, 2023

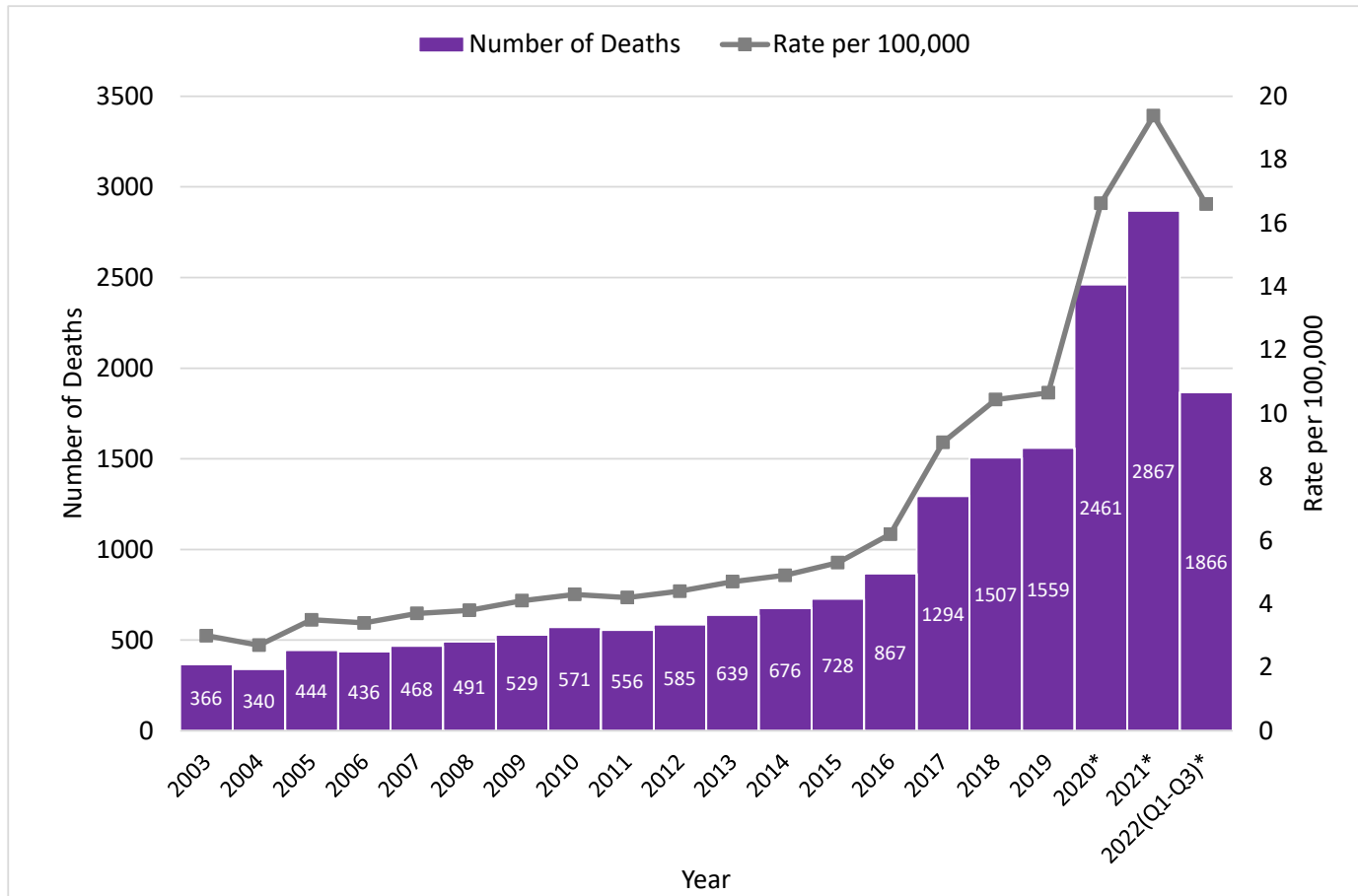
\*includes both confirmed and probable opioid-related deaths, preliminary and subject to change

# Opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario by quarter, 2018-2022(Q3)



The number of opioid-related deaths\* in the most recent quarter (Q3 2022; 611 deaths) was similar to the number of deaths in quarter prior (Q2 2022; 608 deaths) (preliminary).

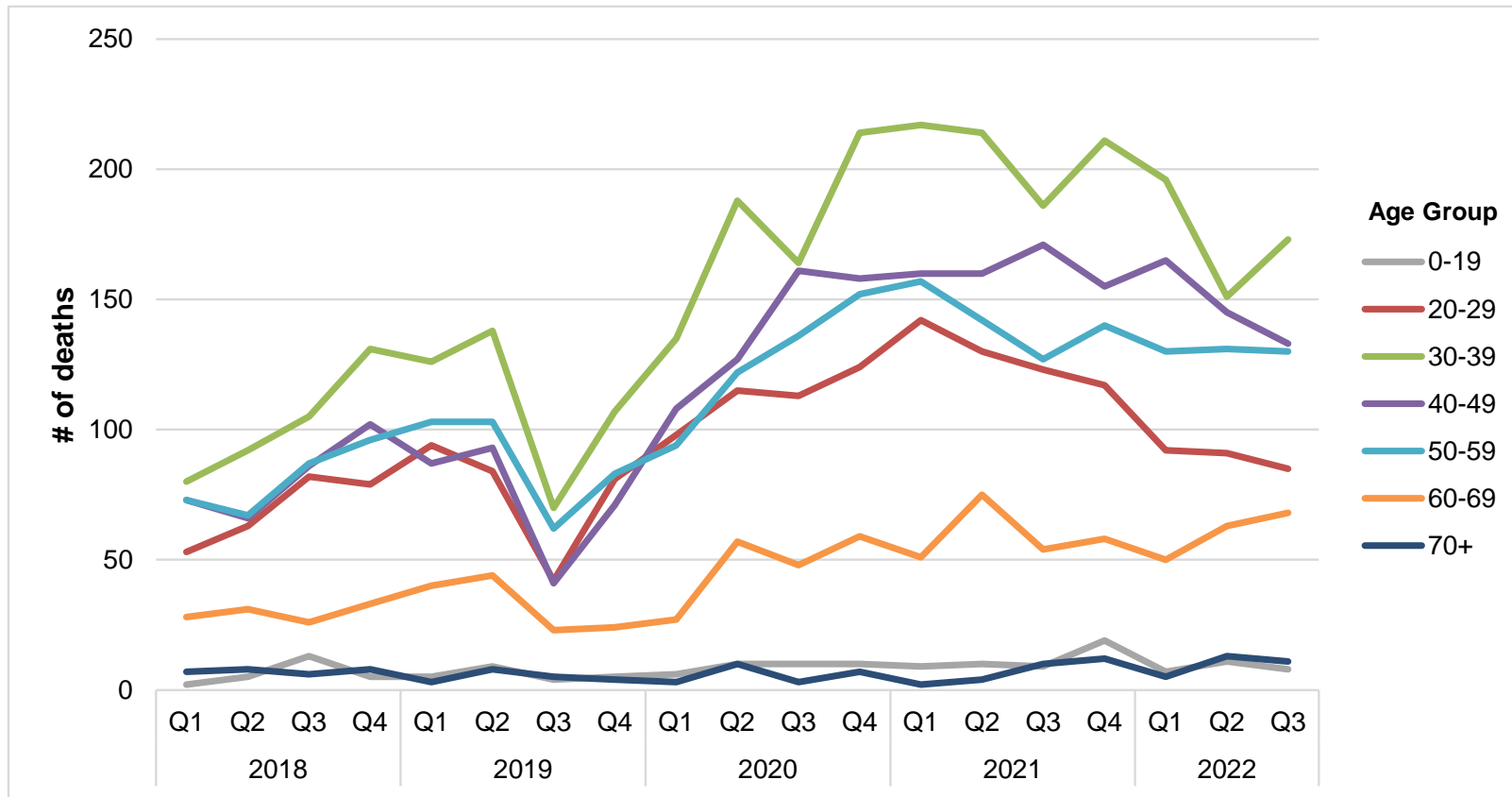
# Opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario by year, 2003-2022(Q3)



In **2021**, the mortality rate for opioid toxicity in Ontario was 19.4 per 100,000 population; **more than double** the rate in 2017 (9.1).

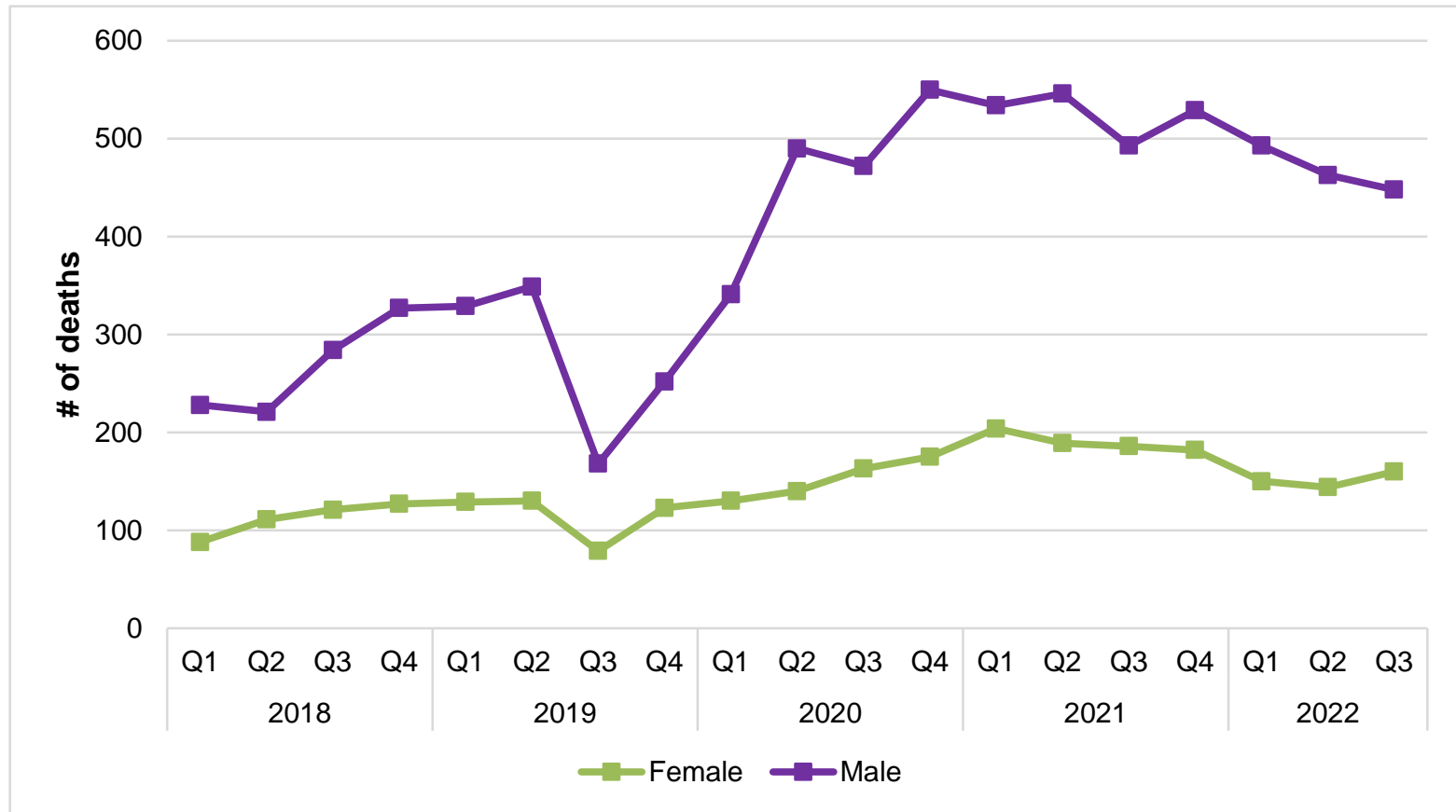
In **2022** (Q1-Q3), the mortality rate has **decreased by 14%** compared to 2021, however remains **56% higher** than in 2019 (pre-pandemic).

# Opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario by age group, 2018-2022(Q2)



Age groups **30-59** continue to be **most impacted**, accounting for 72% of deaths in Q3 2022.

# Opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario by sex, 2018-2022(Q3)



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

# Substances involved in opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario, 2018-2022(Q3)

	% of Opioid Toxicity Deaths by Year				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (Q1-Q3)
<b>Non-Pharmaceutical Opioids</b>					
Total fentanyl/Fentanyl analogues	67.8	75.0	85.7	88.7	84.0
Fentanyl	64.2	53.4	85.5	88.0	83.1
Carfentanil	6.3	31.4	0.5	4.3	6.5
Nitazenes*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.0
Heroin	7.2	4.1	1.7	0.8	0.4
<b>Opioids Indicated for Pain</b>					
Codeine	4.6	2.6	1.8	1.3	1.3
Oxycodone	11.1	9.1	4.9	3.8	5.9
Hydromorphone	10.8	10.1	6.0	5.9	6.8
Tramadol	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.4
Morphine	10.7	8.0	5.2	3.9	5.4
<b>Opioid Agonist Treatment</b>					
Methadone	12.9	12.9	10.4	10.3	10.6
Buprenorphine	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1
<b>Other Substances</b>					
Total Stimulant(s)	43.3	48.2	56.9	59.6	59.8
Methamphetamine	16.3	20.5	25.8	30.4	31.2
Cocaine	32.2	34.4	41.6	40.2	39.6
Other Stimulants	2.4	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.2
Alcohol	13.7	12.6	12.8	10.6	12.2
Benzodiazepines	11.9	8.4	9.2	10.8	8.8
<i>Detection of nonpharmaceutical benzodiazepines*</i>	32.7	29.8	45.1	63.0	41.6
<i>Detection of xylazine*</i>	0	0	0.2	2.2	2.8

**Fentanyl** continues to contribute to the majority (84%) of opioid toxicity deaths.  
**Stimulants** are involved in 3 in 5 opioid toxicity deaths.

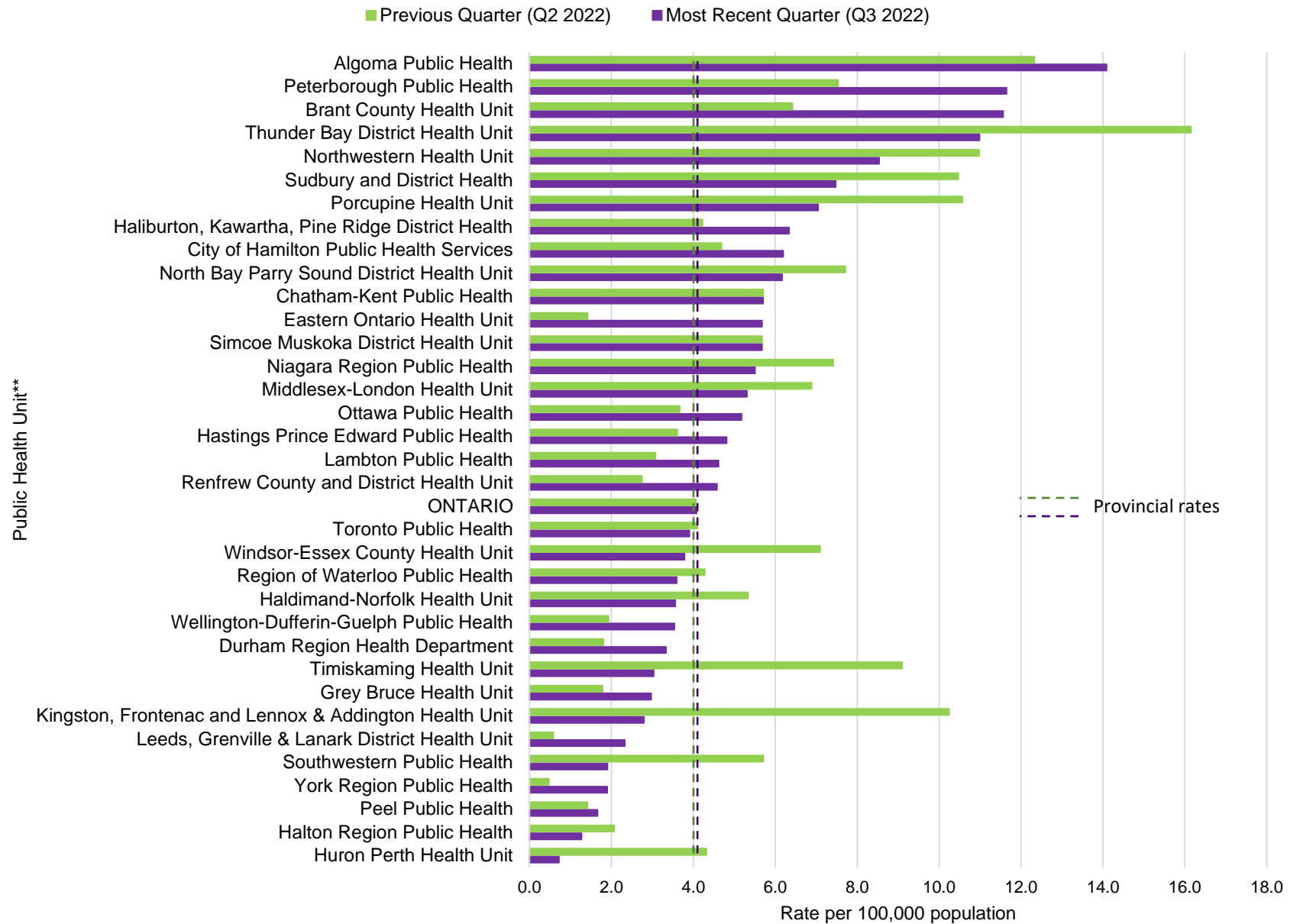
Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective Feb 23, 2023

*Includes confirmed opioid toxicity deaths only. Data are preliminary and subject to change.*

*\*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\*



Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective Feb 23, 2023

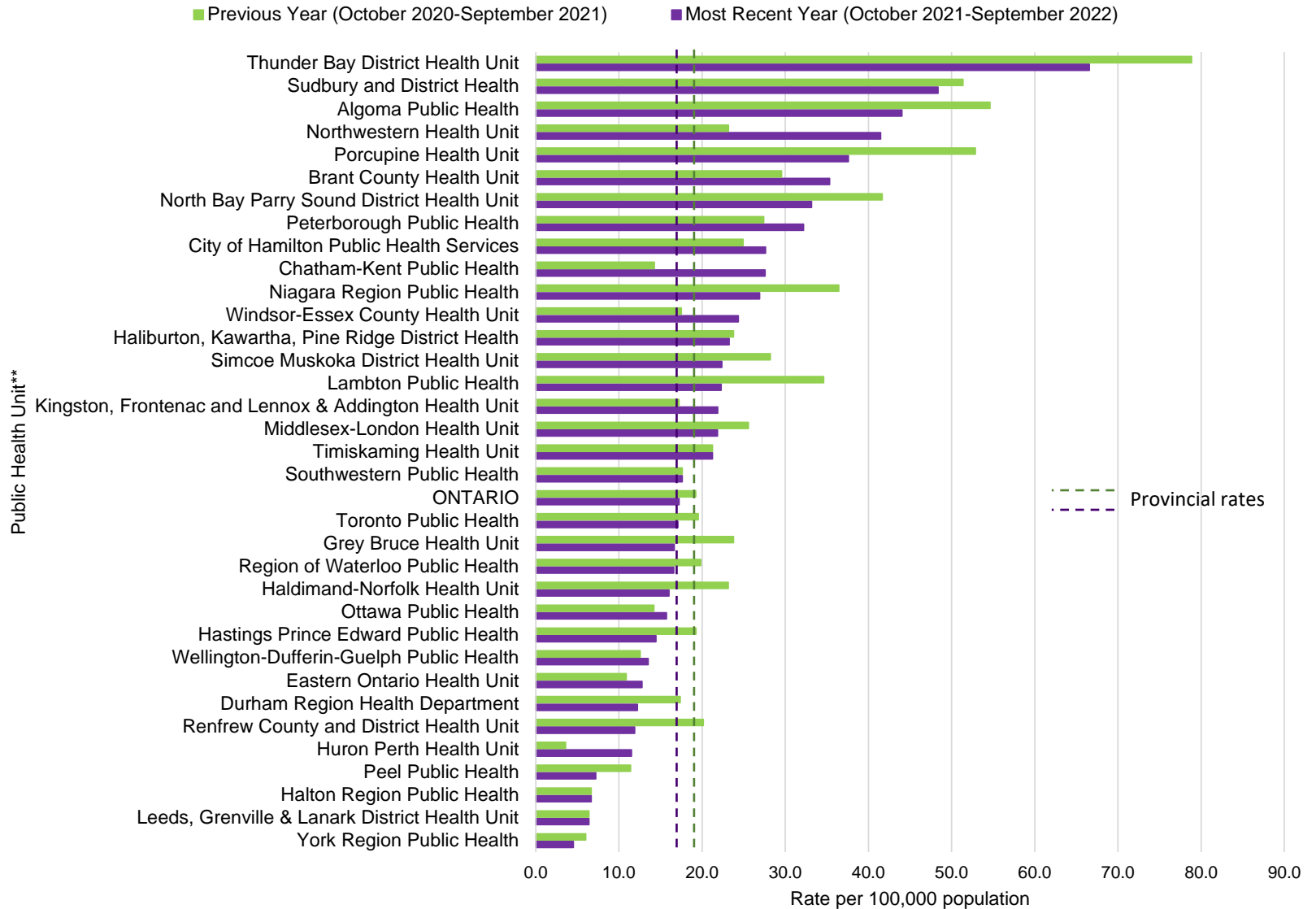
\*includes both confirmed and probable opioid-related deaths, preliminary and subject to change

\*\*based on location of incident



# Opioid toxicity mortality rate by PHU region - Annual

Most recent two years of data available\*



Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective Feb 23, 2023

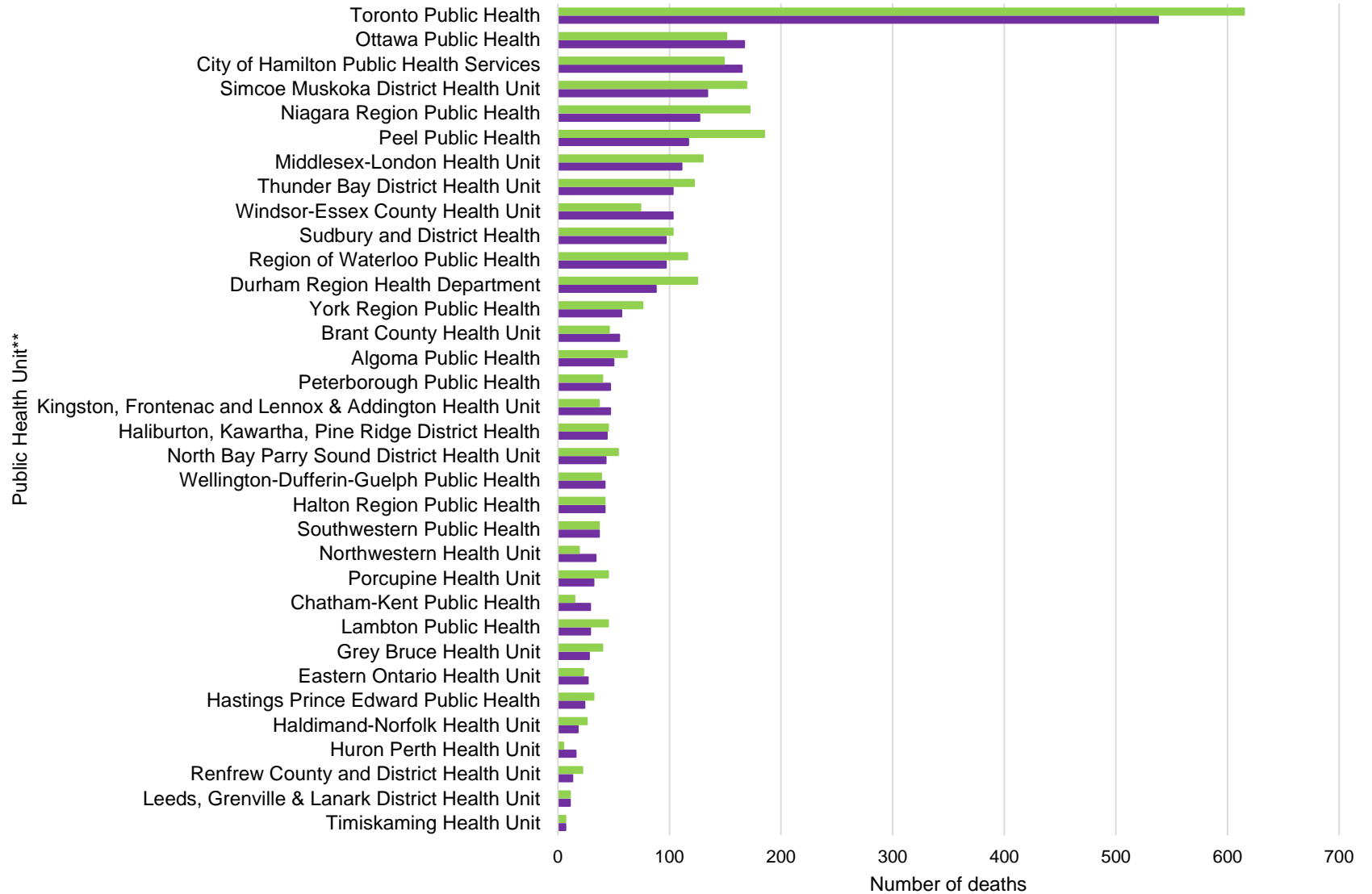
\*includes both confirmed and probable opioid-related deaths, preliminary and subject to change

\*\*based on location of incident

# Number of opioid toxicity deaths by PHU region

Most recent two years of data available\*

■ Previous Year (October 2020-September 2021)    ■ Most Recent Year (October 2021-September 2022)



Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective Feb 23, 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 2022 (Q1-Q3):

Census Subdivision**	Opioid toxicity* mortality rate per 100,000 population
THUNDER BAY	64.3
SAULT STE. MARIE	44.4
NORTH BAY	41.8
PETERBOROUGH	39.4
TIMMINS	38.9
GREATER SUDBURY	34.3
CORNWALL	33.4
BRANTFORD	33.4
BARRIE	28.4
KINGSTON	27.9
<i>Ontario (for reference)</i>	<i>13.1</i>

Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective Feb 23, 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.