

# Benzodiazepine toxicity deaths

Trends & characteristics

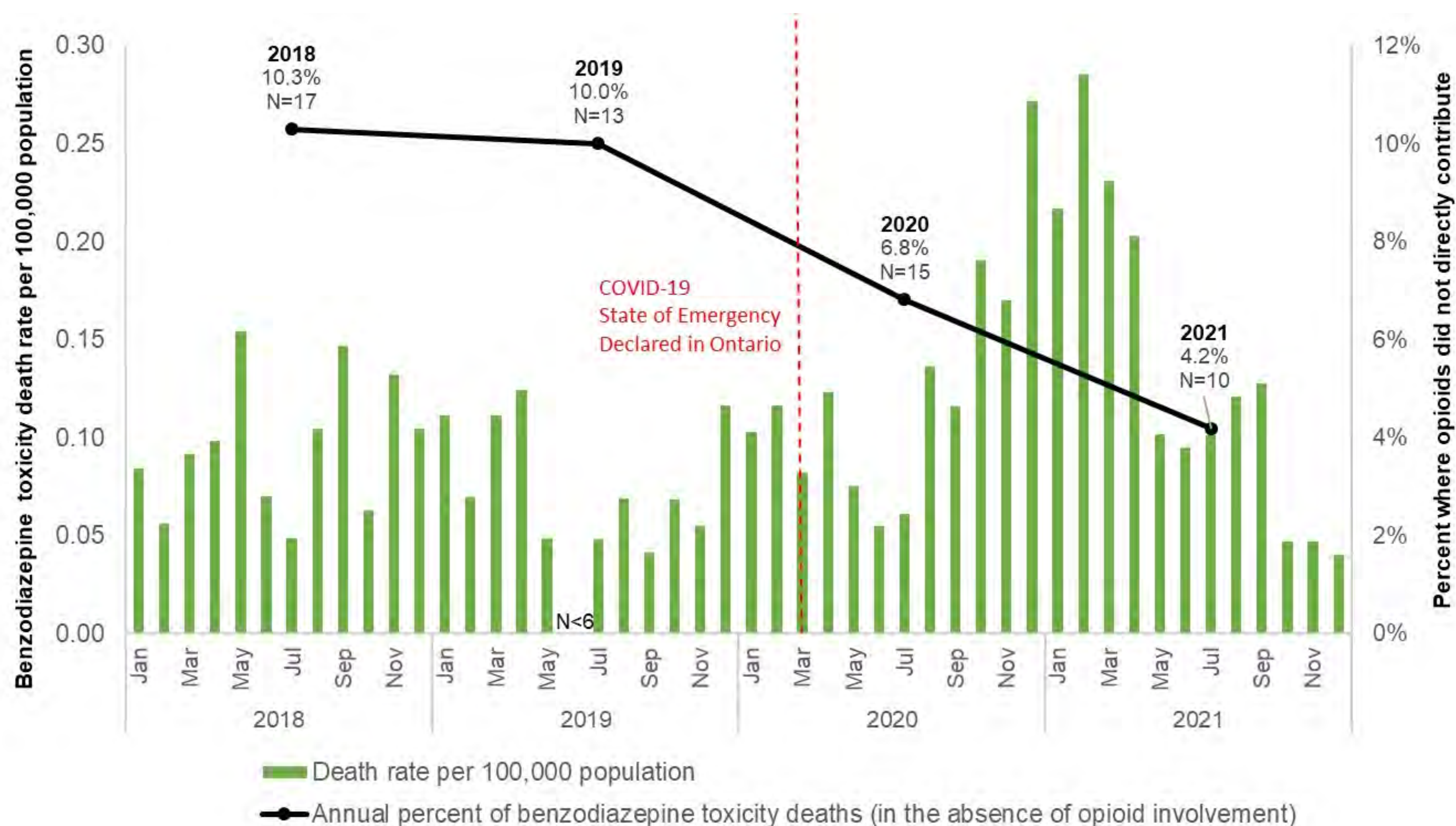
# SUMMARY

**45% increase** in the number of benzodiazepine toxicity deaths from 2018 to 2021

**9%** of all substance-related deaths from 2018 to 2021 **involved benzodiazepine** as a direct contributor to death

**239** benzodiazepine toxicity deaths in 2021

**82%** were caused by **non-pharmaceutical** benzodiazepines



## Benzodiazepine Toxicity Deaths in 2021

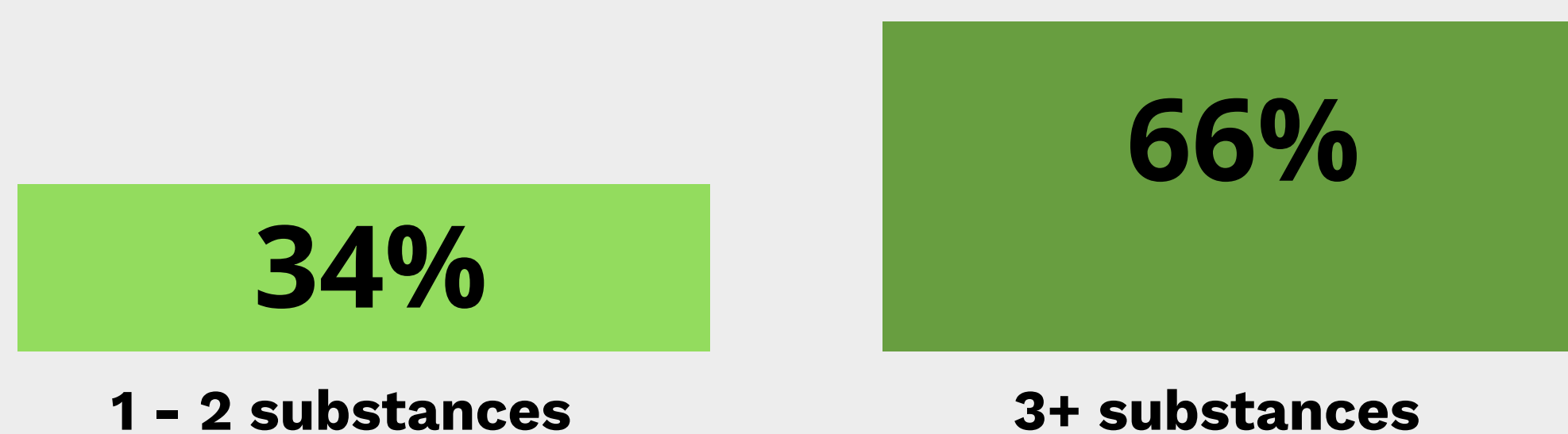
*It is very rare to die from benzodiazepine toxicity alone*

**>98%** of deaths had **other substances** directly contribute to death

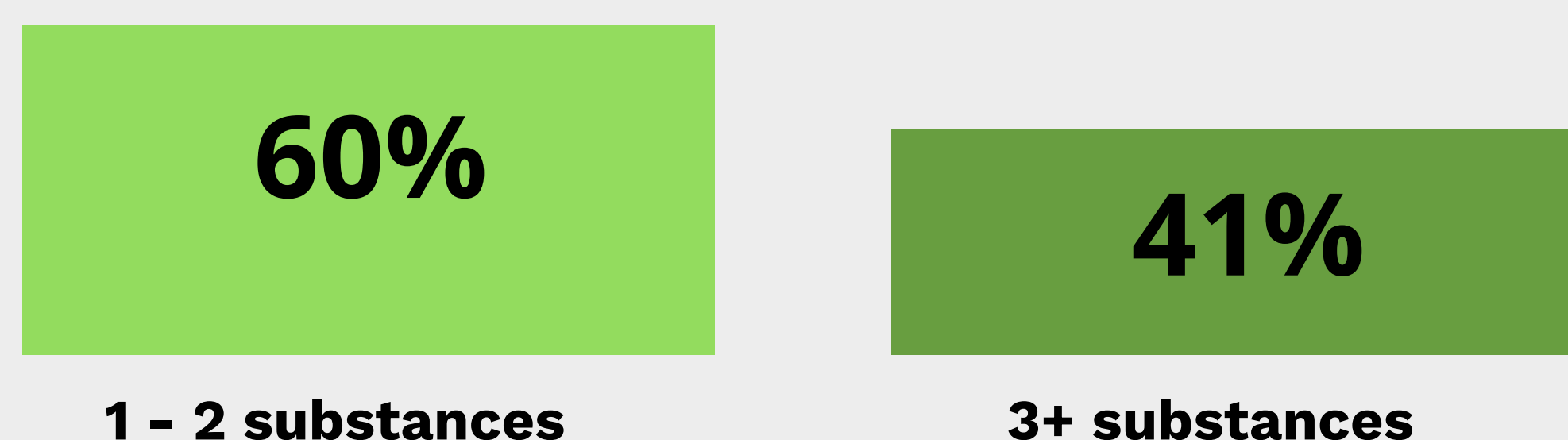


*Proportion of deaths by number of substances directly contributing to death*

**Non-pharmaceutical benzodiazepines** N = 197



**Pharmaceutical benzodiazepines** N = 42



## Demographics

**68%** of deaths occurred among **males**

The median age at death was **40 years**

**78%\*** of deaths occurred in a **private residence**

Death rates for **non-pharmaceutical** benzodiazepines were **2.3X** higher in **Northern** vs. **Southern Ontario**

Death rates for **pharmaceutical** benzodiazepines were **7X** higher in **Northern** vs. **Southern Ontario**



**Rural**

**1.2** deaths per 100,000 people



**Urban**

**1.5** deaths per 100,000 people

Deaths rates were **similar** in **rural** vs **urban** residences

\*This proportion is among cases where location of incident was known

This infographic provides a high-level overview of the findings of the report. The complete methods and results are available at <https://odprn.ca/research/publications/characteristics-of-substance-related-toxicity-deaths-in-ontario/>