



Implementation of OHIP+ resulted in more children and youth being prescribed benzodiazepines



OHIP+ is a publicly-funded pharmacare program implemented by the Ontario government to provide **children and youth** (aged 24 and younger) prescription medications listed on the Ontario Drug Benefit formulary at no cost

OHIP+ was **modified** in April 2019 to only cover medications for children and youth without private insurance

Between January 2013 and March 2020

Over 218K children and youth were dispensed a benzodiazepine

Diagnoses in children within 30 days prior to receiving the prescription:

47% anxiety disorders

12% mood disorders

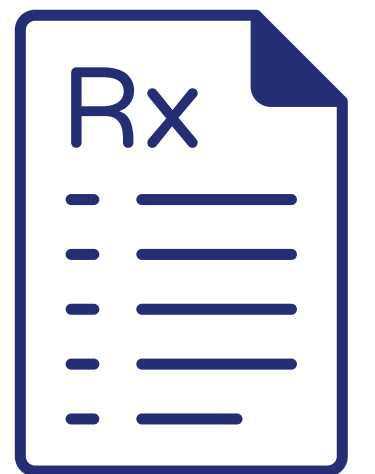
4% seizure disorders



62% were prescribed by **general practitioners**

15% were prescribed by **psychiatrists**

4.8% were prescribed by **pediatricians**



Nearly **1 in 5** individuals received a supply **exceeding 30 days** in duration

These individuals were more likely to:

Be between the ages **20 - 24**



Receive their prescription from a **psychiatrist**



Have a **mood disorder** in the 30 days before getting the prescription

Benzodiazepine prescription dispensing rates

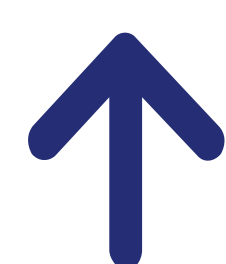
Pre-OHIP+
January 2013 - December 2017

OHIP+ implemented
December 2017 - March 2019

OHIP+ modified
March 2019 - March 2020

↑ **0.03%**
monthly increase

↑ **12.8%** increase



increase was more pronounced in **females** and individuals in the **lowest income neighbourhoods**

↓ **4%** decrease

Modifying the program did not significantly change dispensing trends