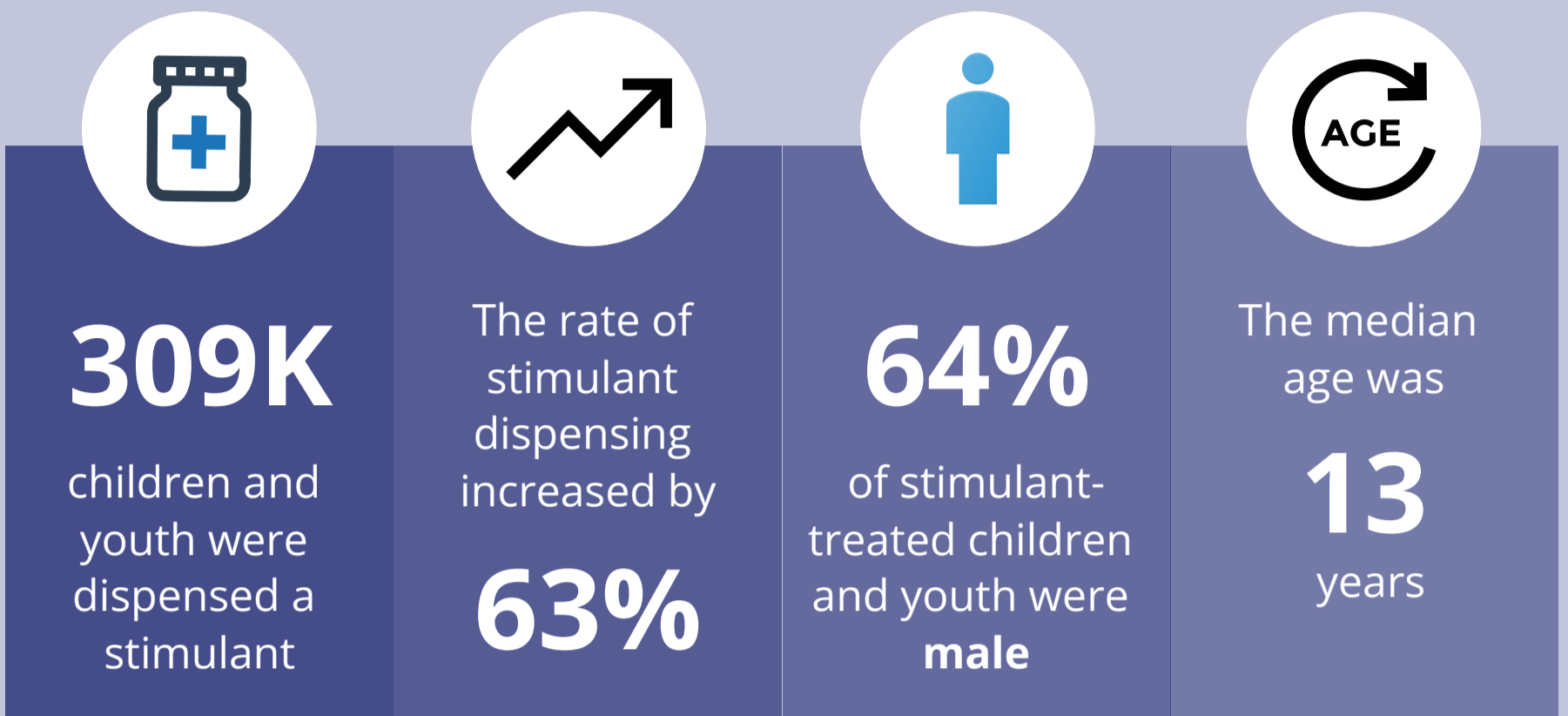



Increased stimulant dispensing to children and youth during the COVID-19 pandemic

This study examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on prescription stimulant use among children and youth aged 0 to 24 in Ontario, Canada.

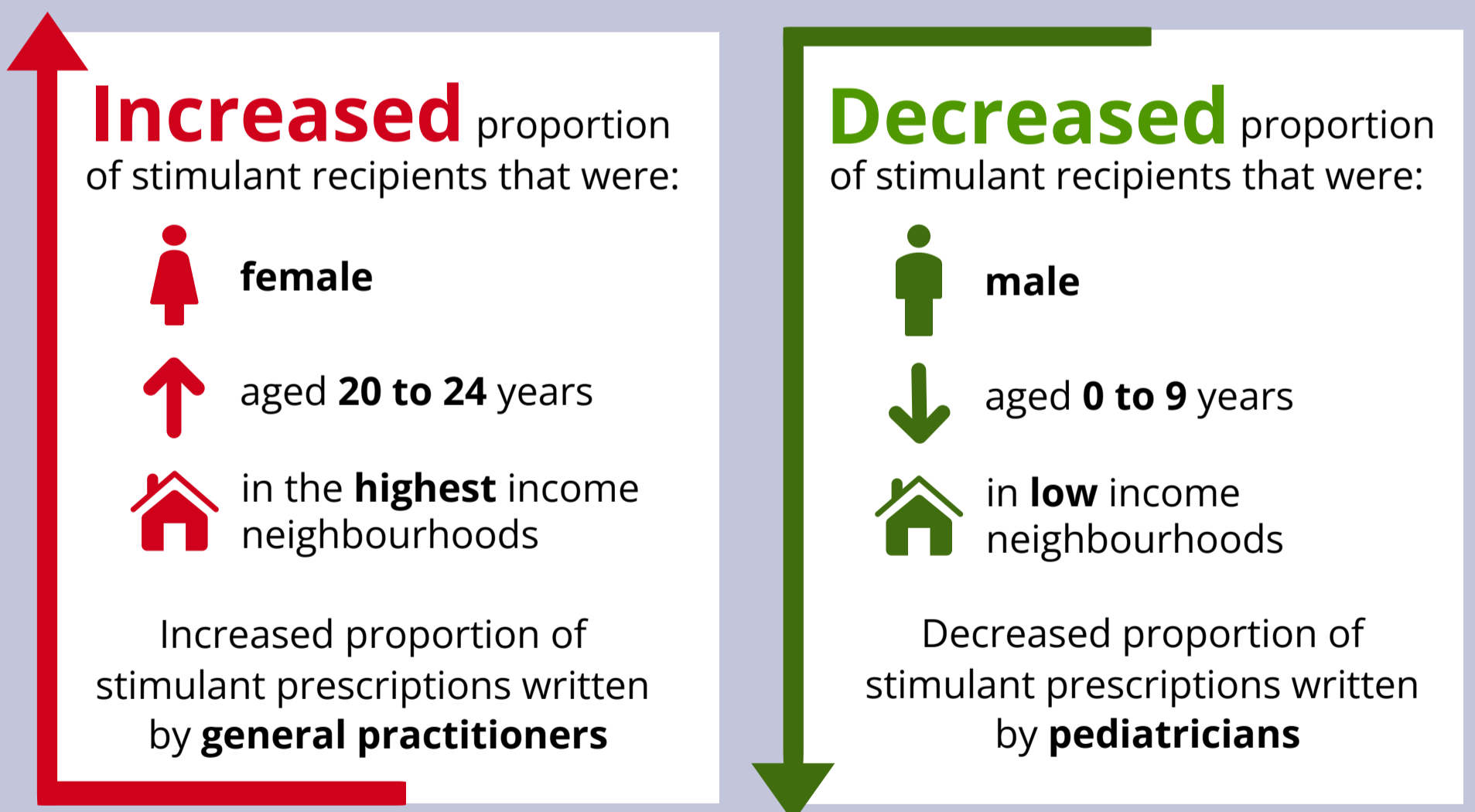
Over nearly 10 years (January 2013 to June 2022)



 Stimulant dispensing generally followed a seasonal pattern, with **higher use during the school months.**

Changes from the COVID-19 pandemic

Stimulant dispensing was greater than expected from June 2021 onward.



Additional research is needed to determine the appropriateness of stimulant use and to develop strategies to support children and youth during future periods of long-term stressors.

For more information:

Antoniou, T., Pajer, K., Gardner, W., Penner, M., Lunsy, Y., McCormack, D., Tadrous, M., Mamdani, M., Gozdyra, P., Juurlink, D., Gomes, T. (2023). Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on prescription stimulant use among children and youth: a population-based study. *European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*.