

Opioid Toxicities Among People With and Without Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and the Impact of COVID-19 in Ontario



Between 2014 and 2021

There were **80,296** opioid toxicities...

54% occurred among people with OUD

! 14% were fatal

...among **52,052** individuals

61% were male **46%** were aged 25 - 44

38% lived in low income neighbourhoods



Opioid Toxicity Trends

There was a **4-fold increase** in the monthly rate of opioid toxicities

People with OUD

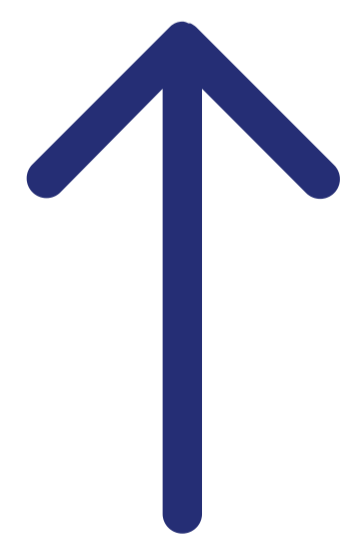
> 9-fold increase



People without OUD

< 2-fold increase

Impact of the COVID-19 lockdown



Opioid toxicities overall and among people with OUD significantly

increased

+28 additional opioid toxicities monthly

This highlights the need for continuous access to harm reduction and treatment interventions during public health crises

For more information:

Ledlie, S., Tadrous, M., Bayoumi, A., McCormack, D., Cheng, C., Besharah, J., Munro, C., Gomes, T. (2024). Trends in opioid toxicities among people with and without opioid use disorder and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Ontario, Canada: a population-based analysis. *International Journal of Drug Policy*.

