

# Burden of Opioid-Related Deaths During COVID-19 Across Canada

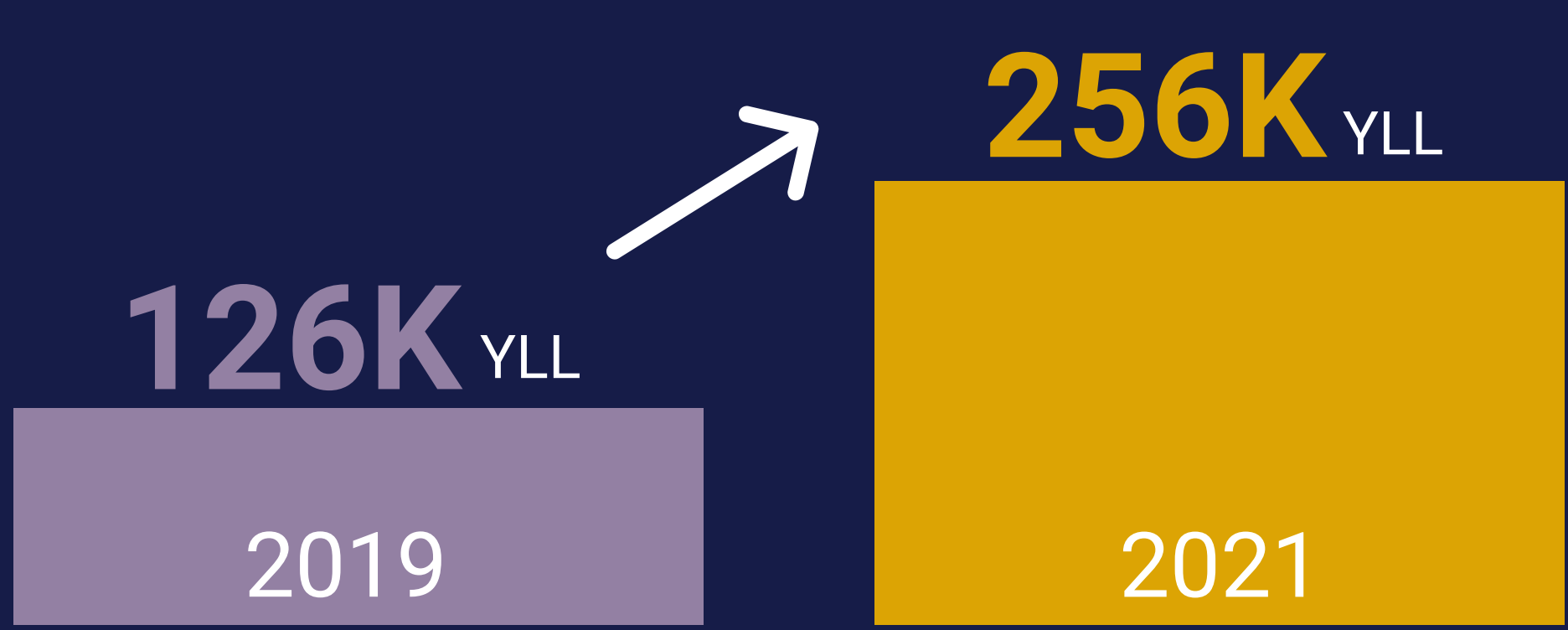


## Trends and Years of Life Lost (YLL)\* due to Accidental Opioid-Related Deaths

\* Years of Life Lost (YLL) measures how many years of life are lost due to premature death

### TRENDS

The annual YLL **DOUBLED** during COVID-19



Quarterly rates of opioid-related deaths

**INCREASED 188%** ↑

between 2016 and 2022



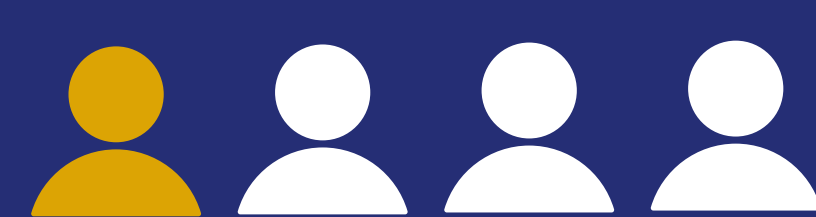
COVID-19 significantly impacted this rate (p=0.02)

### IN 2021

**1 of every 31** deaths among people **<85** were opioid-related



**1 in 4** deaths among people **20-39**



Opioid toxicity deaths resulted in **7.0 YLL per 1,000** population

Across 9 Canadian provinces/territories, burden of YLL was **HIGHEST** among:



**Males** 9.9 YLL per 1,000

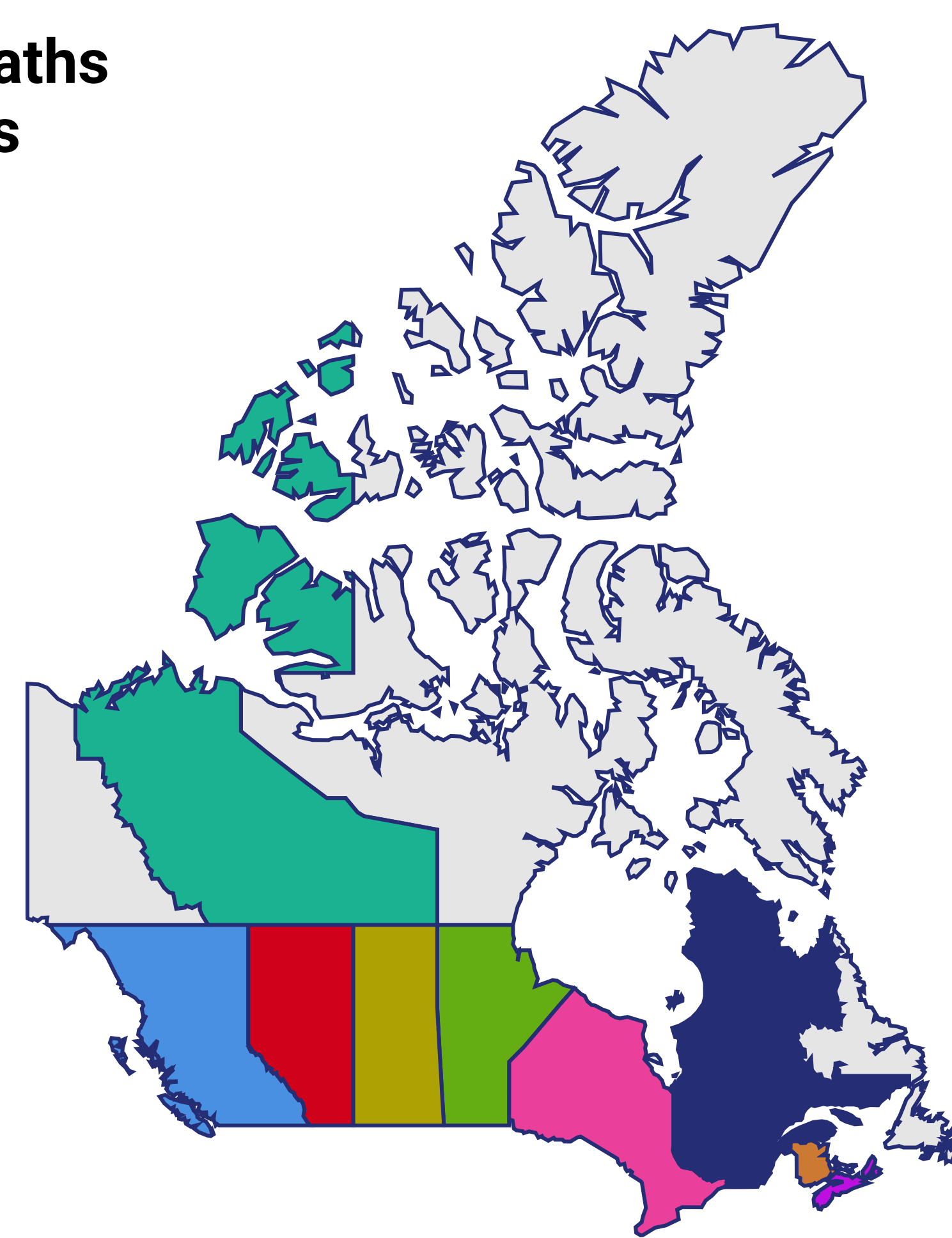
and



**Younger adults**

20-29: 13 YLL per 1,000  
30-39: 17 YLL per 1,000

Province/Territory	YLL/1,000	Proportion of all deaths caused by opioids
British Columbia	9.5*	1 in 21*
Alberta	16	1 in 13
Saskatchewan	12	1 in 22
Manitoba	8.5	1 in 29
Ontario	7.7	1 in 27
Quebec	1.8	1 in 111
New Brunswick	2.0	1 in 143
Nova Scotia	1.4	1 in 250
Northwest Territories	2.0	1 in 125



\*Data reported for 2020 due to a high level of incomplete records in this province in 2021. We suggest that direct comparisons between BC and other provinces are not made for this reason.

Data was not reportable for PEI, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, and Nunavut. This represents **2% of the Canadian population excluded.**

#### For more information:

Ledlie S, Juurlink DN, Tadrous M, Mamdani M, Paterson M, Gomes T. (2024). Opioid-Related Mortality During the COVID-19 Pandemic Across Nine Canadian Provinces and Territories. CMAJ.

