

# FEDERAL ACTIONS ON OPIOIDS

As of April 2019

- Allowed the import of medications approved elsewhere for urgent public health needs
- Facilitated methadone prescribing and use of medical heroin
- Removed regulatory barriers to allow nurses to transport controlled substances
- Increased opioid agonist therapy in federal correctional facilities
- Enhanced the delivery of culturally appropriate substance use treatment and prevention services in First Nations and Inuit communities
- Improving access to treatment services through an Emergency Treatment Fund for provinces and territories
- Supporting the development of a national treatment guideline for injectable opioid agonist treatment
- Funding pilot projects on injectable opioid agonist treatment
- Supporting up to an additional 25 community based opioid agonist treatment sites in First Nations and Inuit communities
- Funding Isuarsivik Inuit Nation to support reconstruction of their treatment centre

access to treatment

- Approved more than 25 supervised consumption sites
- Enabled establishment of overdose prevention sites
- Supported legislation to protect individuals who seek emergency assistance for overdose
- Authorized drug checking services at supervised consumption sites
- Launched a drug checking technology challenge
- Launched pilot project to examine needle exchange programs in federal correctional facilities
- Providing enhanced funding through the Substance Use and Addiction Program
- Facilitating access to naloxone, including for remote and isolated First Nations and Inuit communities

access to harm reduction

- Supported the development of opioid prescribing guidelines and national treatment guidelines for opioid use disorders
- Updated opioid product monographs
- National multi-year campaign and other continuing efforts to expand public awareness around stigma
- Pursuing aggressive restrictions on opioid marketing activities and providing new resources to enforce existing rules
- Informing Canadians about the risks of opioids:
  - Know More Campaign awareness tour for high school students across Canada
  - Opioid warning sticker/ patient handout
  - Summer festivals and post-secondary orientation activities and resources

awareness & prevention

- Equipped border agents with tools to intercept fentanyl and other dangerous substances at the border
- Continued implementation of a national operational strategy aimed at detecting, disrupting and dismantling criminal networks
- Working with domestic and international partners to reduce the illegal opioid supply
- Supporting education and training for law enforcement
- Supporting law enforcement with drug seizures and dismantlement of illegal drug operations

tainted drug supply

- Coordinating national data collection and publishing quarterly reports on apparent opioid-related deaths and harms
- Releasing alerts on potent drugs encountered; monthly data and quarterly reports on drugs seized by law enforcement
- Supporting research and knowledge sharing
- Increasing our understanding of Canadians' knowledge of the opioid issue, risks and willingness to act
- Established a Canadian Pain Task Force to assess best and leading practices that could improve the prevention and management of chronic pain in Canada

evidence

# Opioid-Related Deaths in Canada

More than **10,300** lives lost from January 2016 to September 2018

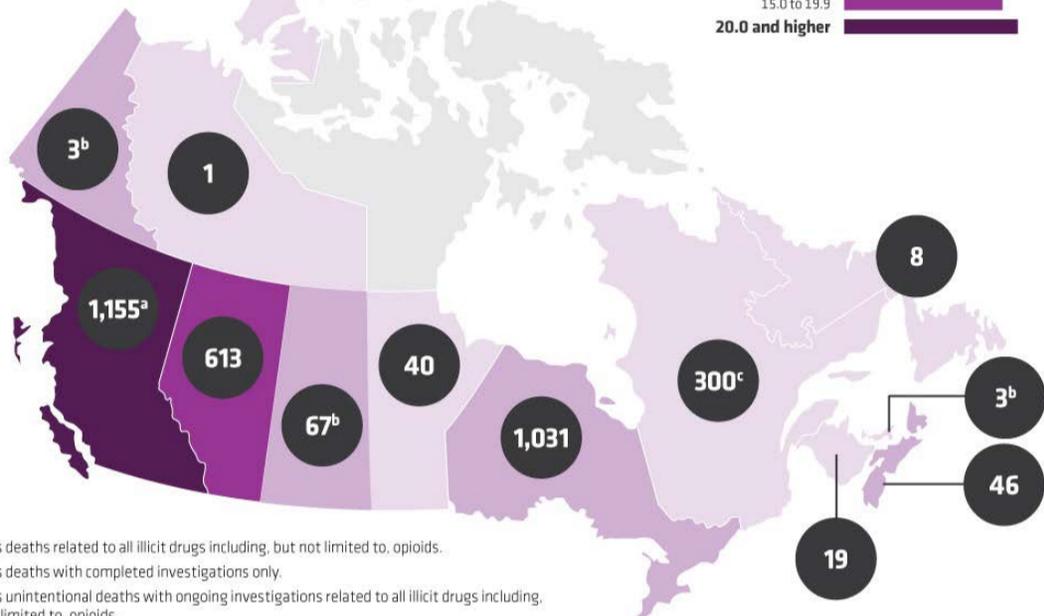
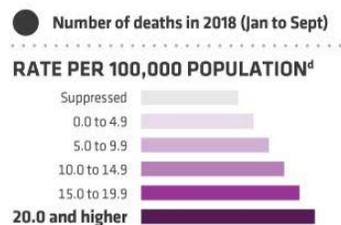
In response to this complex crisis, the Government of Canada is taking a comprehensive, collaborative and compassionate public health approach focused on:

- Prevention
- Treatment
- Harm reduction
- Enforcement

This approach is supported by a strong evidence base.

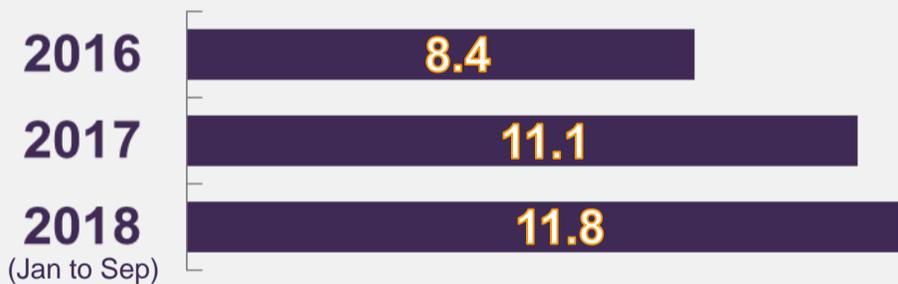
Going forward, we will continue to address the crisis by:

- working to increase access to treatment;
- supporting innovative approaches;
- improving access to public health data;
- intercepting illegal opioids at the border; and,
- addressing stigma related to opioid use.



a Includes deaths related to all illicit drugs including, but not limited to, opioids.  
 b Includes deaths with completed investigations only.  
 c Includes unintentional deaths with ongoing investigations related to all illicit drugs including, but not limited to, opioids.  
 d The estimated annual rate for 2018 is based on available data from January to September 2018.

## Death rate per 100,000 population



**75%** of accidental apparent opioid-related deaths from January to September 2018 occurred among males



**89%** of deaths were among young and middle aged adults, with those aged 30-39 particularly affected

## Percent of accidental apparent opioid-related deaths involving fentanyl or fentanyl analogues

