

FEDERAL ACTIONS ON OPIOIDS

As of June 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 Inuvsavik Inuit Nation to support reconstruction of their treatment centre

access to treatment

- Approved more than 39 [supervised consumption sites](#) and enabled [establishment of overdose prevention sites](#)
- Supported the [Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act](#) which provides some legal protection for individuals who seek emergency help during an overdose
- [Authorized drug-checking services](#) at supervised consumption sites
- Launched a [drug-checking technology challenge](#)
- Launched a [pilot project](#) to examine needle exchange programs in federal correctional facilities and made it possible for overdose prevention sites to operate 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](#)
- Further restricted [opioid marketing activities](#) and provided [new resources](#) to enforce existing rules
- Expanding public awareness around [opioids](#) and the harms of [stigma](#):
 - [Know More Campaign awareness tour](#) for teenagers and young adults
 - Summer festivals and post-secondary orientation activities and [resources](#)
 - [National advertising campaign](#)
 - Audio series [In Plain Sight](#) that highlights recovery stories
- Working with health professionals to decrease stigma and related barriers to care

awareness & prevention

- [Equipped border agents with tools](#) to intercept fentanyl and other dangerous substances at the border
- Pursued scheduling amendments to [restrict importation of chemicals](#) used to produce fentanyl, fentanyl-related compounds and amphetamines illegally
- Implementing 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
- Working with [private sector partners](#) to address the [laundering of the proceeds of fentanyl trafficking](#)

tainted drug supply

- Coordinating [national data collection](#) and publishing [quarterly reports](#) on apparent opioid-related deaths and harms
- Releasing alerts on dangerous drugs; monthly data and [quarterly reports on drugs](#) submitted for analysis following law enforcement seizures
- 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 11,500 lives were lost from January 2016 to December 2018

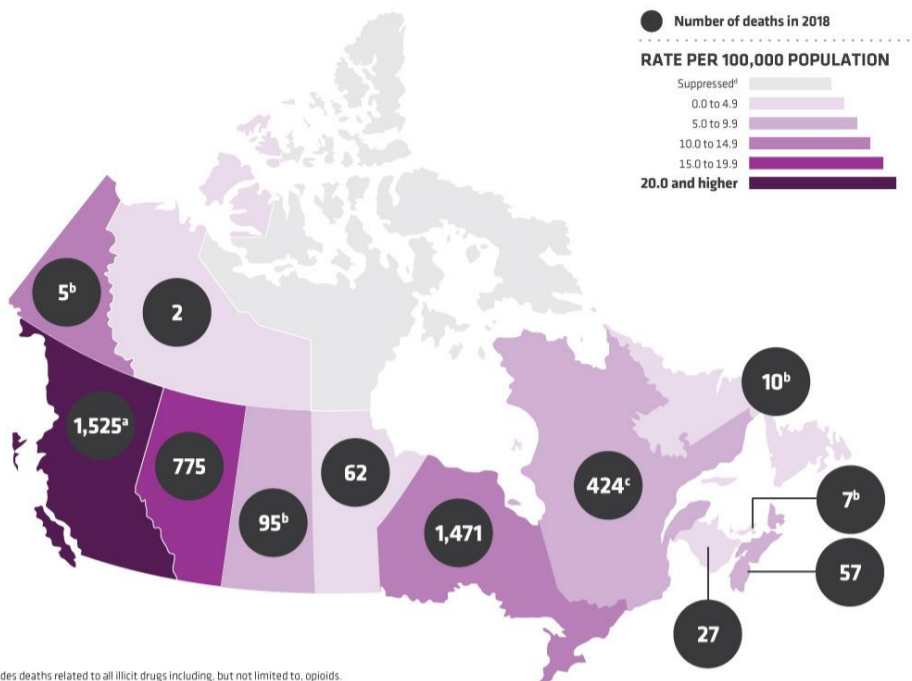
In response to this complex crisis, the Government of Canada is taking a comprehensive, collaborative and compassionate public health approach focused on:

- Prevention
- Treatment
- Harm reduction
- Enforcement

This approach is supported by a strong evidence base.

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

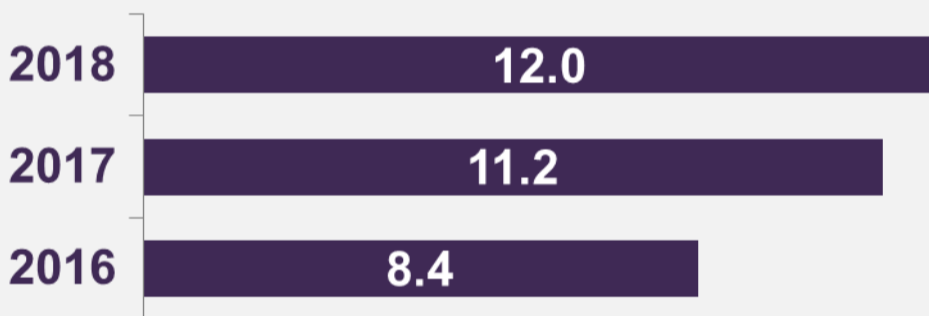
- working to increase access to treatment;
- supporting innovative approaches;
- improving access to public health data;
- intercepting illegal opioids at the border; and,
- addressing stigma related to opioid use.



^a Includes deaths related to all illicit drugs including, but not limited to, opioids.
^b Includes deaths with completed investigations only.
^c Available 2018 data includes unintentional deaths with ongoing investigations related to all illicit drugs including, but not limited to, opioids. Data for 2016 and 2017 (not shown) includes apparent opioid-related deaths with completed investigations only.
^d Data may be suppressed in provinces or territories with low numbers of cases.

Source: Special Advisory Committee on the Epidemic of Opioid Overdoses. National report: Apparent opioid-related deaths in Canada (January 2016 to December 2018) Web-based Report. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; June 2019.

Death rate per 100,000 population



75% of accidental apparent opioid-related deaths in 2018 occurred among males



90% of deaths in 2018 were among young and middle aged adults, with those aged 30 to 39 particularly affected

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

