

# OPIOID-RELATED HARMS IN CANADA

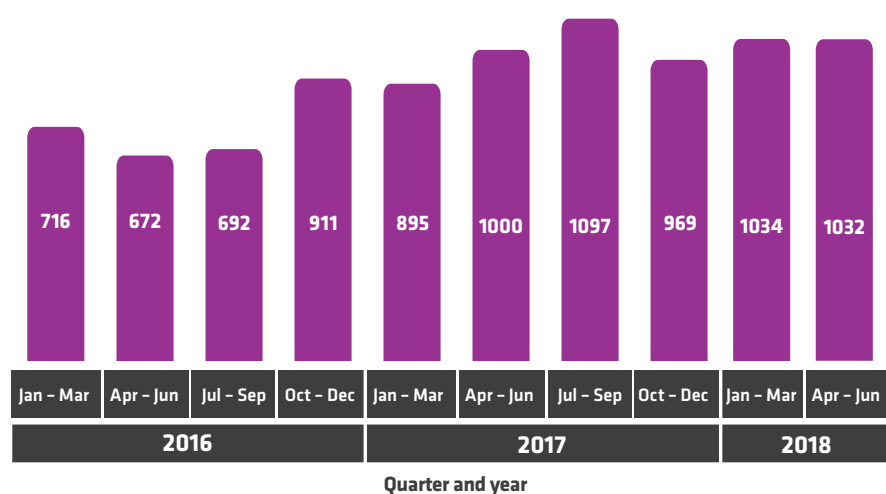
December 12, 2018

## DEATHS

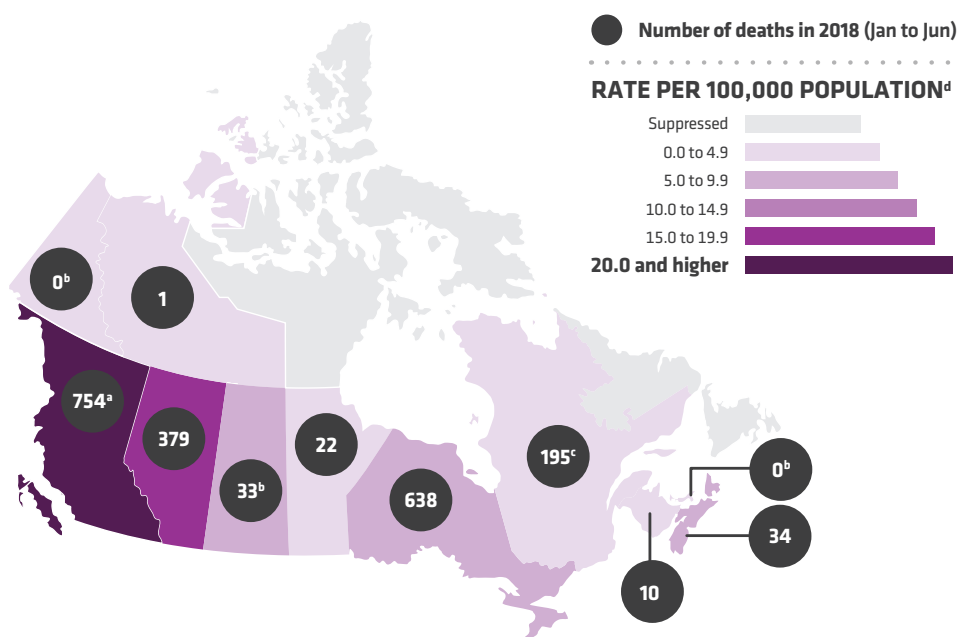
In the first half of 2018, **2,066** apparent opioid-related deaths occurred.

This means more than **9,000** lives were lost between January 2016 and June 2018 related to opioids.

NUMBER OF APPARENT OPIOID-RELATED DEATHS IN CANADA\*



\*These counts do not include data from Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, and Nunavut. Data from British Columbia and available data from Quebec for 2017 (July to December) and 2018 include deaths related to all illicit drugs including, but not limited to, opioids.



## HOSPITALIZATIONS



An average of **17** people were hospitalized for **opioid poisonings** in Canada each day in 2017—an increase from 16 per day in 2016.

In 2017, **opioid poisoning** hospitalization rates in smaller communities<sup>e</sup> were **2.5** times higher than rates in Canada's largest cities.

## EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS

Between 2016 and 2017, the rate of emergency department visits for **opioid poisonings** increased by:

**73%** in Ontario  
**23%** in Alberta

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES<sup>f</sup>



Based on available data, **71%** of suspected **opioid-related overdoses** occurred among men.

Suspected **opioid-related overdoses** were most common among individuals between the ages of **20** and **29**.

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 June 2018.

e Communities with populations between 50,000 and 99,999.

f Based on data from January to June 2018 from Yukon (Whitehorse), Northwest Territories, Alberta (Edmonton and Calgary), Saskatchewan, Manitoba (Winnipeg and rural and northern Manitoba), Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador and British Columbia. Data from British Columbia includes suspected overdoses related to all illicit drugs including, but not limited to, opioids.

Together we can **stop overdoses**

LEARN MORE AT [CANADA.CA/OPIOIDS](https://canada.ca/opioids)

