Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on opioid-related poisoning among First Nations in Ontario

March 17, 2020 - March 16, 2021
Compared to the same time frame prior to the pandemic (March 17, 2019 - March 16, 2020)
816 Hospital visits for opioid-related poisoning among First Nations people
36% ↑ Increase for First Nations people compared to a 16% increase among non-First Nations people

March 17, 2020 - December 31, 2020
Compared to the same time frame prior to the pandemic (March 17, 2019 - December 31, 2019)
116 Opioid-related deaths among First Nations people
Of which 64% were male
132% ↑ Increase for First Nations people compared to a 68% increase among non-First Nations people
A shift towards more deaths occurring within First Nations communities during the pandemic
Approximately 1 in 5 opioid-related deaths among First Nations people during the pandemic occurred within First Nations communities

Fentanyl directly contributed to 87% of opioid-related deaths among First Nations people

Other substances involved in opioid-related deaths among First Nations people:
- 2 in 5 deaths involved cocaine
- 1 in 3 deaths involved methamphetamines
- 1 in 4 deaths involved etizolam and other unregulated benzodiazepines* which increased from 0% prior to the pandemic

*Sedatives not approved for use in Canada

This infographic provides a high-level overview of the findings of the following report:
The complete methods and results are available at http://chiefs-of-ontario.org/priorities/health/research/.