

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



This infographic provides a high-level overview
of the findings of the following report:

Chiefs of Ontario and Ontario Drug Policy Research
Network. Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on opioid-
related poisoning among First Nations in Ontario.
Toronto, ON: Chiefs of Ontario; 2021.

The complete methods and results are available at
<http://chiefs-of-ontario.org/priorities/health/research/>.

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