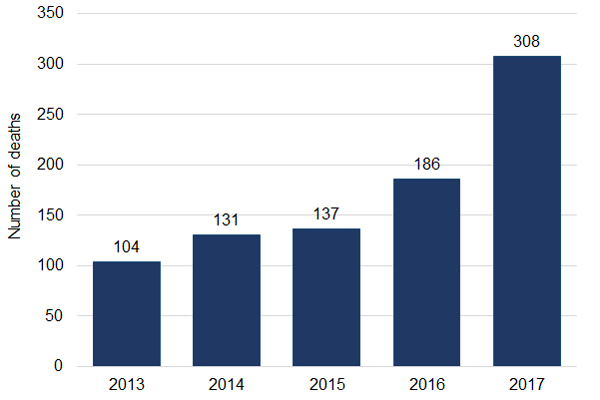
Last Updated: December 14, 2018

In 2017, there were 308 opioid overdose deaths in Toronto. This includes both accidental deaths and suicides combined. This represents a 66% increase in the number of people who died compared to 2016 and a 125% increase compared to 2015. In 2017, one in four opioid overdose deaths in Ontario occurred in Toronto. Preliminary data for 2018 indicate there were 111\* opioid toxicity deaths in Toronto in the first six months. This number is expected to increase as the cause of death is confirmed for more cases. *Please see the Data Notes tab for more information on this indicator.*

New data: In May 2017, the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario (OCCO) began using a new tool to collect information on deaths caused by opioid overdoses in the province of Ontario. Coroners now use the ‘Opioid Investigative Aid’ to gather detailed information about people whose deaths were caused by opioids. Analyses of preliminary data from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 are summarized below the following graph.

Annual number of deaths from opioid toxicity causes, Toronto, 2013 to 2017



Source: Public Health Ontario. Interactive Opioid Tool. 2013 to 2017. Accessed on October 23, 2018.

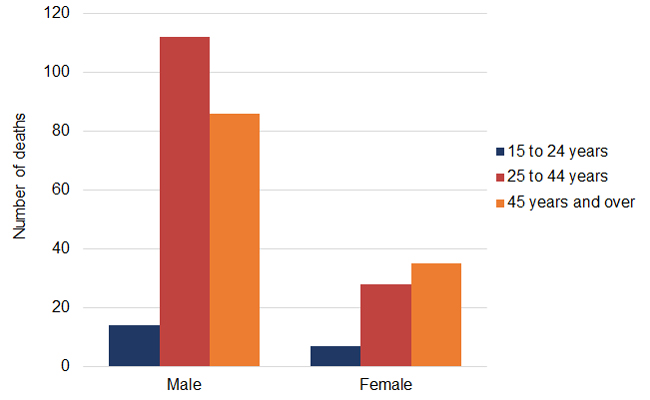
*The numbers reported below are preliminary and subject to change. Only cases that are confirmed by the OCCO as opioid toxicity deaths are reported here. As coroners’ investigations proceed, it is expected that new cases for this time period will be identified, so these numbers may rise in the coming months.*

*These data represent confirmed opioid toxicity deaths from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. Please refer to the total number of deaths in 2017 in the figure above for the most recent full calendar year’s number (308 deaths).*

There were 293\* confirmed opioid toxicity deaths among residents of Toronto between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. During this one-year period, the majority of deaths in Toronto (96%) were accidental, compared to 89% in the rest of Ontario. Three percent of deaths in Toronto were classified as suicide, compared to 9% of deaths in the rest of the province.\*

Seventy-five percent of accidental opioid toxicity deaths in Toronto from July 2017 to June 2018 were male. Fifty percent occurred among individuals aged 25 to 44 years.\*

Accidental opioid toxicity deaths by age group and sex, Toronto, July 2017 to June 2018\*



Among accidental opioid toxicity deaths in Toronto from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, the most common ethno-racial groups include:

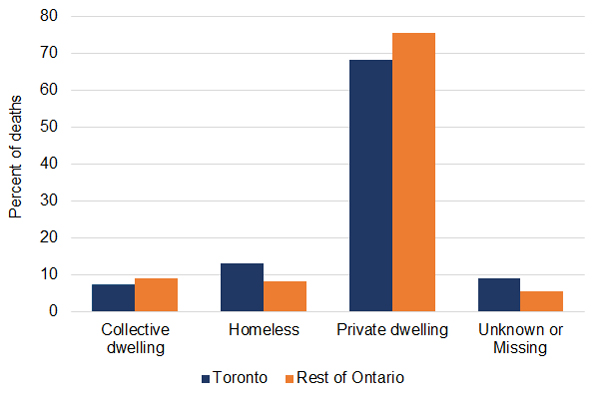
* White (78%)
* Black (6%)
* Indigenous (3%)
* Latin American (2%)\*

Forty-four percent of individuals were unemployed at the time of death. However, information on employment status was unknown or missing for 39% of individuals.\*

Most (68%) of people who died by accidental opioid toxicity in Toronto resided in a private dwelling at the time of their death. In Toronto, 13% of deceased individuals were experiencing homelessness compared to eight percent in the rest of Ontario. There were no deaths among residents of correctional facilities occurring in Toronto.

Information on living arrangements was unknown or missing for 9% of individuals.\*

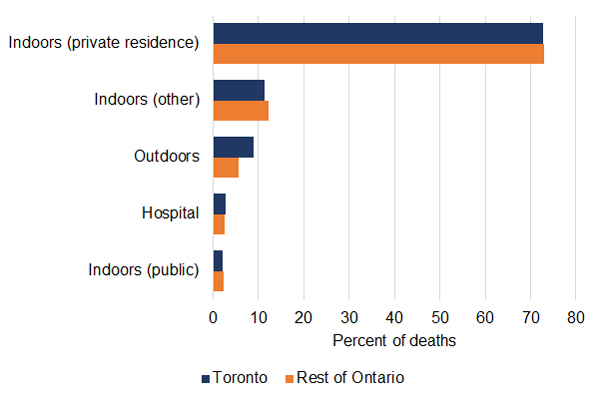
Accidental opioid toxicity deaths by living arrangements of the decedent, Toronto compared to the rest of Ontario, July 2017 to June 2018\*



For the majority (73%) of accidental opioid toxicity deaths between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018, the overdose occurred in a private residence.

Toronto had a higher proportion of deaths (9%) occurring outdoors compared to the rest of Ontario (6%).\*

Accidental opioid toxicity deaths by location of overdose incident leading to death, Toronto compared to the rest of Ontario, July 2017 to June 2018\*

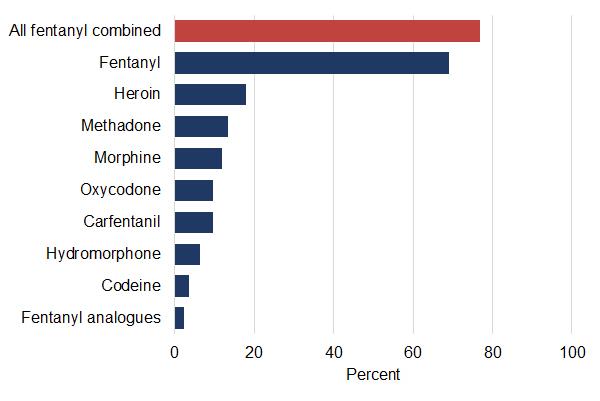


In 65% of accidental opioid toxicity deaths occurring between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018 in Toronto, the deceased person was at home at the time of the death.  There was evidence of an attempt to resuscitate the deceased individual in 38% of the cases, compared to 47% in the rest of Ontario.  Forty-seven percent of deaths occurred without another individual who could intervene at the time of overdose present; however, information was missing in 27% of cases.\*

Naloxone use was reported in 17% of accidental opioid toxicity deaths; however, there was missing information in 11% of cases. In 29% of cases where naloxone use was reported, it was administered by bystanders. In 52% of cases, it was used by hospital workers, and in 40% it was by emergency responders.\*

Fentanyl was the most commonly reported opioid contributing to death. Fentanyl and its analogues were more common contributors to accidental death in Toronto (77%) compared to the rest of Ontario (69%).\*

Accidental opioid toxicity deaths by type of opioid contributing to death, Toronto, July 2017 to June 2018\*,†,‡

\* Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.†Drug categories are not mutually exclusive; some deaths are attributed to multi-drug toxicity where a death can include more than one opioid as a cause.‡ The “All fentanyl combined” category includes fentanyl, carfentanil and fentanyl analogues.

Data source: Coroner’s Opioid Investigative Aid, May 2017 to June 2018, Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, extracted October 29, 2018.