

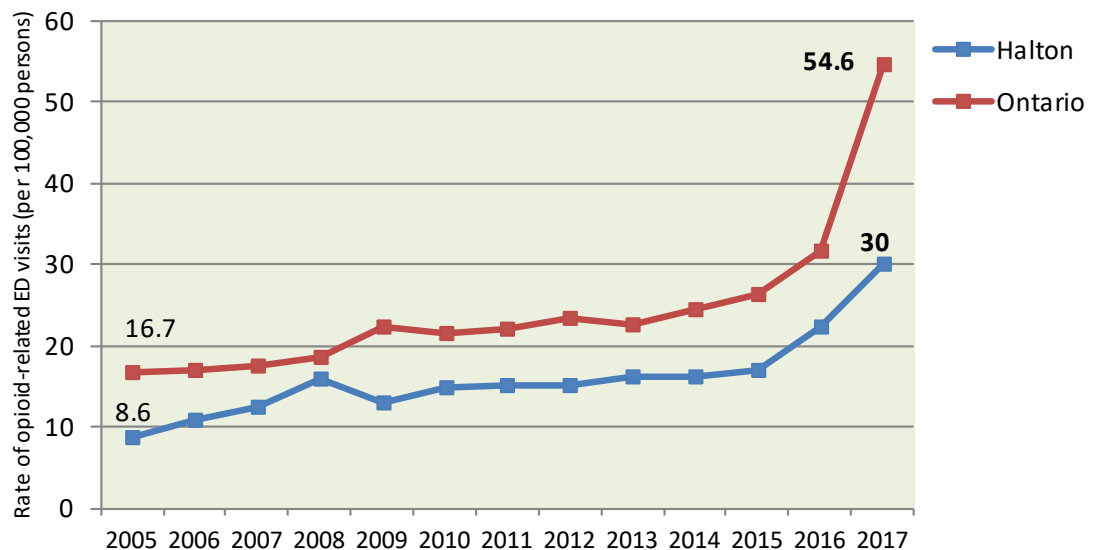
Opioid Crisis

Canada is facing a national opioid crisis. The growing number of overdoses and deaths caused by opioids, including fentanyl, is a public health emergency. In 2017, there were over 4,000 deaths or approximately 11 lives lost each day because of opioid overdoses.^{1,2} According to Statistics Canada, life expectancy at birth has stopped rising for the first time in over four decades as a result of the opioid crisis.³

In Ontario, the rate of opioid-related Emergency Department (ED) visits has been rising since 2005. Between 2015 and 2016, the rate increased by 20%. It rose by 72% the following year to 54.6 visits per 100,000 persons.

While the rate of opioid-related ED visits is lower in Halton than Ontario, the Halton rates have been following the same upward trend as the province. Between 2016 and 2017, the Halton rate of opioid-related ED visits went up by over 34% to 30 visits per 100,000 persons.

Opioid-related Emergency Department Visits Halton Region (2005-2017)



Community Development Halton/Source: Public Health Ontario, 2019

There has also been an increase in hospitalizations and deaths due to opioid overdose. In Ontario, over 2,100 hospitalization for opioid overdose and 1,200 apparent opioid-related deaths occurred in 2017. The opioid overdose death rate in Ontario rose from 3.5 deaths per 100,000 persons in 2005 to 8.9 deaths per 100,000 persons in 2017.

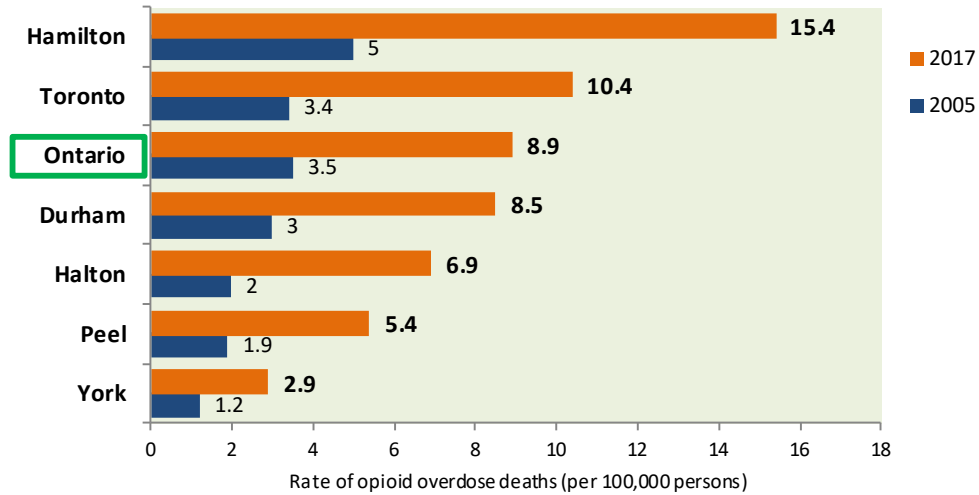
1 Government of Canada, *Canada's Opioid Crisis*, <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/services/publications/healthy-living/canada-opioid-crisis.pdf>

2 Special Advisory Committee on the Epidemic of Opioid Overdoses. *National report: Apparent opioid-related deaths in Canada (January 2016 to September 2018)*. Web Based Report. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; April 2019. <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/datalab/national-surveillance-opioid-mortality.html>

3 Statistics Canada, *Changes in life expectancy by selected causes of death, 2017*, May 30, 2019

Similar increases are also recorded within the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). The rates for Hamilton and Toronto are above the provincial average. The rate for Halton rose from 2 to 6.9 deaths per 100,000 persons between 2005 and 2017. A total of 40 Halton residents died of opioid overdose in 2017 as confirmed by Public Health Ontario (PHO).

Opioid-related Death Rate, GTHA*, 2005, 2017



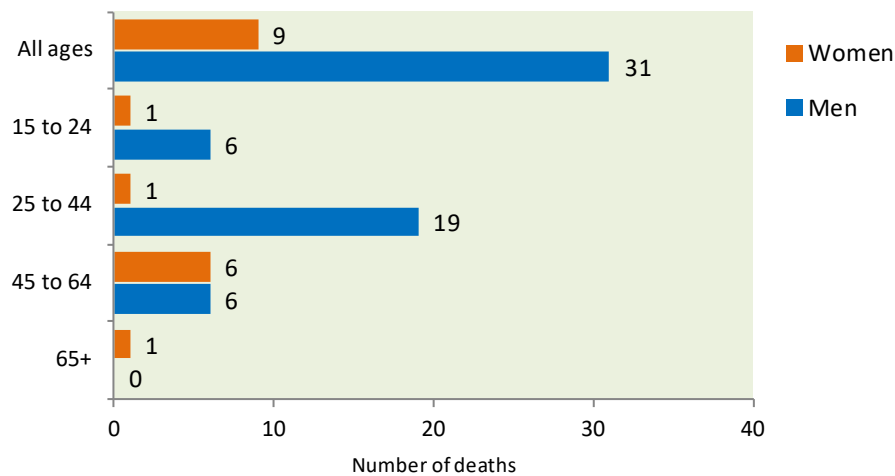
* includes: Toronto, Durham, York, Peel, Halton and Hamilton

Community Development Halton/Source: Public Health Ontario, 2019

The opioid death rate in Halton is highest among adults between 25 and 44 years old. In 2017, half of the Halton residents who died from an opioid overdose were in this age group.

The opioid death rate is significantly higher for men in Halton compared to women. In 2017, men were three times more likely to die of opioid overdose.

Opioid-related Deaths by Sex and Age Halton Region, 2017



Community Development Halton/Source: Public Health Ontario, 2019



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