



Situational Assessment of a Four Pillar Approach to Addressing the Drug Poisoning Crisis

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Agenda



Introduction & Purpose of the Situational Assessment



The drug poisoning crisis – framing the issue



Data and Trends



A Four Pillar community response



Recommendations for action

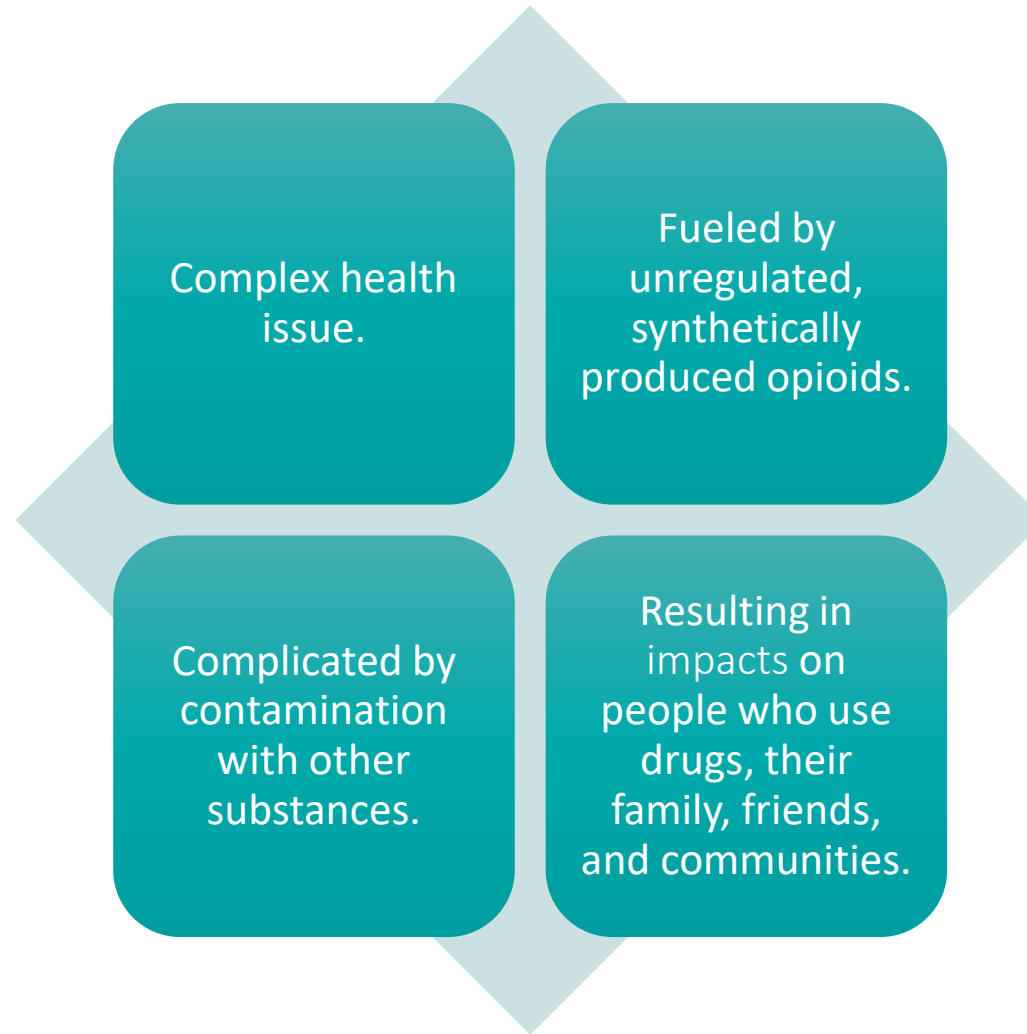


Situational Assessment

The **purpose** of this report is to provide a situational assessment of local trends in drug use and poisonings, and the four-pillar approach used to address the crisis in the County of Haliburton, City of Kawartha Lakes, and Northumberland County.

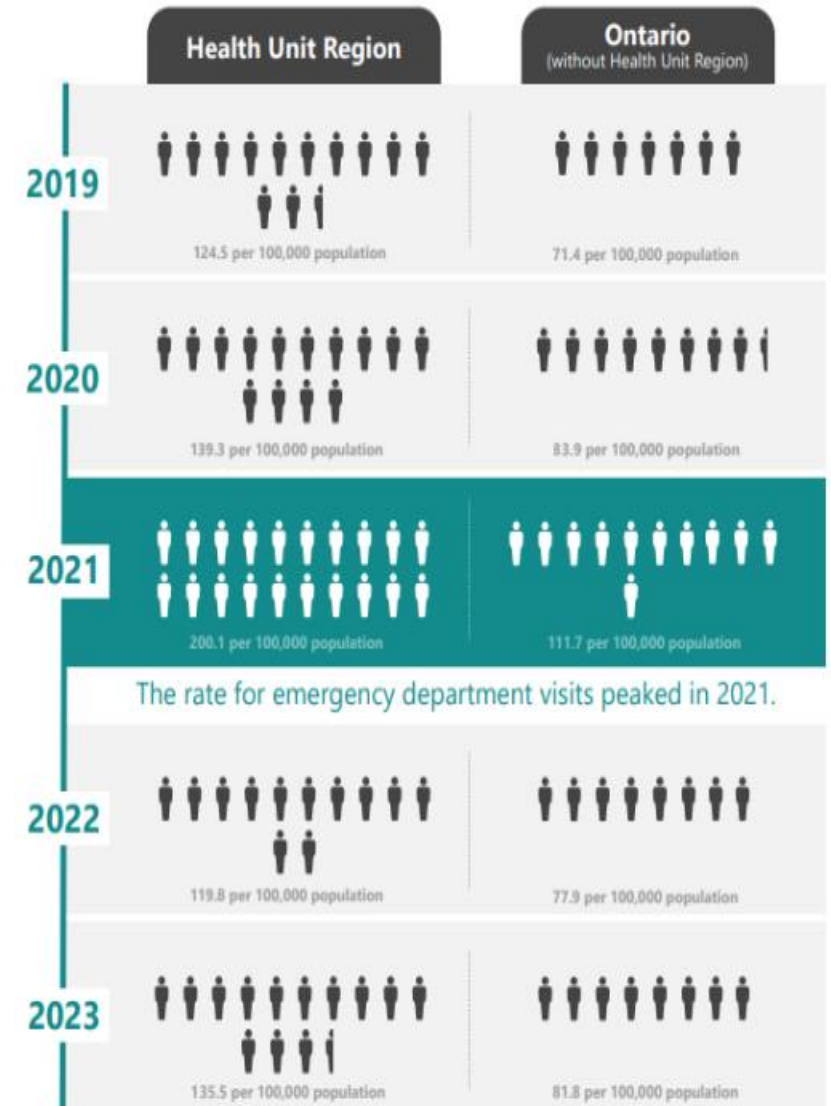
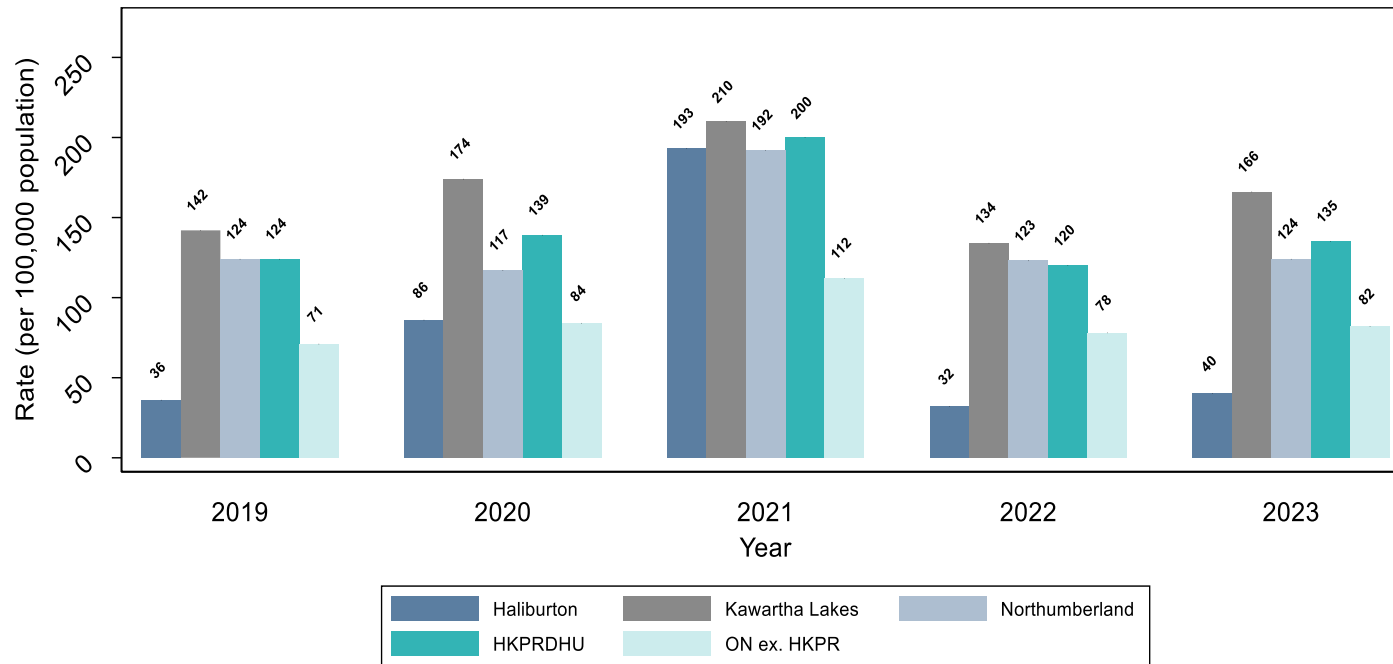


Drug Poisoning Crisis





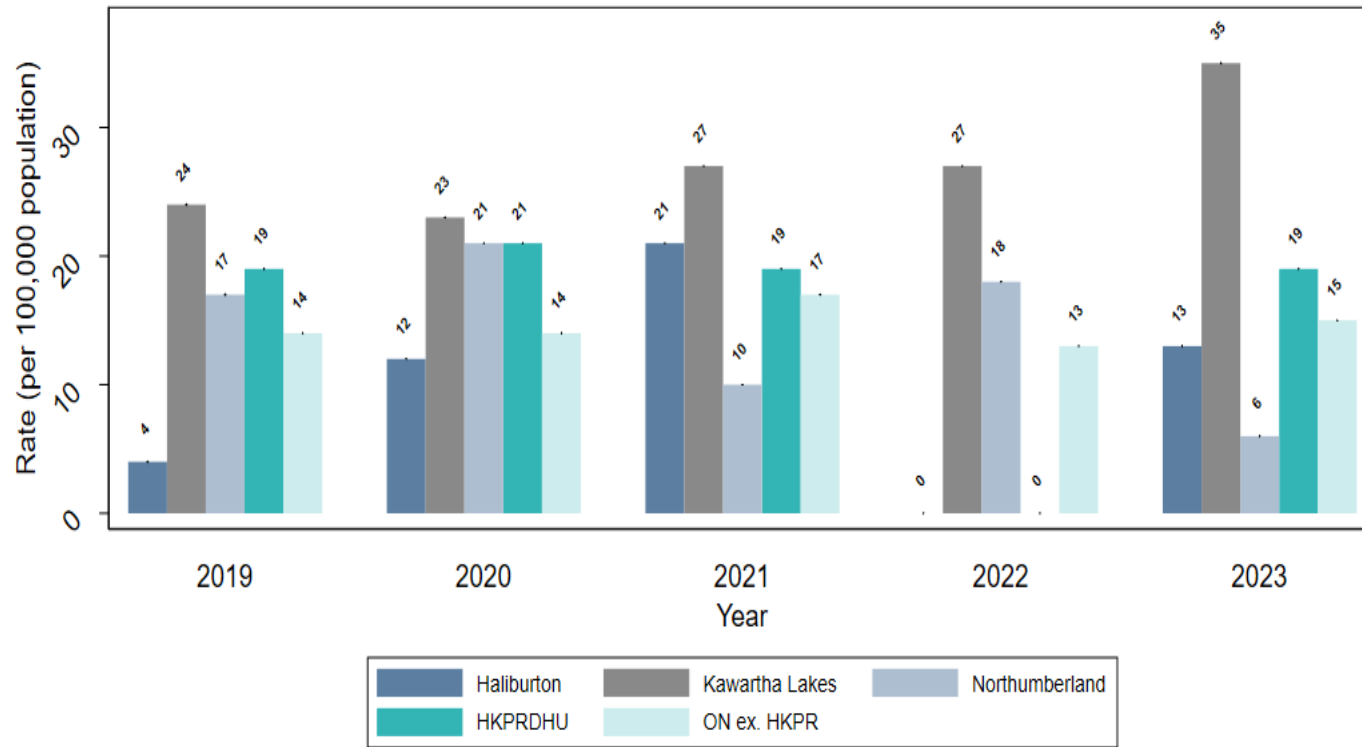
Trends – Emergency Department visit



The pictorial representation is approximated to the nearest 5 or 10.

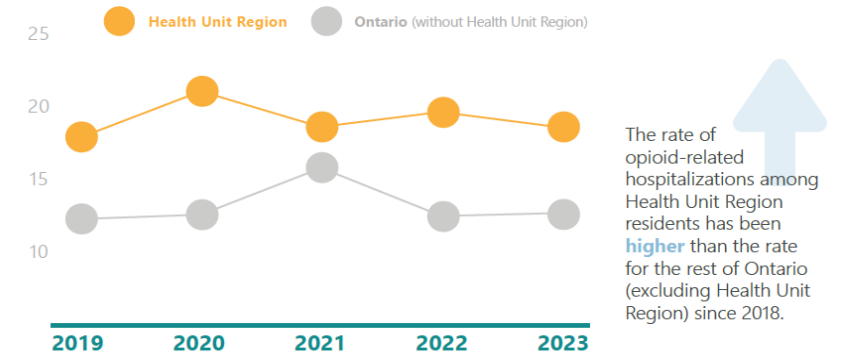


Trends - Hospitalizations



H Opioid-related Hospitalizations

Rate per 100,000

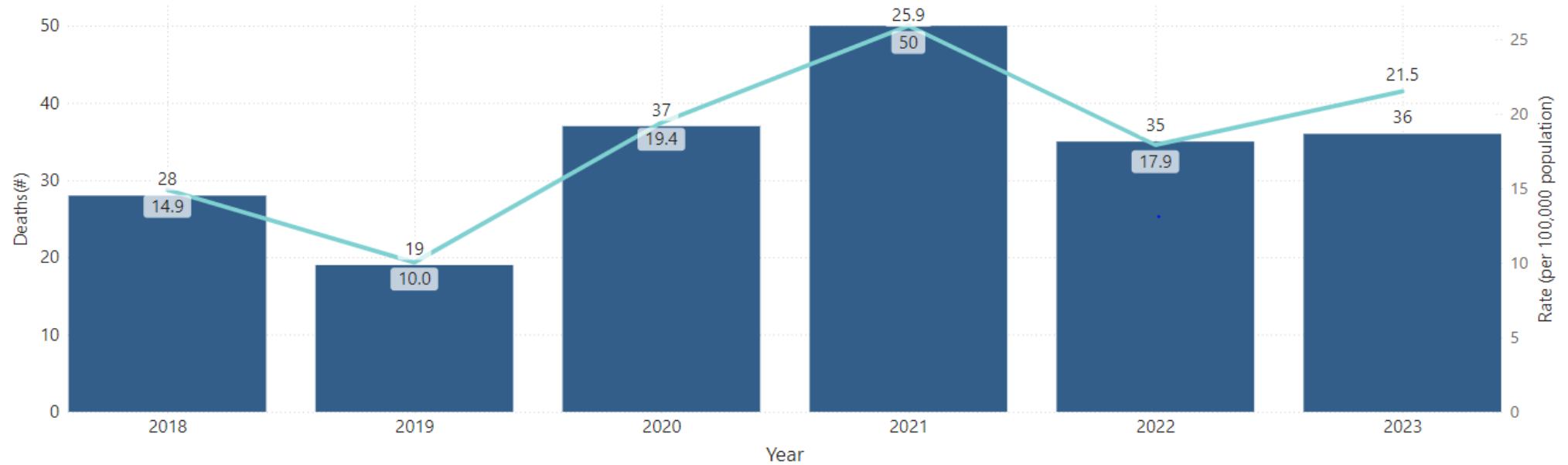


1.3x In 2023, the opioid-related hospitalization rate for the Health Unit Region was **nearly 1.3 times** that of the provincial rate.

Source: Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)



Trends - Deaths



County	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
HAL	0	1	3	8	3	0
CKL	13	10	20	22	22	24
NH	15	8	14	20	10	12
Health Unit Region	28	19	37	50	35	36

Data Source: Office of Chief Coroner, Ontario

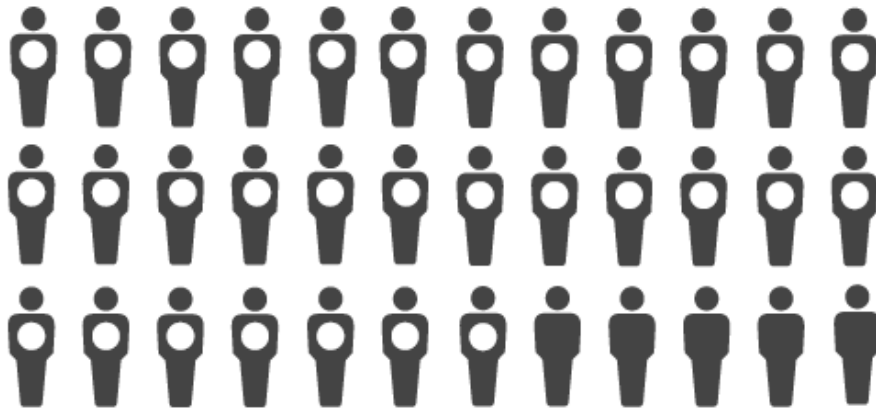


Opioid-related Deaths

Between 2018-2023, opioid-related deaths have increased with a total number of **205 deaths** in the six-year period.

The highest number of opioid-related deaths in a single year was **50 people** in **2021**.

2023



= 1 person



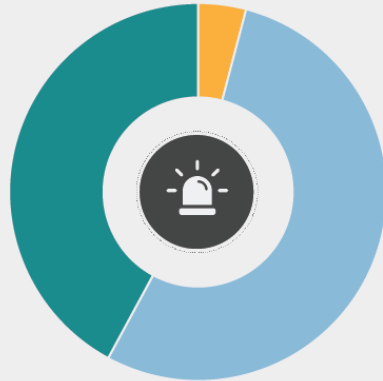
= Fentanyl present

Fentanyl was present at **86.1%** (31/36) of opioid-related deaths that occurred within the Health Unit Region in 2023.



Opioid overdose-related morbidity & mortality-2023

Opioid-related Emergency Department Visits in 2023



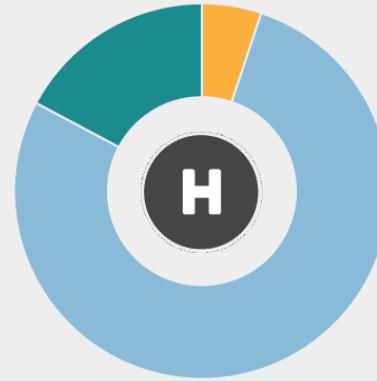
Percentage by County

4.1%
County of Haliburton

53.8%
City of Kawartha Lakes

42.1%
Northumberland County

Opioid-related Hospitalizations in 2023



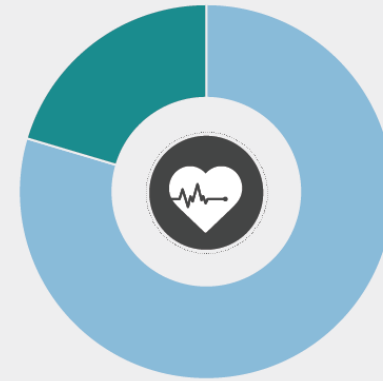
Percentage by County

5.7%
County of Haliburton

77.1%
City of Kawartha Lakes

17.1%
Northumberland County

Opioid-related Deaths in 2023



Percentage by County

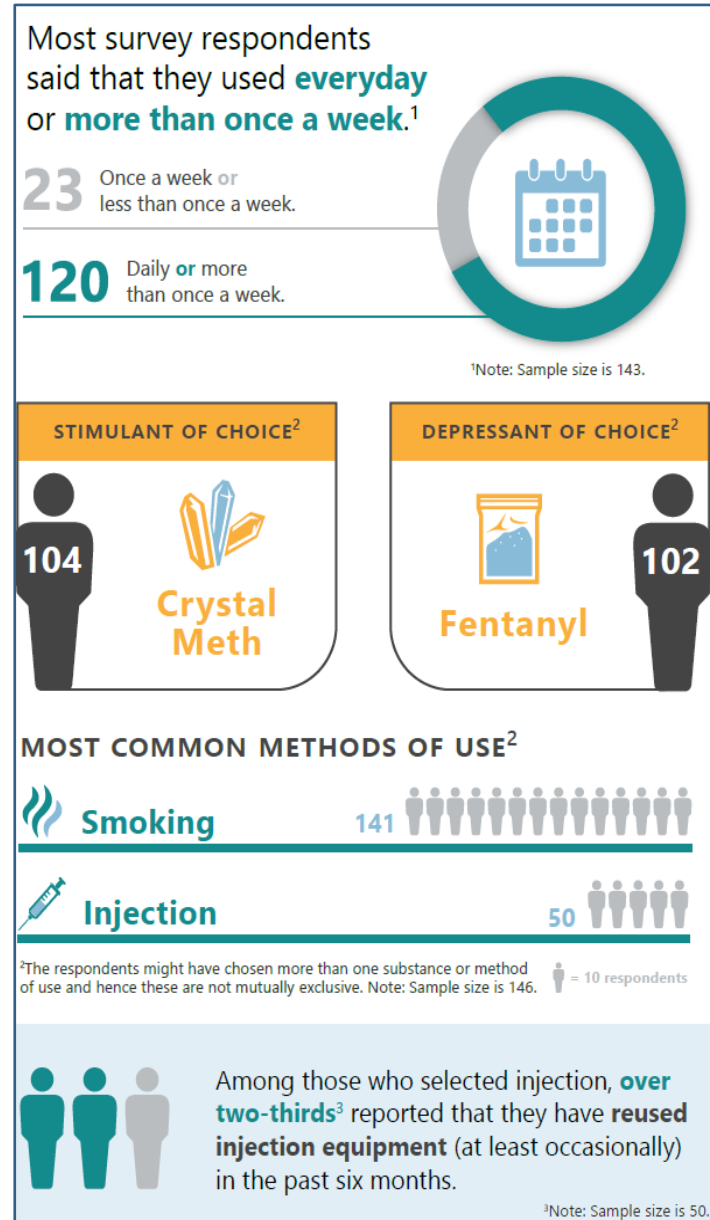
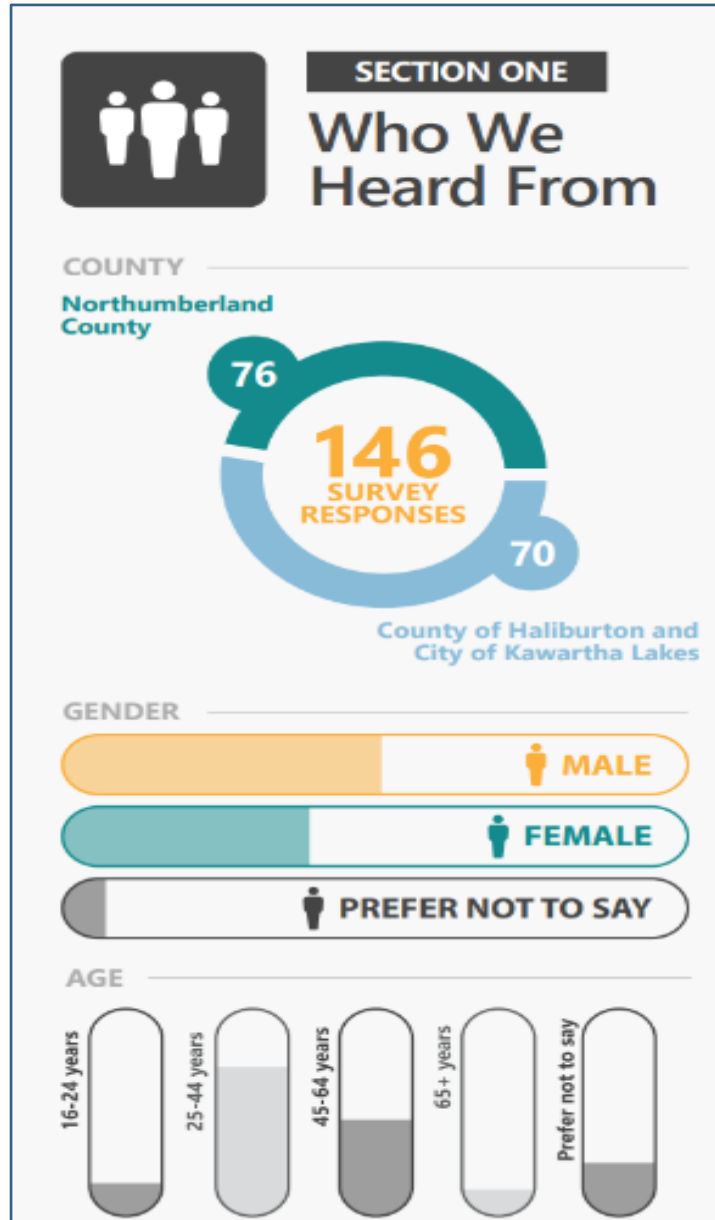
0%
County of Haliburton

66.7%
City of Kawartha Lakes

33.3%
Northumberland County



Survey of people with lived experience of using drug





Survey: What we heard

Local Needs Identified⁵

Survey respondents said that these strategies are needed:



Broader supports in the community

- 71% Having a safe and secure place to live
- 68% Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT)
- 67% Community support groups
- 47% Healing circles



Harm reduction supports

- 82% Drug testing kits
- 71% Better access to harm reduction supplies and equipment
- 68% Peer-assisted consumption
- 58% Targeted naloxone distribution

⁵The respondents might have chosen more than one option and hence these are not mutually exclusive. Note: Sample size is 142.

Services of Interest⁶

If available, survey respondents said they would use these services:

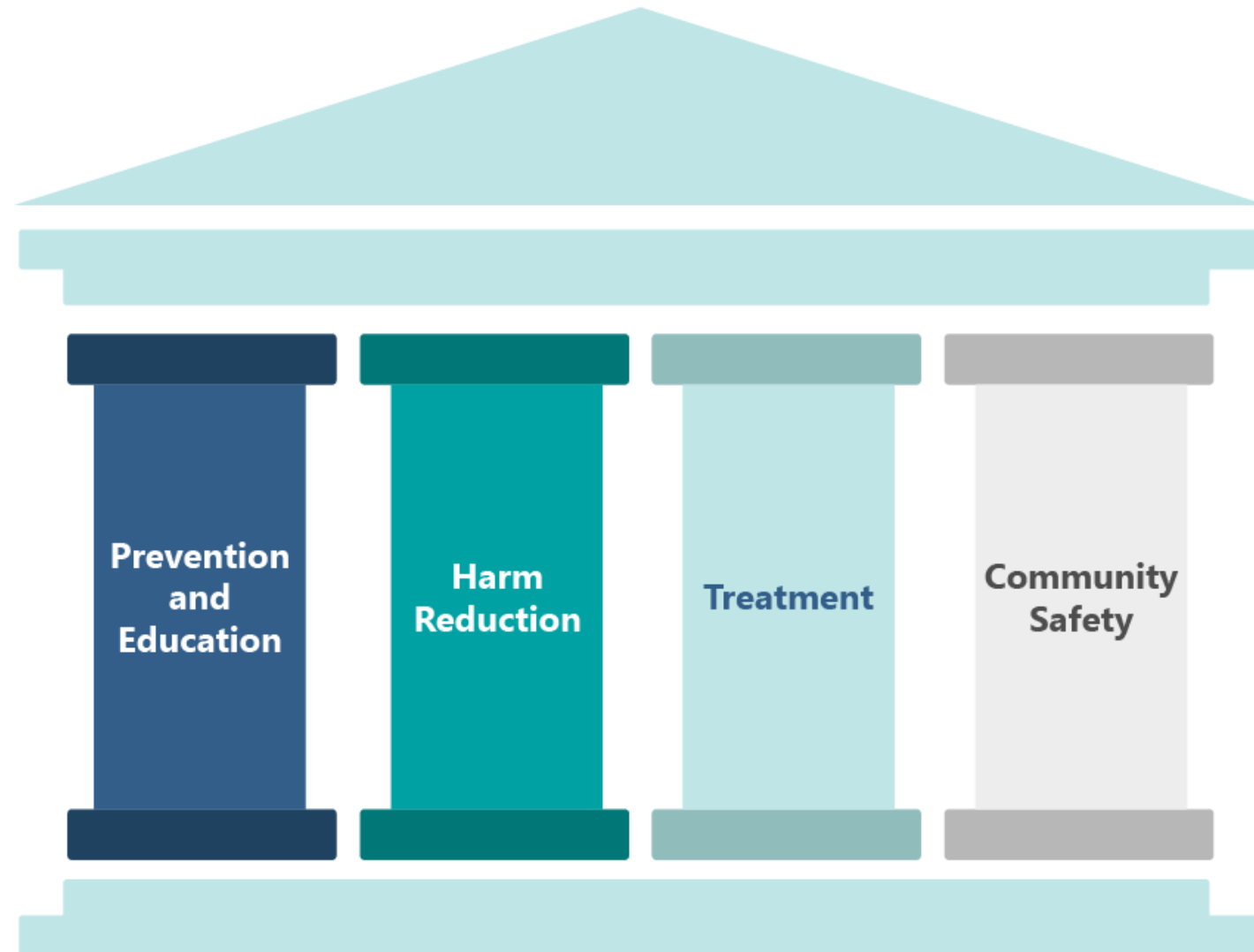


- 81%⁷ Consumption and Treatment Site
- 70% Drug checking services
- 79%⁷ Safer supply program

⁶Note: Sample size is 142 unless otherwise specified.
⁷Sample size is 145.



Four Pillar Approach to Addressing the Drug Poisoning Crisis



**Adapted from the Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy*



Key Take-Aways

Prevention & Education: Investment in programs that support families and address youth mental health are critical to reduce the risk of substance use disorders in adulthood.

Treatment: Comprehensive integrated treatment programs are required. This includes physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, therapists, pharmacists and connections to social services.

Harm Reduction: A range of accessible harm reduction programs and services are needed to address the risks of drug poisoning.

Community Safety: Policing associations nationally and provincially recognize substance use disorder as a public health issue, requiring diversion responses that are evidence-based and health-centred.



Recommendations for Action

Implications for Policy and Practice

Engage People with Lived and Living Experience (PWLLE)

#1: Adopt a practice of “nothing about us without us” and meaningfully engage people with lived and living experiences in all planning and decisions on programs and services.

Address the Urgency

#2: Advocate for the creation of a Provincial Drug Strategy Task Force and paid coordinator to focus on a provincial response to the drug poisoning crisis that includes building partnerships between government and community agencies.

#3: Advocate for access to real-time data on drug poisonings.



Recommendations for Local Action

#4: Invest in upstream prevention and early interventions.

#5: Proactively address structural stigma within your organization.

#6: Expand harm reduction service provision.

#7: Expand mobile outreach for harm reduction and medical treatment.

#8: Build capacity in the Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Northumberland (HKLN) Drug Strategy Network.

#9: Establish direct access pathways to care, withdrawal management and treatment.

#10: Pursue evidence-based and health-centred diversion programs.



‘Healthy People, Healthy Communities.’

Reach Out to Us

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