

INSIDE A KILLER DRUG EPIDEMIC: A Look at Canada's Opioid Crisis

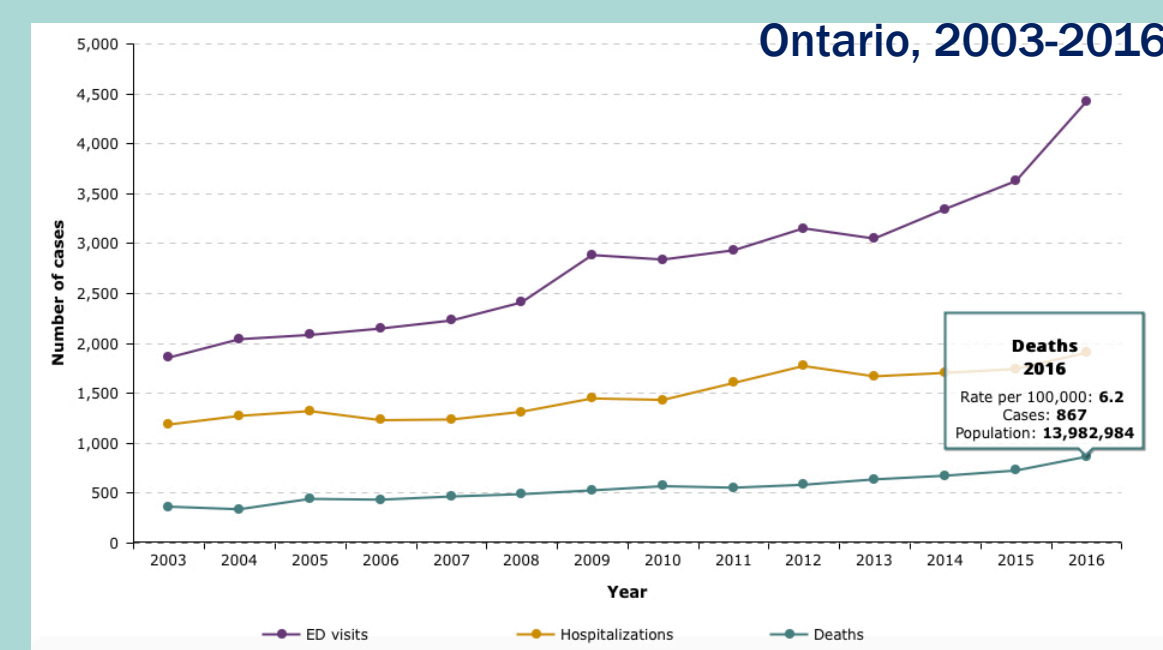
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Background

Canada's **opioid epidemic** is the result of an **escalating public health crisis**.

2,816 opioid-related deaths throughout Canada in 2016

Cases of Opioid-related Morbidity and Mortality



Purpose: To examine Canada's opioid crisis and determine the effectiveness of the approach in addressing the public health crisis.

Abstract

"Comprehensive, collaborative, compassionate and evidence-based" are the words used to describe the Government of Canada's approach in addressing the opioid crisis. An average of eight people die every day due to opioid overdose. This is greater than the number of Canadians lost in 1995 to the HIV epidemic. This multi-faceted crisis is far beyond the illegal drug market and the increased use of fentanyl and other illegal opioid drugs. The crisis has deeper roots that lay in high level addiction to legal opioids caused by inappropriate prescribing practices and lack of education about the risks of opioid usage.

Methods

A critical analysis of the Canada's action in the opioid crisis



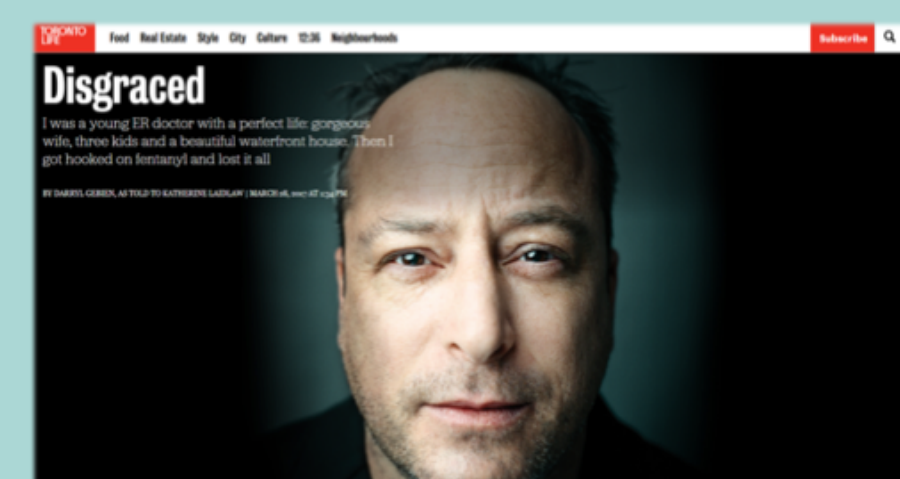
"THERE WAS NO INDICATION. ... THAT SHE HAD A PROBLEM TO EVEN TRY AND FIX"

TESLIN RUSSELL
DAUGHTER, FIGURE SKATER, ASPIRING NURSE. DEATH DUE TO OPIOID OVERDOSE 12/31/2016

"THE CONSTABLE WAS A GOOD POLICE OFFICER WHO WAS RESPECTED BY HIS COLLEAGUES, AND THAT HE HAD REGULAR ACCESS TO STREET-LEVEL DRUGS."



MICHAEL ALLISTER THOMPSON
FORMER TORONTO POLICE DRUG-SQUAD CONSTABLE, DEATH DUE TO OPIOID OVERDOSE ON 04/13/16



"I WAS HIGH-FUNCTIONING, BUT, STILL, MY KIDS WERE GETTING A STONED DADDY, EVEN IF THEY WERE TOO YOUNG TO REALIZE IT."

DARYL GEBIEN
FORMER DOCTOR, EX-HUSBAND, FATHER OF TWO, RECOVERED

Results

Canada's Response to the Opioid Crisis



A Closer Look at the Epidemic



Recommendation:

Canada requires a collaborative initiative that engages community members in raising awareness and stigma to reduce opioid-related deaths