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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION
CICAD**

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**SEVENTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION
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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD 74)
PANEL 1: EMERGING SYNTHETIC DRUGS IN CANADA**

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD 74)

Panel 1: Emerging synthetic drugs in Canada

December 2023

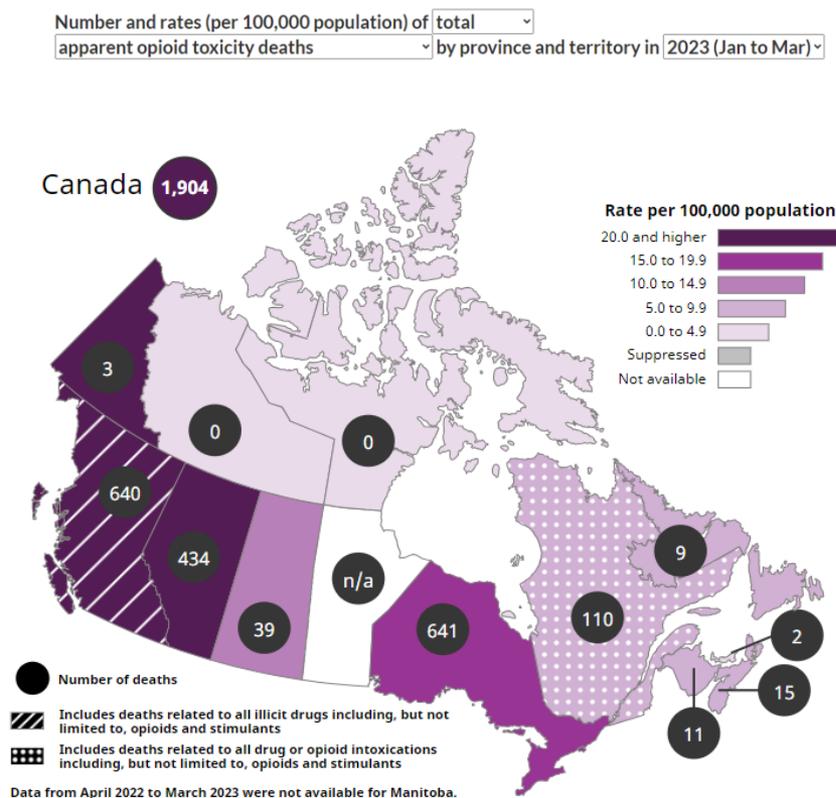


Overview

- Context
- Trends of New Psychoactive Substances in the illegal drug supply in Canada
- Renewed Canadian Drug and Substances Strategy (CDSS)

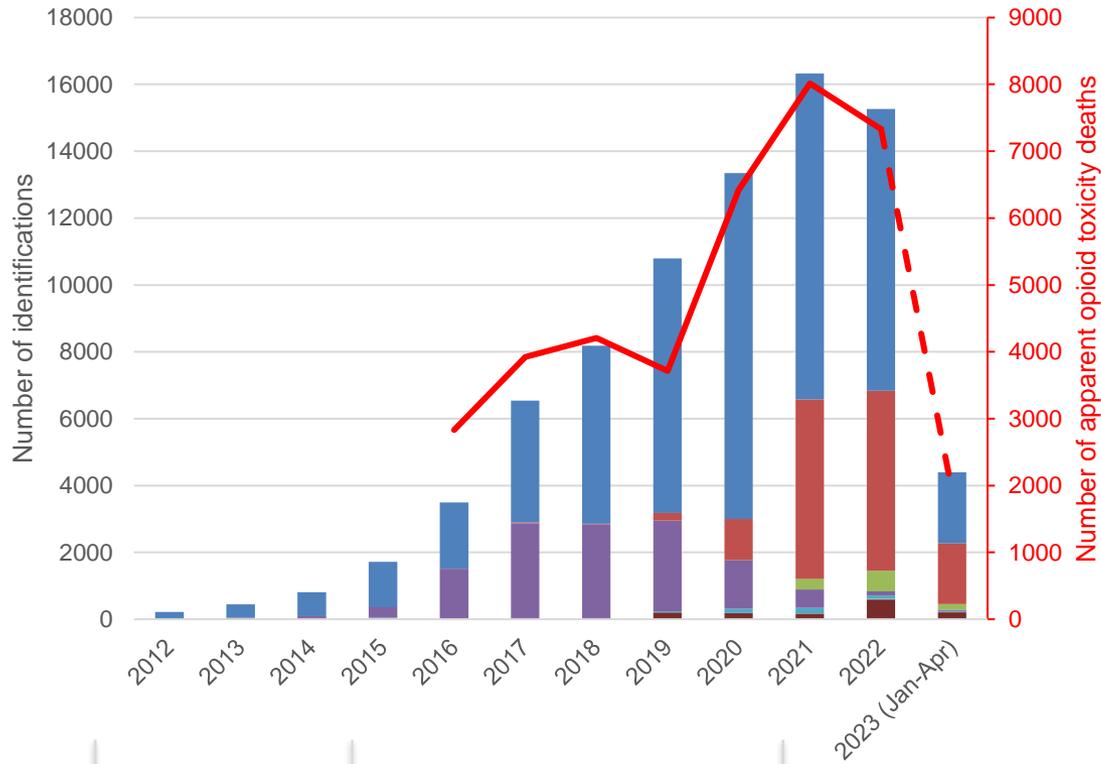
Context of the Drug Challenge in Canada

- There was a total of 38,514 apparent opioid toxicity deaths between January 2016 and March 2023
- **Toxicity of supply continues to be a major driver of the crisis**
 - Of all accidental apparent opioid toxicity deaths so far in 2023 (January-March), 81% involved Fentanyl.
- Just under half (48%) of accidental apparent opioid toxicity deaths so far in 2023 (January-March) also involved a stimulant, reflecting the polysubstance nature of this crisis.

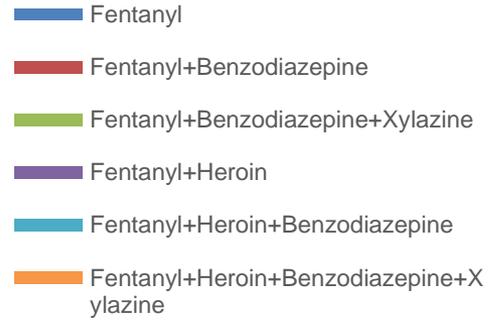


Federal, provincial, and territorial Special Advisory Committee on the Epidemic of Opioid Overdoses. Opioid- and Stimulant-related Harms in Canada. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; September 2023. <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/substance-related-harms/opioids-stimulants/>

Trends of fentanyl/fentanyl co-occurrences and opioid-related overdose deaths, 2012-Apr 2023



- The presence of fentanyl in the illegal drug supply has resulted in a significant increase in deaths and harms.
- Between 2016 and 2020, Heroin remained an important co-occurrence with Fentanyl as Fentanyl identification continued to rise.
- Since mid-2020, Benzodiazepines (e.g., Etizolam) have increasingly been found in co-occurrence with Fentanyl in Canada.

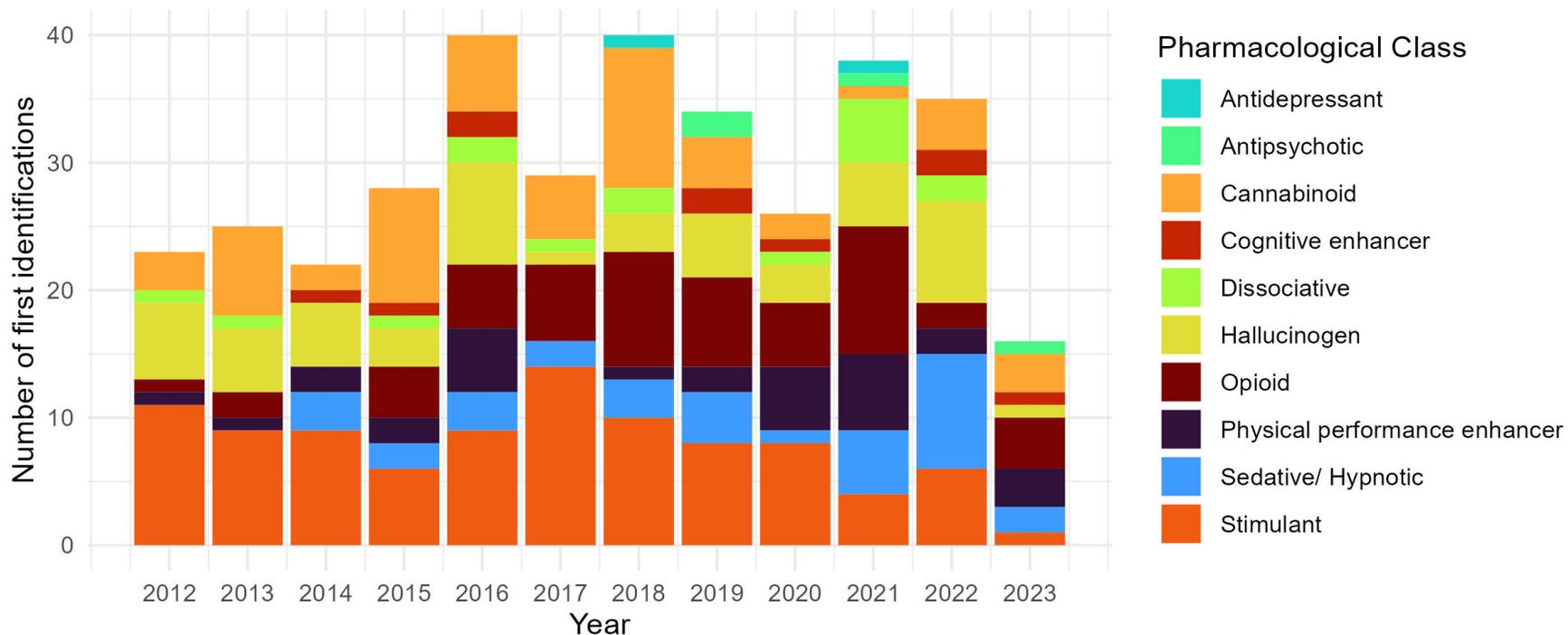


Phase 2 – increase in diverted/legally produced opioids

Phase 3 – unprecedented rise in synthetic opioids and analogues

Phase 4 – fentanyl dominance, widespread toxicity, and unpredictable supply

The Emergence of Newly Identified Psychoactive Substances

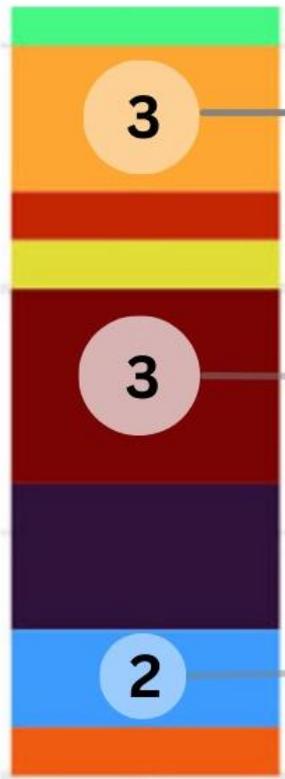


Data source: Health Canada, Drug Analysis Service

(Jan. 2012 - Sept. 2023)

New Psychoactive Substances 2023

NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES



NEW SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID

e.g. 5-Fluoro EDMB-PICA
4-fluoro MDMB-BUTINACA

NEW NITAZENE

e.g. N-desethyl Isotonitazene
N-Pyrrolidino Protonitazene
Ethyleneoxynitazene

NEW SEDATIVE/HYPNOTICS (INCL. BENZODIAZEPINE)

e.g. Metizolam

NON-PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES



5 NEW PRECURSORS

OTHER SUBSTANCES

e.g. OTC, Prescription drugs
not controlled

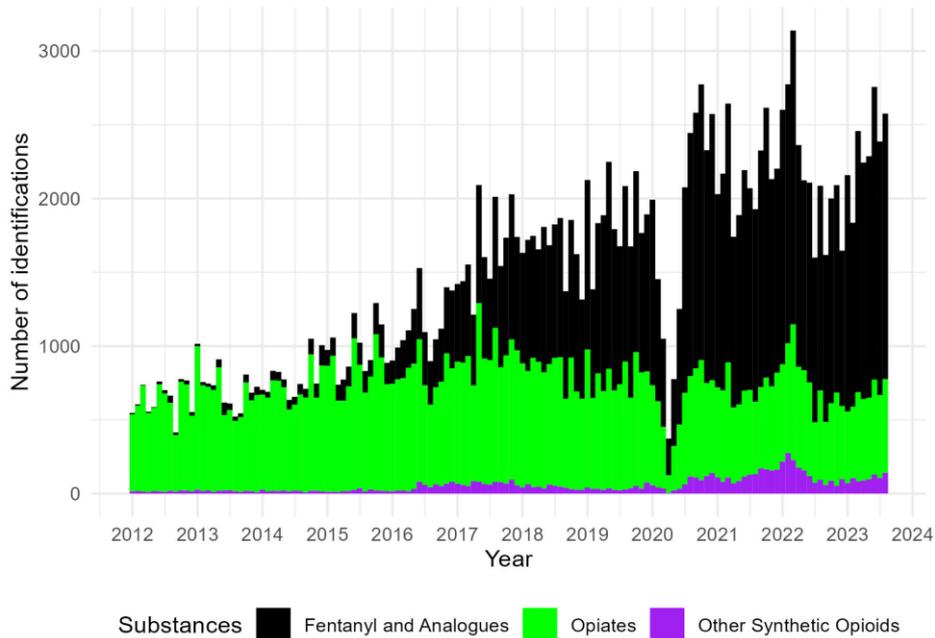
NON DRUGS

***Data is partial for Jan-Oct 2023**

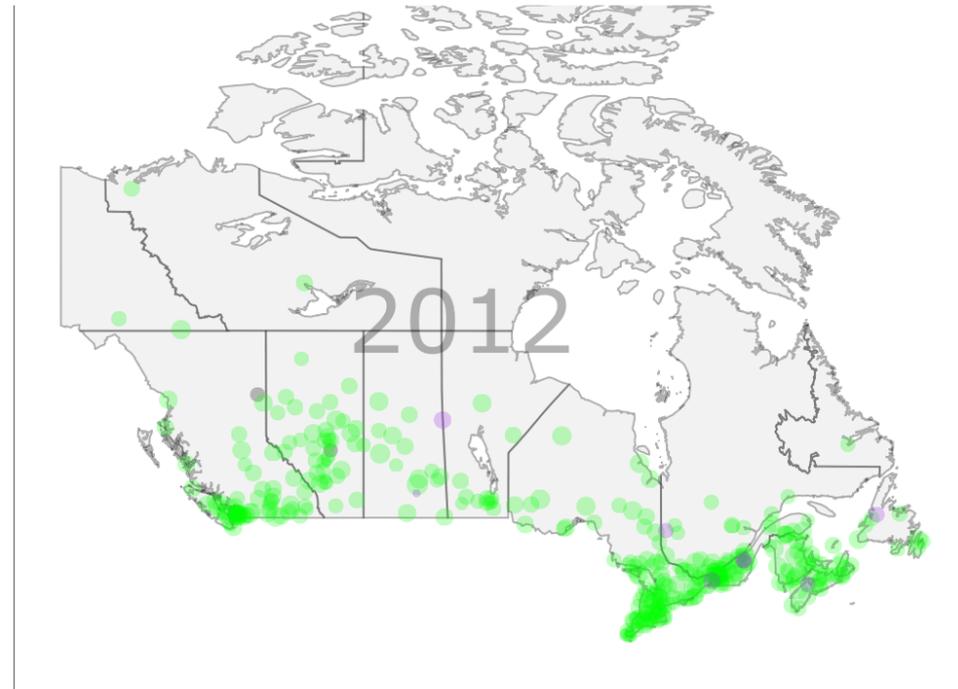
Increasing Potency of Substances: Transition from Opiates to Synthetic Drugs

Opioid identifications across time

2012 - September 2023



Data source: Health Canada, Drug Analysis Service



(Jan. 2012 - Sept. 2023)

Snapshot of the Fentanyl supply

90 %

Of Fentanyl samples are found in **powder** and/or grainy substance form

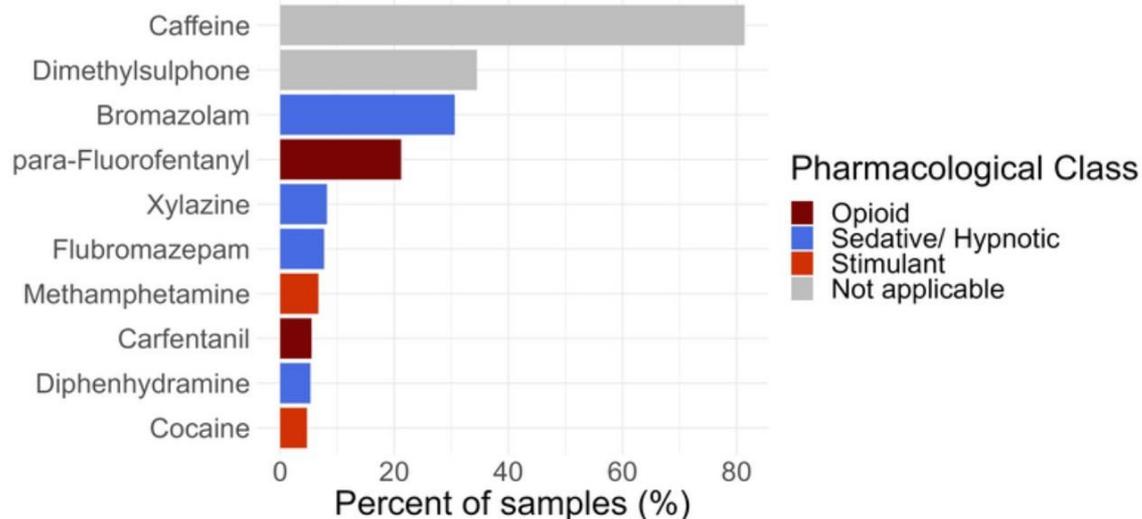
3/4

of samples contained at least two other substances

292

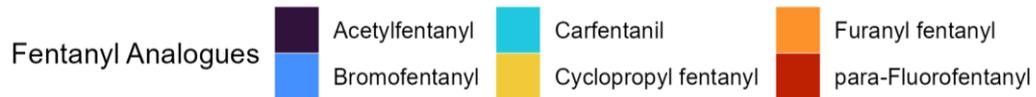
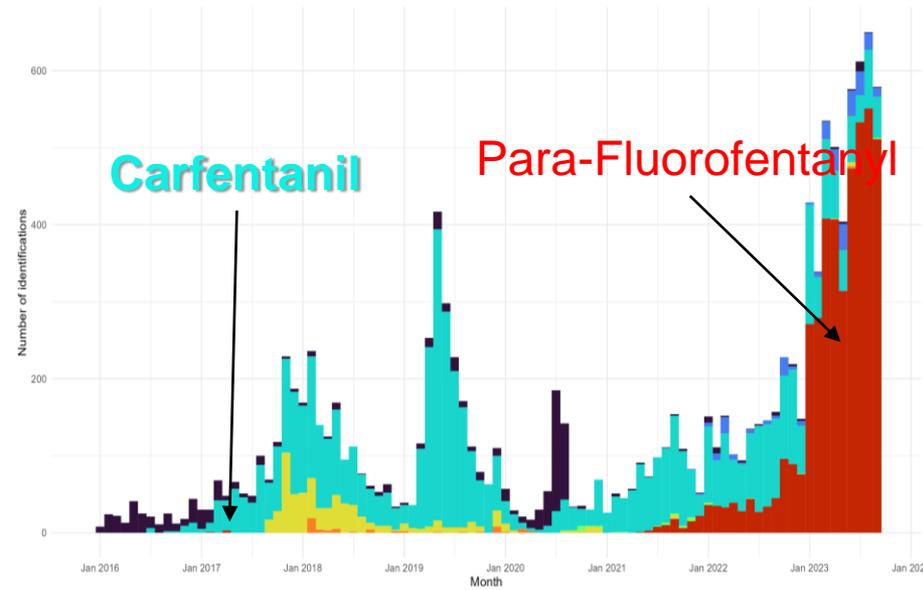
Samples of **counterfeit products** resembling pharmaceutical products

Top 10 co-occurring substances with Fentanyl



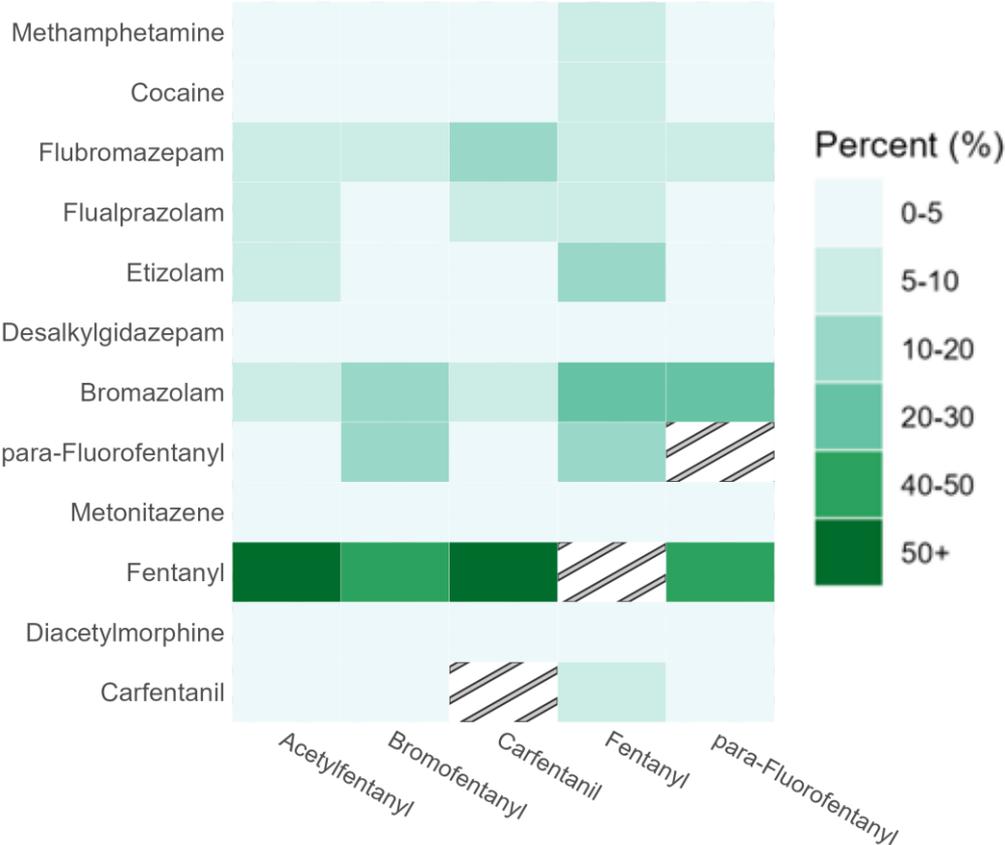
(Oct. 2022 – Sept. 2023)

The Emergence of Top Fentanyl Analogues



(Jan. 2016 - Sept. 2023)

Co-occurring Substances with Fentanyl and Analogues



- Several non-pharmaceutical Benzodiazepines and Fentanyl co-occur with Fentanyl Analogs.
- Fentanyl Analogs co-occur with Fentanyl in proportions greater than 50%.

(Oct. 2022 – Sept. 2023)

Renewed Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy (CDSS)

Our Comprehensive Response to the Overdose Crisis and Substance Use Related Harms



Vision

To promote the health and safety of all Canadians by preventing and minimizing substance use harms for individuals, families and their communities

Principles

- **Equitable**– recognizes the distinct impacts that substance use policies and interventions can have on Indigenous Peoples, racialized and marginalized and/or at-risk populations
- **Collaborative**– engages federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments, community, partners, stakeholders, and people with lived and living experience
- **Compassionate**– treats substance use as a health issue, and recognizes stigma as a barrier to health and other services
- **Comprehensive**– recognizes that substance use exists on a continuum that requires a range of policies, services and supports to promote overall health and wellbeing

Long-term Outcome

Reduction in disparities and overall rate of substance-use harms among people living in Canada

Partnerships and Collaborations

- 15 federal government departments and agencies
- People with lived and living experience
- Indigenous communities and partners
 - Provincial, territorial and municipal governments
 - Communities
 - Health professionals and practitioners
 - Advocacy organizations
 - Law enforcement
 - Regulated parties
 - Researchers

THANK YOU!

MERCI!

GRACIAS!