

Healthcare Patterns Before Substance-Related Toxicity Deaths in Ontario

The trends and circumstances surrounding accidental alcohol, stimulant, opioid, and benzodiazepine-related toxicity deaths from 2018 to 2022

 **12,115** 

Accidental substance toxicity deaths from 2018 to 2022

68% INCREASE in the number of deaths from 2018 to 2022

4.5 ← **8** deaths/day

Most common substance-related toxicity deaths


	2018	2022	
1. Opioids with stimulants	31%	42%	↑
2. Opioids only	32%	24%	↓
3. Stimulants only	14%	13%	↓

Death rates involving **1 substance** increased **↑ 75%**

Death rates involving **2 substances** increased **↑ 167%**

Death rates involving **3+ substances** increased **↑ 186%**

Recent Healthcare Encounters in the week before death

 **30%**

had a **healthcare** encounter

 **1 in 12**


received **outpatient services** from a primary care provider

 **1 in 7**

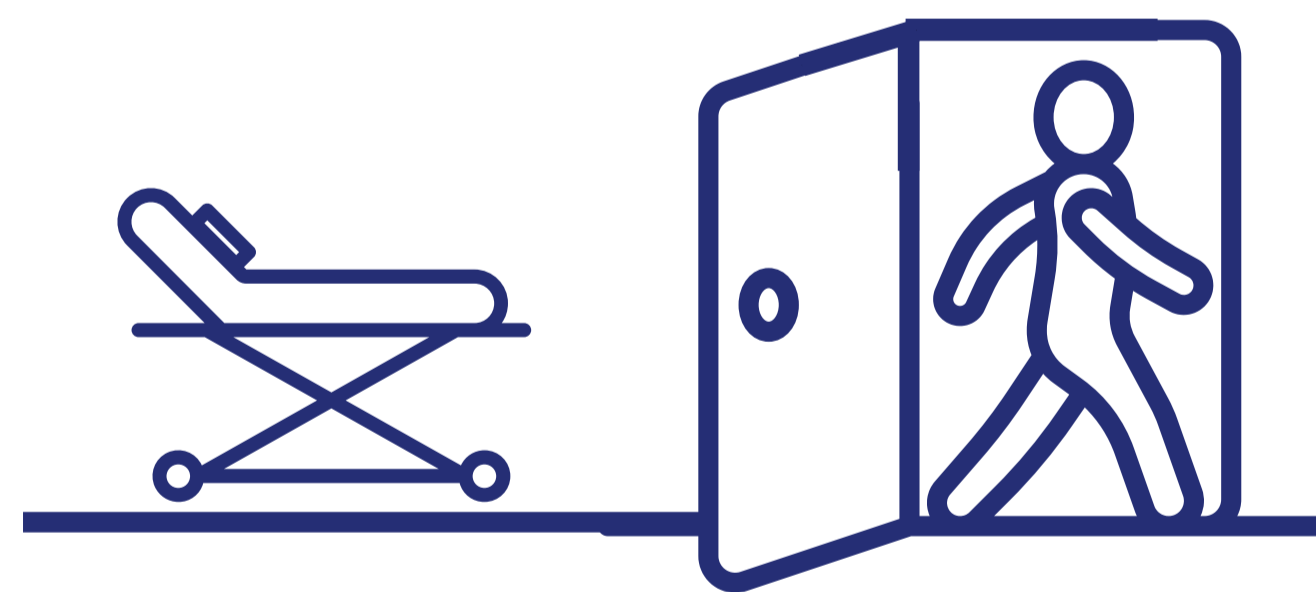
had contact in a **hospital setting**

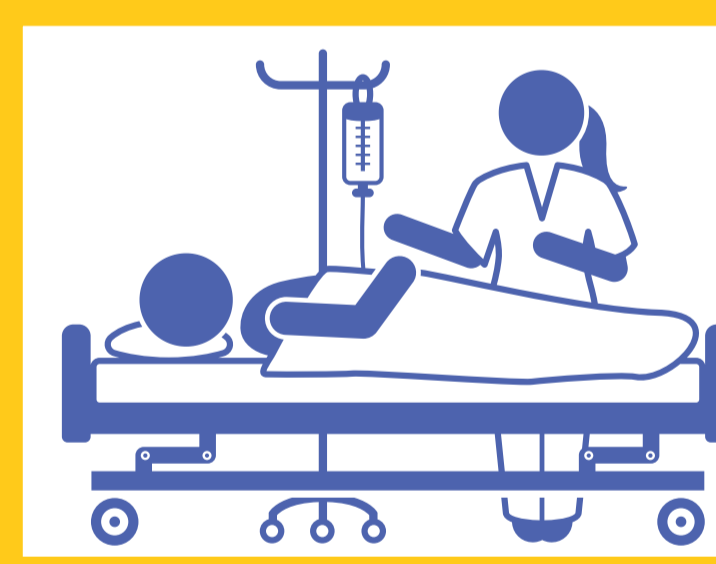
High amount of recent healthcare encounters highlights **MISSED OPPORTUNITIES to support people who use drugs**

Leaving Hospitals Before Medically Advised in the week before death

 **1 in 10** people visiting the **emergency department (ED)**

left before medically advised



 **1 in 4** people **admitted to the hospital**

left before medically advised

2X INCREASE in people leaving ED before medically advised from 2018 to 2022

High rate of people leaving hospitals before medically advised could suggest **BARRIERS TO CARE among people who use drugs**

Diagnoses in the last 5 years



87% had a **mental health** diagnosis
64% had a **mood or anxiety** disorder
59% had a **substance use** disorder

10% had a **hepatitis C** diagnosis

2% had an **HIV** diagnosis