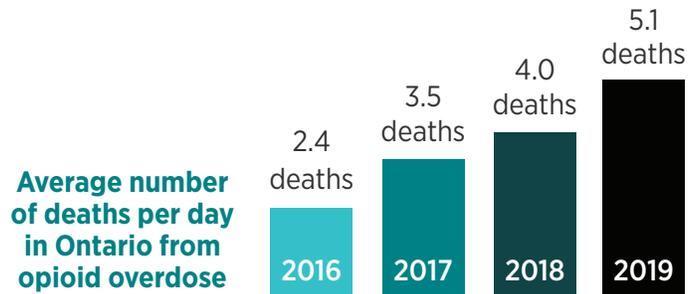


# Accidental opioid overdoses: A public health crisis

on average  
**5 Ontarians die**  
each day from  
opioid overdose



## Why is this happening?



Promoting opioids with misleading information



Over-prescribing



Withdrawal from and altered forms of drugs on the market



Poisoned drug supply



Social factors, such as experiences of trauma

## How can we respond?

The crisis demands a practical approach, one that makes keeping people alive a priority. Services that address addiction and trauma are necessary, but first, we have to prevent overdose deaths. This is an example of harm reduction.



Opioid poisoning intervention

## What does harm reduction look like in practice?

Harm reduction can include a series of programs, services and practices. **To prevent overdoses, this must start with supervised consumption and opioid poisoning intervention.** Other services can include:



Safe injection supplies



Peer support and other services



Education and counselling



Connecting people to primary health care, treatment and rehabilitation



All forms of supervised consumption involve registered nurses (RN), nurse practitioners (NP), and other trained health workers.

# What is RNAO doing?



**2011** →

RNAO takes part in a hearing before the Supreme Court of Canada arguing in favour of keeping Insite, Vancouver's safe injection site, open.

**2013-2016** →

RNAO urges the province to increase its response to the opioid crisis by opening and funding SIS/OPS wherever these services are needed.

**2018** →

RNAO publishes a best practice guideline on **Implementing supervised injection services**.

**2020**

RNAO continues to advocate for people who use drugs to have access to the health services they need.

## Where are we now?

**August 2017:** The first Supervised Injection Services (SIS) site opens in Ontario.

**January 2018:** Following a federal exemption, Ontario's Ministry of Health creates a simplified process to apply for Overdose Prevention Services (OPS) approval and funding.

**October 2018:** The provincial government announces Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) will replace the existing SIS and OPS models.

### Issues with the new model

#### Cap on sites



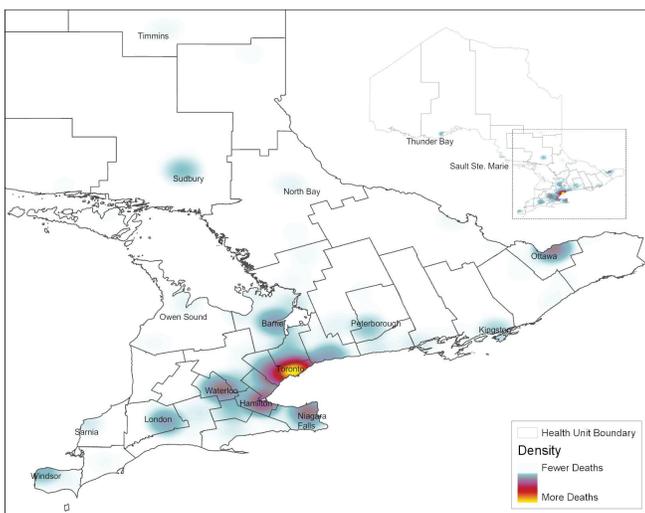
The government imposes a cap of 21 CTS sites.

#### Application process



The CTS application process is complicated and lengthy.

### Heat map of the number of accidental opioid-related deaths, July 2017 - June 2018



### Cases of opioid-related morbidity and mortality in Ontario, 2013 - 2018

