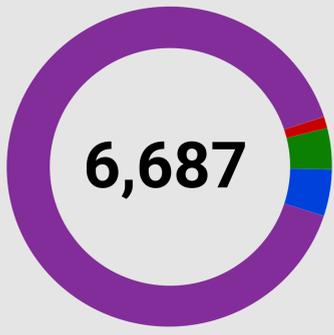


Varying Circumstances in Accidental Opioid Toxicity Deaths Across Ethno-Racial Groups in Ontario



people died from an opioid-related toxicity from July 2017 to June 2021

0.8% of people were **Latin American**
 3.6% of people were **Black**
 4.1% of people were **Asian**
 78% of people were **White**

The number of accidental opioid-related toxicity deaths **increased** across all ethno-racial groups

Proportion of deaths among **White** people
 ↓ **decreased**
 93% to 90%

Proportion of deaths among **Black** people remained
 — **stable** —
 3.9% to 4.0%

Proportion of deaths among **Asian** and **Latin American** people
 ↑ **increased**
 3.6% to 5.9%

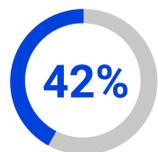
Average age at death



Proportion of male deaths



Naloxone was **less** commonly administered to **racialized people** compared to White people despite a similar chance of a bystander being present

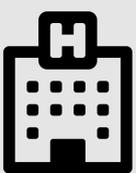


Healthcare Encounters



50% of **Black** people and **Asian** people had an **opioid use disorder (OUD)** compared to 68% of **White** people

Opioid agonist treatment (OAT) in the 5 years before death among those with OUD:



18% of **White** people were **treated in a hospital setting** for an opioid-related toxicity in the year before death, compared to 12% of **Black** people and 8% of **Asian** people

Findings highlight the need for a diverse response to the drug toxicity crisis that actively involves racialized communities and focuses on strategies such as strengthening access to treatment and harm reduction services, reducing stigma, and enhancing diversity in healthcare

For more information:

Campbell, T., Kitchen, S., Tadrous, M., Damba, C., Johnson, C., Smoke, A., Crichlow, F., Gomes, T. (2024). Varying circumstances surrounding opioid toxicity deaths across ethno-racial groups in Ontario, Canada: a population-based descriptive cross-sectional study. *BMJ Public Health*.



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