

TAKING ACTION ON CANADA'S OPIOID CRISIS

CANADA IS FACING A NATIONAL OPIOID CRISIS. The growing number of overdoses and deaths caused by opioids, including fentanyl, is a public health emergency. This is a complex health and social issue that needs a response that is comprehensive, collaborative, compassionate and evidence-based.



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE ENABLING A COORDINATED PAN-CANADIAN RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID CRISIS

Data, surveillance and research | Public communications | P/T and stakeholder engagement | Surge capacity, mobilization and support

Health Ministers and key stakeholders have publicly committed to working within their respective areas of responsibility in a coordinated and comprehensive response to address problematic opioid use. The commitments fall within the pillars of prevention, treatment, harm reduction and enforcement, supported by strong evidence.

PREVENTION

PREVENTING PROBLEMATIC DRUG USE

Implement the Health Portfolio's Problematic Prescription Drug Use Strategy

Improve prescribing practices

Better inform Canadians about the risks of opioids



TREATMENT

SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO TREATMENT

Better access for rural and remote First Nations communities

Improve access to medication-assisted treatments for opioid use disorder

Improve treatment options for pain management

Share knowledge on treatments for opioid use disorders



HARM REDUCTION

SUPPORTING A RANGE OF TOOLS AND MEASURES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

Support the establishment of supervised consumption sites

Facilitate access to naloxone

Ensure timely laboratory drug analysis information is shared between partners

Support legislation to protect individuals who seek emergency assistance for overdose

Reduce public health consequences of problematic drug use



ENFORCEMENT

ADDRESSING ILLEGAL DRUG PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION

Continue enforcement on the importation and trafficking of illegal opioids

Pursue legislative, regulatory, policy and programmatic changes to better control substances and equipment

Collect, assess and share information with law enforcement agencies domestically and internationally

Support education and training for law enforcement



SUPPORTED BY A STRONG EVIDENCE-BASE TO BETTER IDENTIFY TRENDS AND BEST PRACTICES

Better identifying trends, targeting interventions, monitoring impacts and supporting evidence-based decisions

- Facilitate timely and comparable data collection and methodologies
- Consult experts and support research and knowledge sharing

