

Opioid Prescribing: Is it Contributing to the Opioid Crisis?

In 2017:
11 CANADIANS
died every day from opioids¹



An average of **17 people** were **hospitalized** every day in Canada due to opioid poisoning

About **1 in 5 CANADIANS**
are being **prescribed an opioid** in a given year²



20.50%
are **chronic[†] opioid claimants**
and accounted for
~64%
of all opioid prescriptions²

People among
25 to 44
followed by
45 to 64
year-old age groups use the
highest dose of opioids

Opioids and benzodiazepines should **not be taken together**, yet

16% public plan claimants take both
9% private plan claimants take both

Every year some people keep **increasing their doses**
(despite guidelines supporting lower MED^{††})

Dose	Percentage of Claimants
50 mg	10% Claimants
90 mg	3 to 4% Claimants

[†] A chronic opioid user in our analysis is defined as a claimant who took 1 or more opioids continuously for at least 90 days in that year

^{††} Morphine Equivalent Dose (MED) was used throughout this report, as it provides a view on what people are taking compared to evidence-based guidelines

¹ Health Canada, Canadian Institute for Health Information. *Opioid-related Harms in Canada*. Ottawa: Government of Canada; 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/services/publications/healthy-living/infographic-opioid-related-harms-december-2018/infographic-opioid-related-harms-december-2018.pdf>. Accessed November 30, 2018

² Reformulary Group analysis. *Opioid Prescribing in Canada and its Potential Contribution to the Opioid Crisis*. Toronto: Reformulary Group Inc.; 2019.

