

Opioid Crisis

A Call to ACTION

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Objectives

Increase awareness of the issue of opioids

Be aware of the role that municipal leaders can play in the opioid crisis

Provide an update on cannabis legalization in Ontario



WHAT IS AN OPIOID?



Opioids are a family of drugs that have morphine-like effects.

The primary medical use for prescription opioids is to **relieve pain**.

Opioids can also produce euphoria, making them prone to abuse.

The most commonly misused opioids are **prescription drugs**.



Opioids are depressant drugs, which means that they slow down the part of the brain that controls breathing.



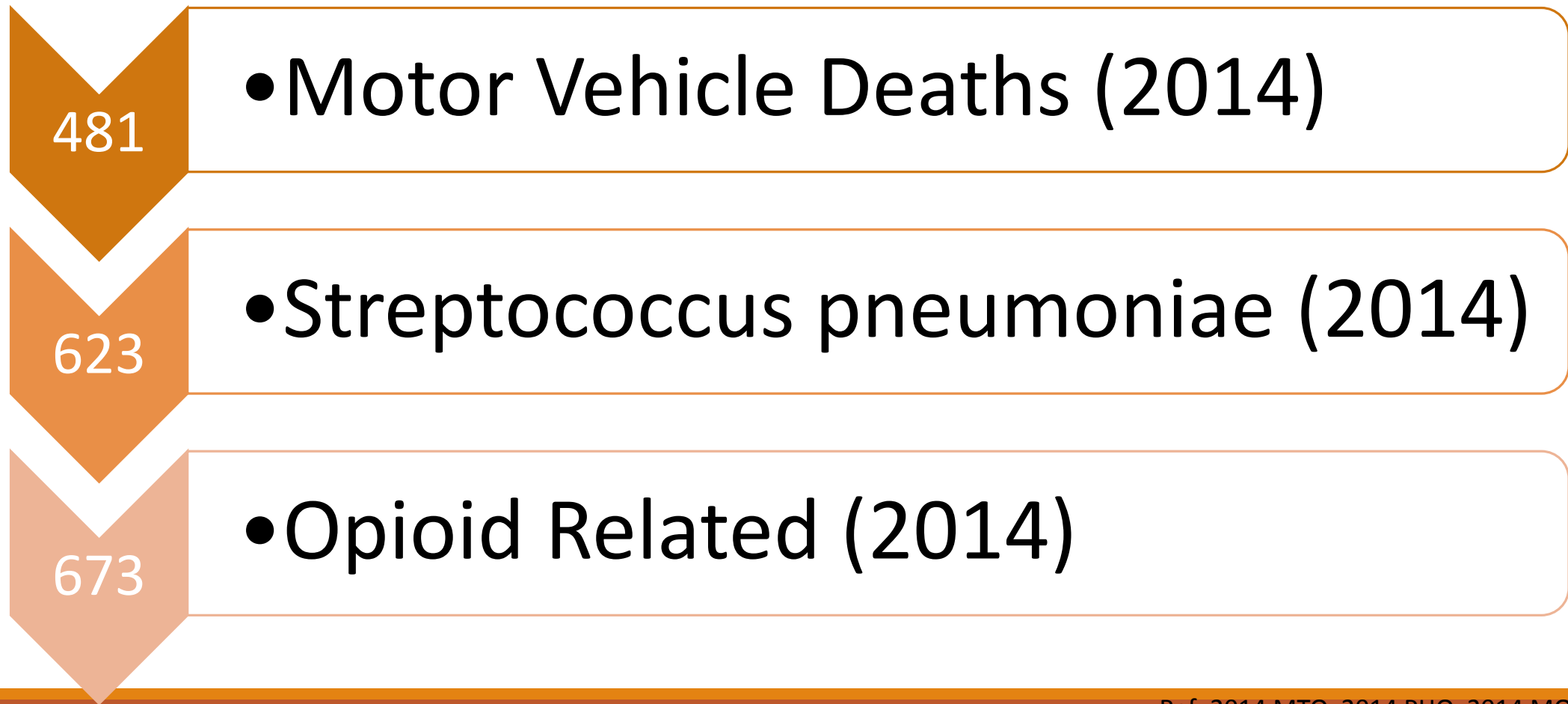
Opioid Crisis by the numbers...

1 person dies every **12** hours in Ontario from an Opioid overdose

1 in **170** deaths in Ontario is now related to opioid use.

1 in **8** deaths of young adults (25-34 years) is related to opioids.

Context: Other deaths in Ontario



Grey Bruce

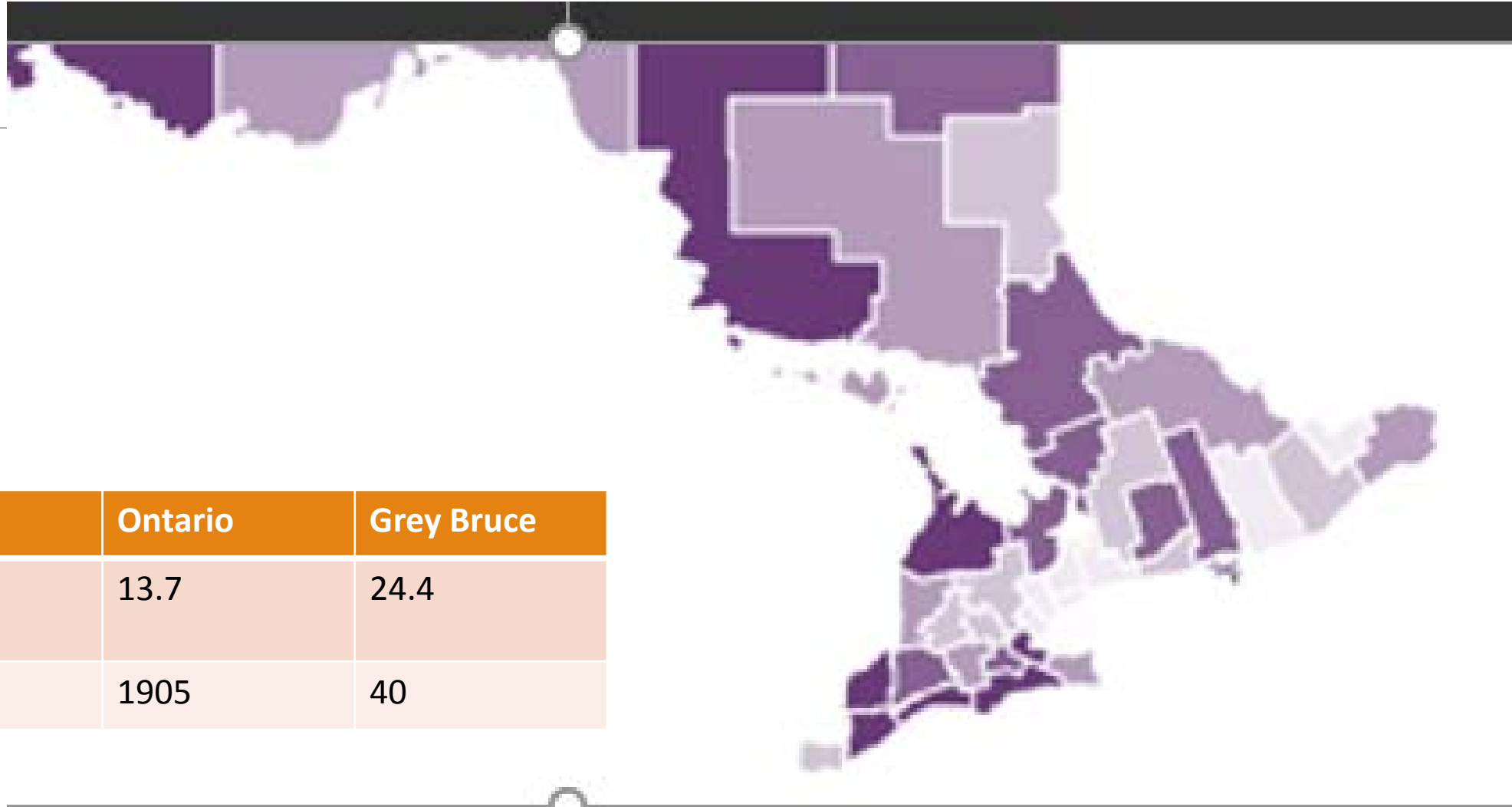
Opioid related Emergency Department visits have **tripled** over the past 14 years

Acute opioid toxicity rates have increased by **2.5x** since 2002

Between 2010 and 2014 Grey Bruce had **9 deaths** related to acute fentanyl toxicity

New Opioid tracking tool from Public Health Ontario

Rate of Opioid Related Hospitalizations, all ages, all sexes, 2016



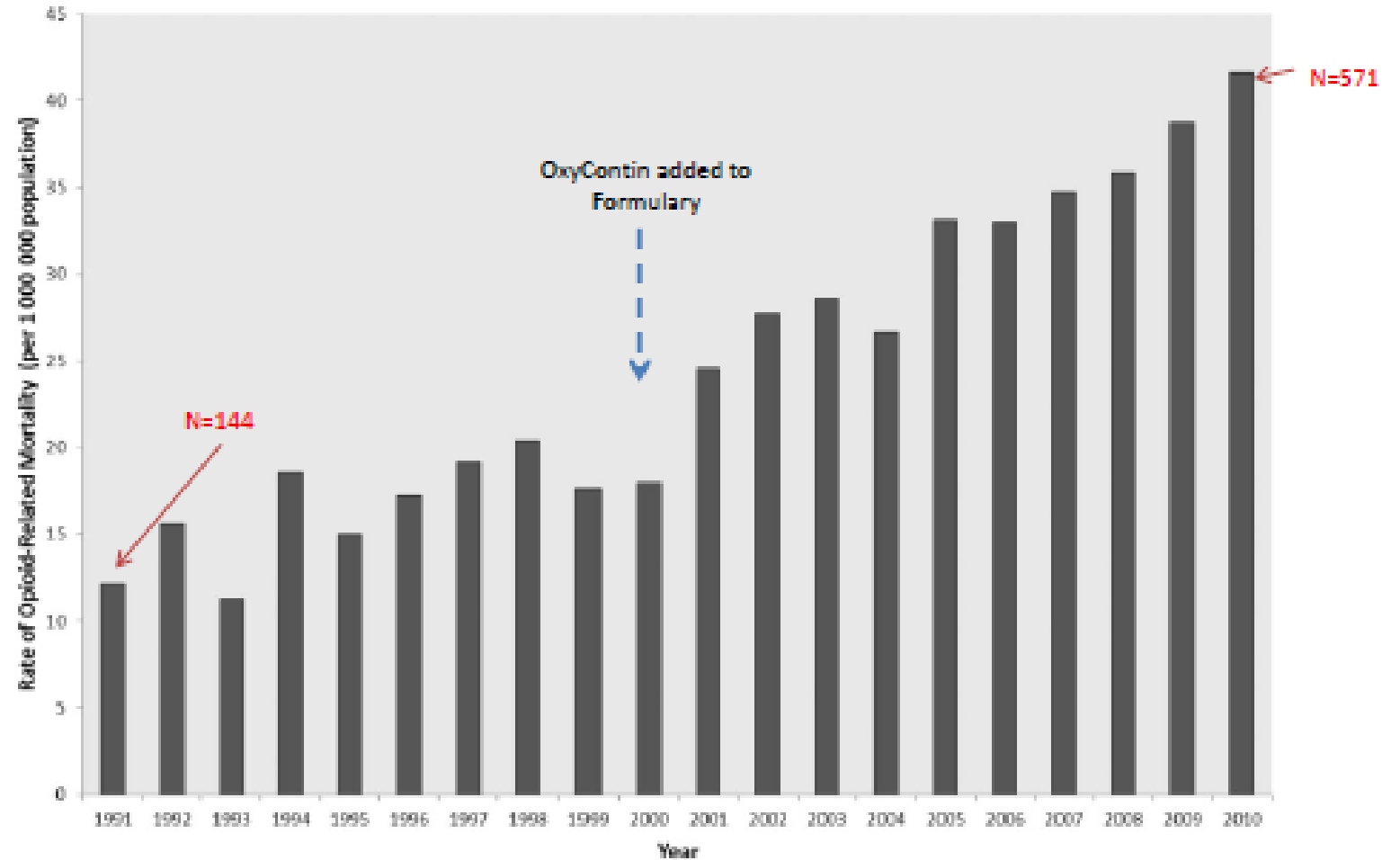
	Ontario	Grey Bruce
Rate per 100,000	13.7	24.4
Cases	1905	40

Increasing Rates of Opioid Related Deaths

ODPRN

How did
We Get Here?

It's complicated!



Gomes et al. *Addiction*. 2014

How did we get here?

Clinical Guidelines

Trends in High Dose Prescribing

No increase in addiction or mental health services

Lack of understanding and treatment options for chronic pain

The Problem of
Opioid Related Harm
is:

THE SOLUTIONS NEED
TO BE:

BIG

COMPLEX

WORSENING

COMPREHENSIVE

TIMELY

EVALUATED

Drug use is Happening in our community

Reducing the negative consequences associated with drug use is going to take a collaborative, community response.

The Opioid crisis is a health issue, that can affect all of us – our family, friends and neighbours.

What is already Happening in Grey and Bruce?

Crystal Meth and Other Drugs Strategy

Opioid Working Group

RAAM clinic

Needle Exchange Sites

Naloxone Distribution

Harm Reduction Support Group

Events such as: Overdose BBQ, Bring it Back Campaign

Municipal Presentations

Next Steps

Advocacy for treatment services

Addiction treatment services woefully underfunded/ under resourced

Currently 13 full-time counsellors and 3 part time counsellor to offer services for all of Grey-Bruce

3 full-time counsellors and 1 part-time counsellor to offer services to youth in Grey-Bruce

No ongoing funding to maintain and/or expand RAAM

Difficult to avoid running waitlists, cannot cover all areas in rural environment, transportation issues present as a barrier

Access to supportive primary care can be a problem

Access to substitution therapies is a challenge

Next Steps continued..

Develop community opioid response

Increase monitoring and surveillance

Work with physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, dentists about safe prescribing

Public awareness

Education to target groups

Engage municipal leaders

What can municipal leaders do?

Understand the opioid crisis as an indicator of overall community health

Avoid stigmatizing people who use opioids

Evaluate the level of harm reduction supports in your community

- Do you have a program for community sharps disposal?
- Do you have needle exchange services available for residents?
- Do you have naloxone available for residents that need it most?

What can Municipal Leaders Do?.

Utilize a “Health in all Policies” approach in municipal and county level policies

Advocate for funding to address the root causes of addictions and mental health and the need for increase support for those most vulnerable such as

- Safe and affordable housing
- Access to health care services in your community
- Access to transportation
- Childcare and social support programs

Cannabis Legalization in Ontario: An Update



What we know as of now

- Legal Age
- Where you can use cannabis
- Road Safety
- Cannabis Sales
- Public Education



Questions?