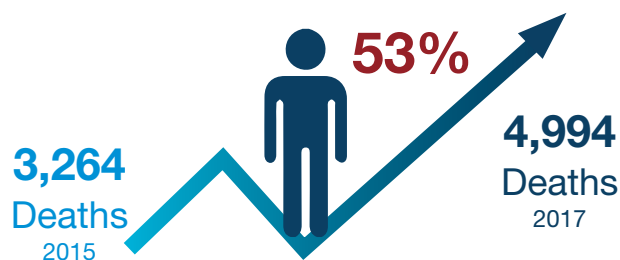
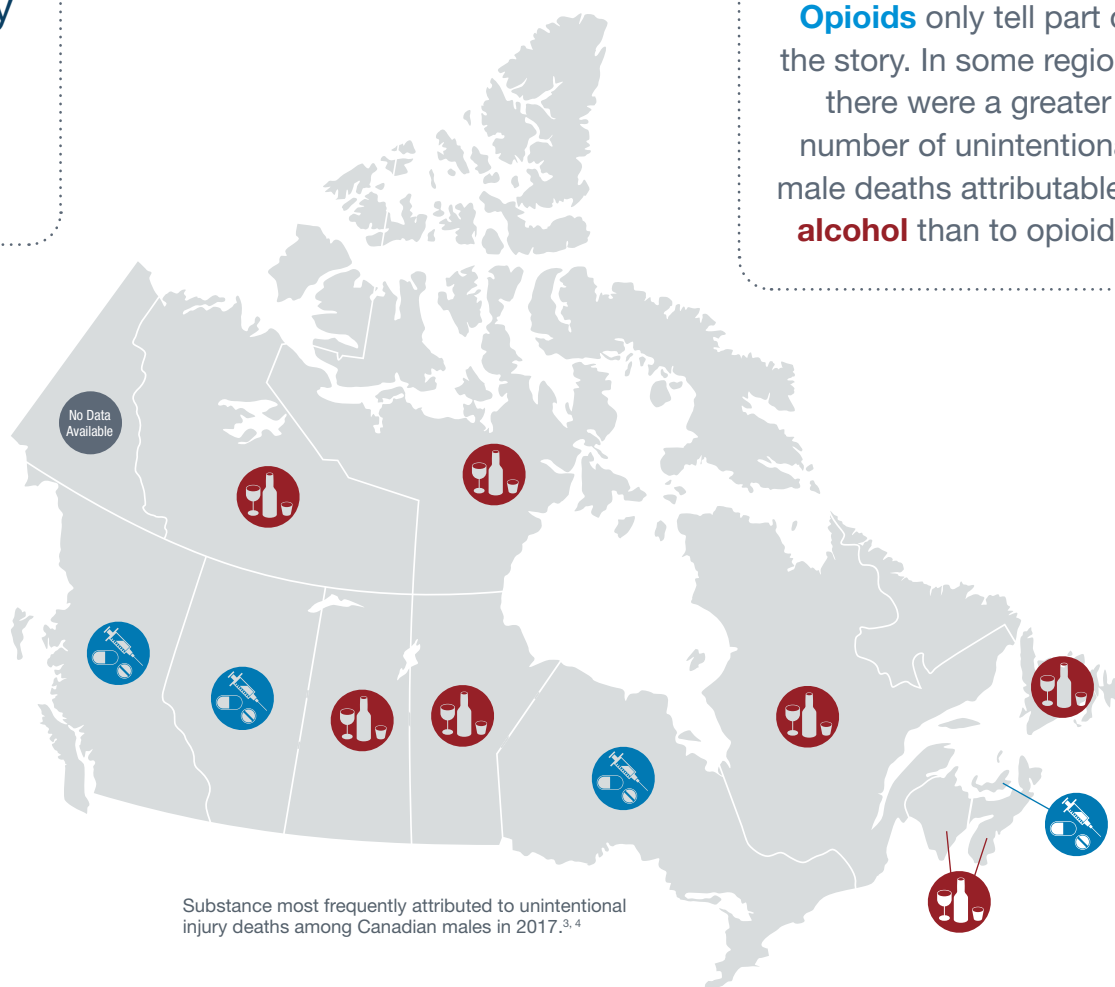
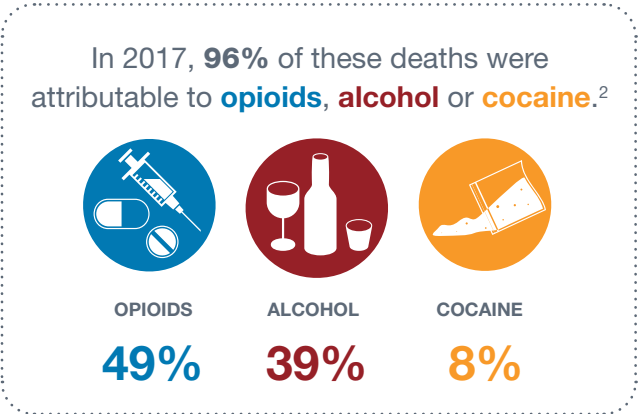


## Substance Use Harms among Canadian Men: A Spotlight on Unintentional Deaths

In just 3 years, unintentional injury deaths attributable to substance use among Canadian males increased by more than 50%.<sup>1</sup>



Opioids only tell part of the story. In some regions, there were a greater number of unintentional male deaths attributable to alcohol than to opioids.



## Context matters!

Individual and social factors shape health outcomes, including rates of deaths attributable to substance use among Canadians.<sup>5</sup>

It is important to consider these factors when analyzing and interpreting rates of substance-use attributable deaths across Canada.



Childhood experiences



Physical environments



Education and literacy



Income and social status



Employment and working conditions



Access to health and social services



Social environment and supports



Race and culture



Biology and genetics



Gender

<sup>1</sup> In this case, substance use attributable, unintentional injury deaths refer to accidental poisonings by alcohol, opioids or cocaine, as well as falls, drowning, fires, other unintentional injuries and accidental poisonings by alcohol. See *Canadian Substance Use Cost and Harms Report (2020)* for more information.

<sup>2</sup> Substance-use attributable deaths include records in which one substance was identified as contributing to the death, and records in which multiple substances were indicated. In the latter case, we created drug poisoning weights to distribute deaths attributable to polysubstance use based on the relative proportions of substance use-attributable deaths in which only one substance was considered a contributor.

<sup>3</sup> Some jurisdictional differences in the death investigation and classification process, toxicology testing or type of data reported could affect the rates. For more information see [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6034966/pdf/38\\_6\\_2.pdf](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6034966/pdf/38_6_2.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Excluding Yukon. Mortality data were not available from Statistics Canada Vital Statistics database for 2017.

<sup>5</sup> To learn more about how the social determinants of health can shape health outcomes see [Social determinants of health and health inequalities](#).