

THE OPIOID CRISIS

The United States and Canada's Fentanyl Epidemic

What is Fentanyl?

Low doses of fentanyl are prescribed by doctors to treat severe pain. It is more addictive and dangerous than other opioid medications. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl that is created in China arrives in postal and commercial modes has increased the supply and availability.

The U.S. and Canada are the world's largest consumers of opioids per capita.¹

CANADA

10,000+ opioid-related deaths since 2016.²

* About the same number as Canadian casualties at Vimy Ridge.³

Provinces with Highest Opioid-Related Fatality Rates⁴



30.6 per 100,000 population



18.0 per 100,000 population



MALE TO FEMALE RATIO FOR OVERDOSES IN BC, AB, YK, AND THE NWT⁵

UNITED STATES

60,000+ fentanyl and other synthetic opioid-related deaths since 2013.^{6,7}

* Slightly more than all U.S. casualties of the Korean War.⁸

States with Highest Opioid-Related Fatality Rates⁹



57.8 per 100,000 population



46.3 per 100,000 population



MALE TO FEMALE RATIO FOR OVERDOSES IN THE U.S.¹⁰

Sources:

1. Belzak and Halverson, 2018.
2. Health Canada, 2019.
3. Canadian War Museum, n.d.
4. Health Canada, 2019.
5. Belzak and Halverson.

6. Spencer et al., 2019.
7. German Lopez, 2017.
8. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2017.
9. Hedegaard et al., 2019.
10. Martha Bebinger, 2019.

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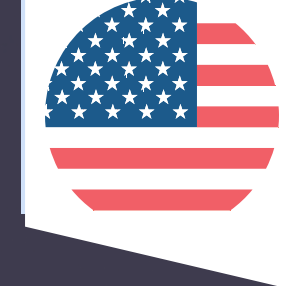
Public Policies Regulating Opioid Consumption



2017 Amendments

The federal government made the following changes to the *Controlled Drugs and Substance Act* and the *Customs Act*:

- Streamlined applications for supervised consumption sites.
- Prohibited the importation of devices used to make fentanyl such as pill presses and encapsulators.
- Allowed Canada Border Services Agency officers to search mail weighing 30g or less.



Good Samaritan Laws

36 states have civil protection laws in place and 33 states have criminal protection laws to protect bystanders who help overdose victims. This encourages bystanders, who may be consumers themselves, to help rather than avoid calling 911.¹²

- Supervised consumption sites are illegal.
- The federal government has barred sites from opening in Seattle, Denver, New York, and Philadelphia.¹³

Federal Programs in Canada and the U.S.^{14, 15}

39 SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITES ACROSS CANADA

2 NON-SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITES IN CANADA

33 SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND ADDICTION PROGRAMS

54 TREATMENT PROGRAMS FOR FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT

0 SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITES IN THE U.S.

\$1.5 BILLION GRANTS FOR ADDICTION PROGRAMS

Sources:

11. Health Canada, 2017.

12. The Network for Public Health Law, 2018.

For a complete list of US States, visit: <https://buff.ly/328fN55>

13. Bobby Allyn, 2019.

14. Department of Health and Human Services. (2019)

15. Health Canada, 2019.

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Prevention and Treatment Availability

What is Naloxone?

Naloxone is a medication given to suspected overdose victims. It is commonly called by its brand name Narcan. There are two forms available via injection or by nasal spray.¹⁶



FREE

and available over-the-counter at pharmacies across Canada.¹⁷

- ▶ Injectable doses available in all provinces
- ▶ Nasal spray doses available: ON, QC, NWT



\$40

per dose of Naloxone (generic brand).¹⁸

- ▶ Injectable and nasal spray doses available in all states
- ▶ Available without a prescription at major pharmacies in approximately 35 states

Chemical & Technological Precautionary Measures for Consumers

Consumers can chemically analyze their drugs for the presence of substances like fentanyl through the use of Fourier Transform Infrared Technology (FTIR) and Fentanyl Test Strips (FTS).¹⁹

Beacon Dispatch & OD Help

Opiate Overdose Response

Drug and Poison Coach

Second Chance

APPS

that can detect an overdose and notify emergency personnel.

- ✓ Help bystanders to give aid to overdose victims and can notify emergency personnel.
- ✓ Connect consumers to a crowd-sourced network of naloxone carriers.
- ✓ Monitor drug consumers' vital signs and send an alert when breaths diminish or if they lose vital signs.
- ✓ Available internationally.^{20, 21, 22}

Created by Morgan Leung, Canada Institute

Sources:

16. Fairbairn et al., 2017.
17. CBC, 2019.
18. CNBC, 2019.
19. Sherman et al., 2019.

20. Fairbairn et al.
21. Photiou and Stevens, 2015.
22. Sarah McQuate, 2019.
* Pending FDA approval

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