

# THE IMPACT OF THE OPIOID CRISIS ON FIRST NATIONS IN BC

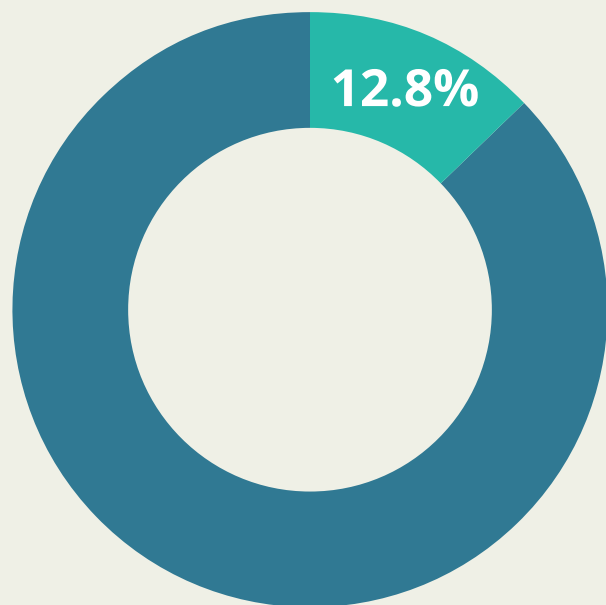
## THE SITUATION

The death rate from opioid-related overdoses continues to rise for First Nations, making it a severe and growing threat to our wellness and the health of our communities.



**21% INCREASE**  
2017 TO 2018

In 2018, **193 First Nations men and women died** of an overdose in BC. A 21% increase from 2017 when there was 159 First Nations deaths.



In 2018, **12.8%** of all overdose deaths in BC were in First Nations people. This is

**4.2X**

the rate observed among other Residents who experience overdose deaths. It was 3.4 in 2017

THE CRISIS IS BEING EXPERIENCED MOST ACUTELY IN CITIES.



FIRST NATIONS MEN + WOMEN  
**OVERDOSE EVENTS**

**54%**  
MEN



**46%**  
WOMEN

AMONG NON-FIRST NATIONS THIS RATIO IS **73% MEN & 27% WOMEN**



FIRST NATIONS MEN + WOMEN  
**OVERDOSE DEATHS**

**61%**  
MEN



**39%**  
WOMEN

AMONG NON-FIRST NATIONS THIS RATIO IS **83% MEN & 17% WOMEN**

**THE GAP BETWEEN FIRST NATIONS + NON-FIRST NATIONS IS WIDE & GETTING WIDER**

**WHY?**

### RACISM AND STIGMA

Systemic Racism toward First Nations is a barrier to health care

### ACCESS TO TREATMENT

First Nations peoples report less access to mental health and addiction treatment that is culturally safe and appropriate

### SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

First Nations in BC are less advantaged than many other populations

### INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

Unresolved Intergenerational Trauma is associated with a higher risk of substance use

# WHAT ARE WE DOING?

## FOUR PILLARS: A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

### PILLAR 1

PREVENT PEOPLE WHO OVERDOSE FROM DYING

- **NALOXONE TRAINING EXPANSION**  
>2430 COMMUNITY MEMBERS FROM 175+ FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES TRAINED TO PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS AND SAVE LIVES



### PILLAR 2

KEEP PEOPLE SAFE WHEN USING

- **180+ HARM REDUCTION CHAMPIONS TRAINED**
- **ESTABLISHING PEER COORDINATORS IN ALL 5 REGIONS**



### PILLAR 3

CREATE AN ACCESSIBLE RANGE OF TREATMENT OPTIONS

- **\$40 MILLION** TO BUILD NEW URBAN TREATMENT CENTRES AND UPGRADE EXISTING TREATMENT CENTRES
- **100% OF NURSING STATIONS** DELIVERING OPIOID AGONIST THERAPY (OAT)
- **INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT (ICM) TEAMS** SERVED 662 CLIENTS



### PILLAR 4

SUPPORT PEOPLE ON THEIR HEALING JOURNEY

- **55 HARM REDUCTION PROJECTS** TOTALING **\$2.4 MILLION**
- **"UNLOCKING THE GATES"** (TRANSITIONING FROM CORRECTIONS) **26 WOMEN** SUPPORTED TO DATE



## WHAT MORE IS NEEDED?



Increase services and supports for First Nations women

Prioritize urban response



Work with our system partners to enhance cultural safety and humility

