



THE OPIOID CRISIS IN ALBERTA

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE OPIOID RESPONSE INITIATIVE

IN 2018, ~2 INDIVIDUALS DIED EVERY DAY IN ALBERTA AS A RESULT OF OPIOIDS

TO PUT THAT IN PERSPECTIVE FOR 2017:

687

OPIOID

VS

84

INFLUENZA

DEATHS DUE TO OPIOIDS HAVE OCCURRED IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH AVERAGE INCOMES OF \$30,000 AS WELL AS ONES OF MORE THAN \$80,000

ALL ALBERTA COMMUNITIES ARE IMPACTED BY OPIOIDS



THERE IS HOPE BECAUSE IN THE YEAR BEFORE THEIR DEATH, THEY HAD CONTACT WITH THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO **CHANGE THE OUTCOME**

47% HAD A SUBSTANCE ABUSE VISIT

...

RECEIVED OPIOIDS FROM A PHARMACY **60%**

CANADA

#2 PRESCRIPTION OPIOID USE (PER CAPITA)



ALBERTA

#1 HIGHEST PROVINCIAL OPIOID CONSUMPTION

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT IMPLEMENTING
THE MEDICAL HOME & CREATING SAFER
OPIOID USE FOR ALL ALBERTANS**

- There is an opioid crisis in Alberta.
- Opioids are powerful medications that require careful monitoring.
- A different conversation about the use of opioids is required.
- Success will require partnerships with multiple stakeholders.
- There is hope for the future.
- Primary care physicians and team members are part of the solution through:
 - Initiating conversations about opioid use
 - Implementing practice change
 - Identifying patients at risk
 - Optimizing patient care management and prescribing
 - Supporting patients to initiate & maintain opioid agonist therapy
 - Coordinating care with other parts of the system to support patient needs
- A whole-person approach using a biopsychosocial-spiritual model is important.
- Patient autonomy and goals need to be respected.
- The care team in the medical home is well positioned to understand and meet patients where they are at.
- Recovery is a unique experience for each person and it's often complex including relapses.
- Harm reduction is essential for safer substance use.
- Change agents can help lead quality improvement work in the medical home, including using measurement to track progress.
- Opioid use is often a symptom of deeper needs.