

2019 Opioid Mortality in Ontario *and preliminary 2020 trends*

Prepared for Ontario Harm Reduction Network
Quarterly Meeting

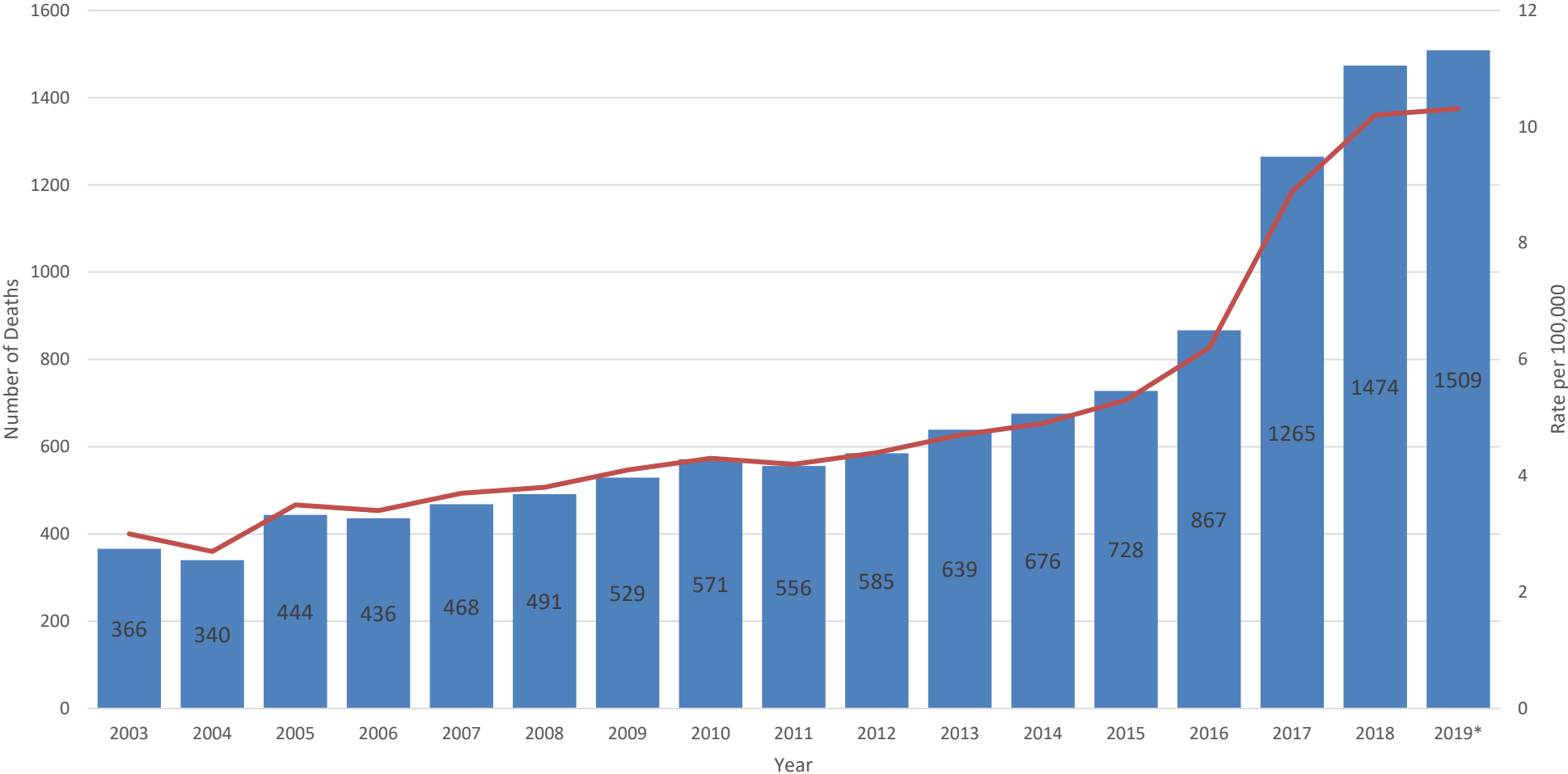
By the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario
Data effective July 17, 2020

2019 Summary

Based on preliminary data for 2019

- 1509 opioid-related deaths in 2019 in Ontario
 - 3% increase over 2018
 - Males 25-44 years continue to be most impacted age group (increased rate in 2019)
 - 77% of deaths fentanyl or fentanyl analogues directly contributed to the death
 - 485 deaths carfentanil directly contributed (5x more deaths than 2018)
 - Stimulants are the most common non-opioid substances also directly contributing to these deaths
 - methamphetamine involvement increased in 2019 (direct contributor in 1/5 deaths)
- **Preliminary information shows an increase in opioid-related deaths occurred in April, 2020**

Opioid-related Deaths in Ontario, 2003 to 2019



* 2019 data is preliminary , includes 60 probable cases



Opioid-related deaths in 2020

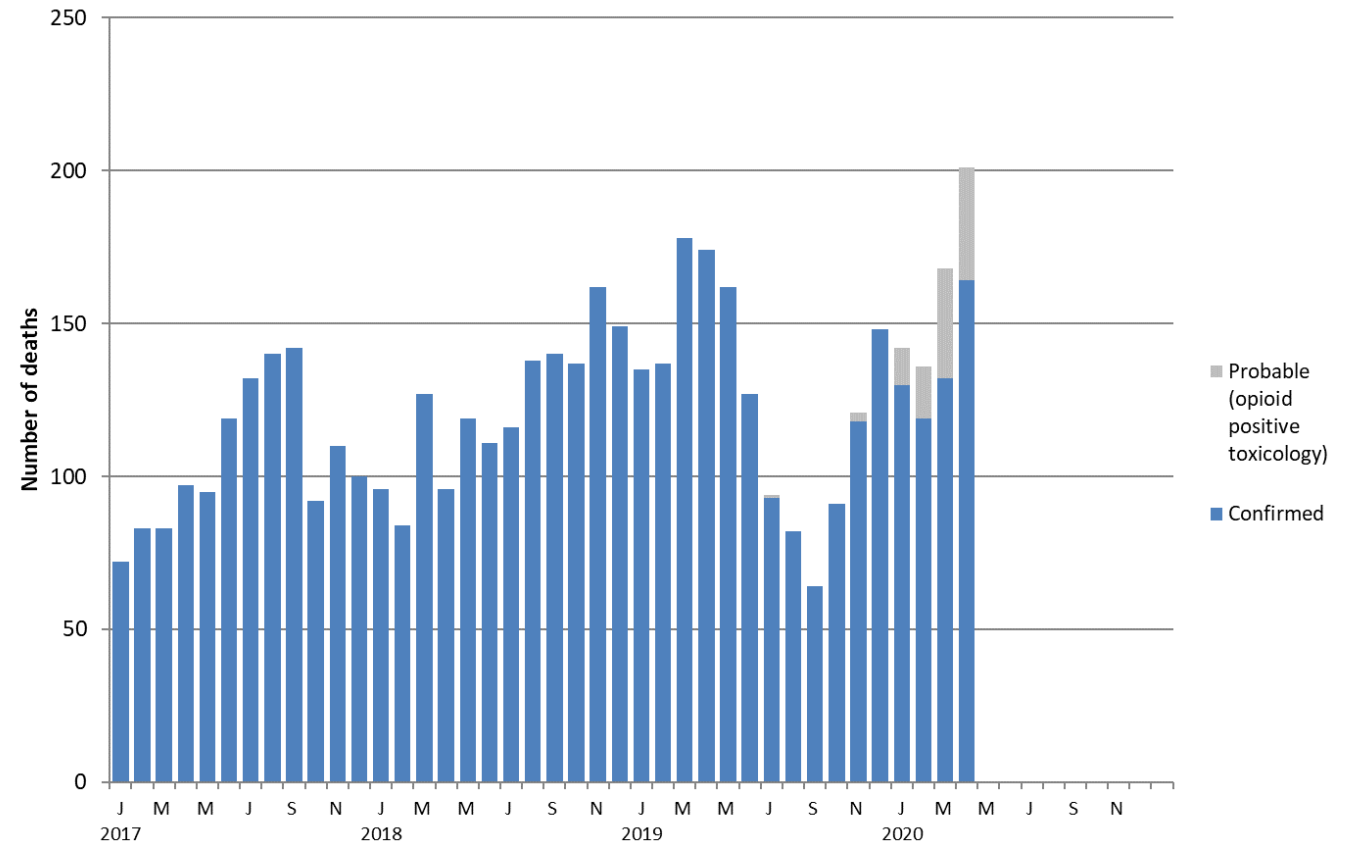
445 confirmed opioid-related deaths have occurred to date from Jan-April 2020 (+102 pending confirmation).

The total opioid-related deaths for Q1 2020 was similar to Q1 2019.

April appears to be on track for the highest monthly number of deaths we have seen to date (at least 25% increase – upwards to 50% increase above the monthly median for 2019 (131 deaths)).

In both Q1 and April 2020, fentanyl was one of the substances directly contributing to death in about 80% of deaths,

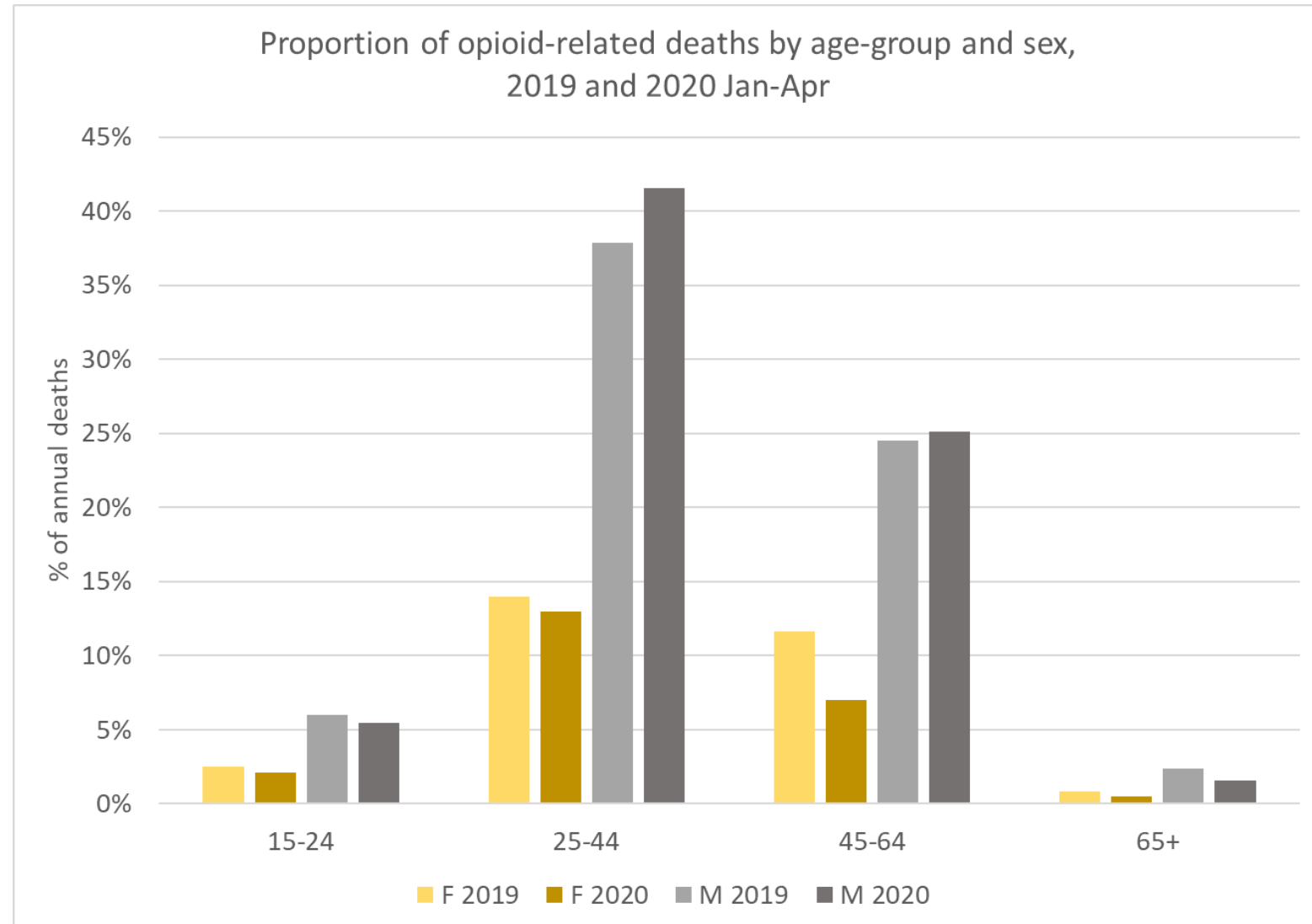
Opioid-related Deaths in Ontario, 2017 to April 2020



Source: Office of the Chief Coroner, preliminary data effective July 17, 2020

Opioid-related deaths by age and sex, 2019 and 2020 Jan-April

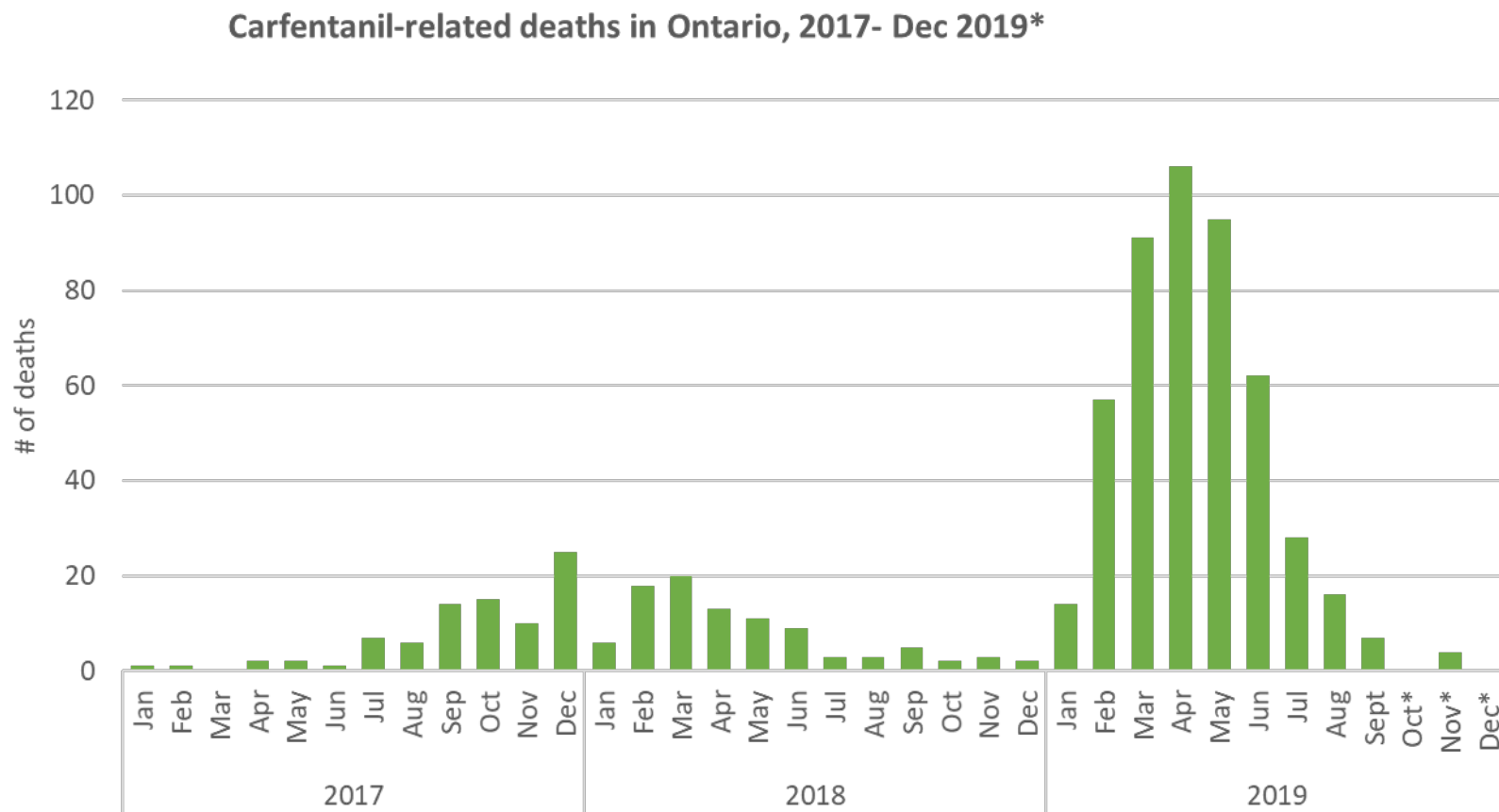
Preliminary information for 2020 indicates % of opioid-related deaths that were males aged 25-44 increased



Opioid-related deaths involving carfentanil

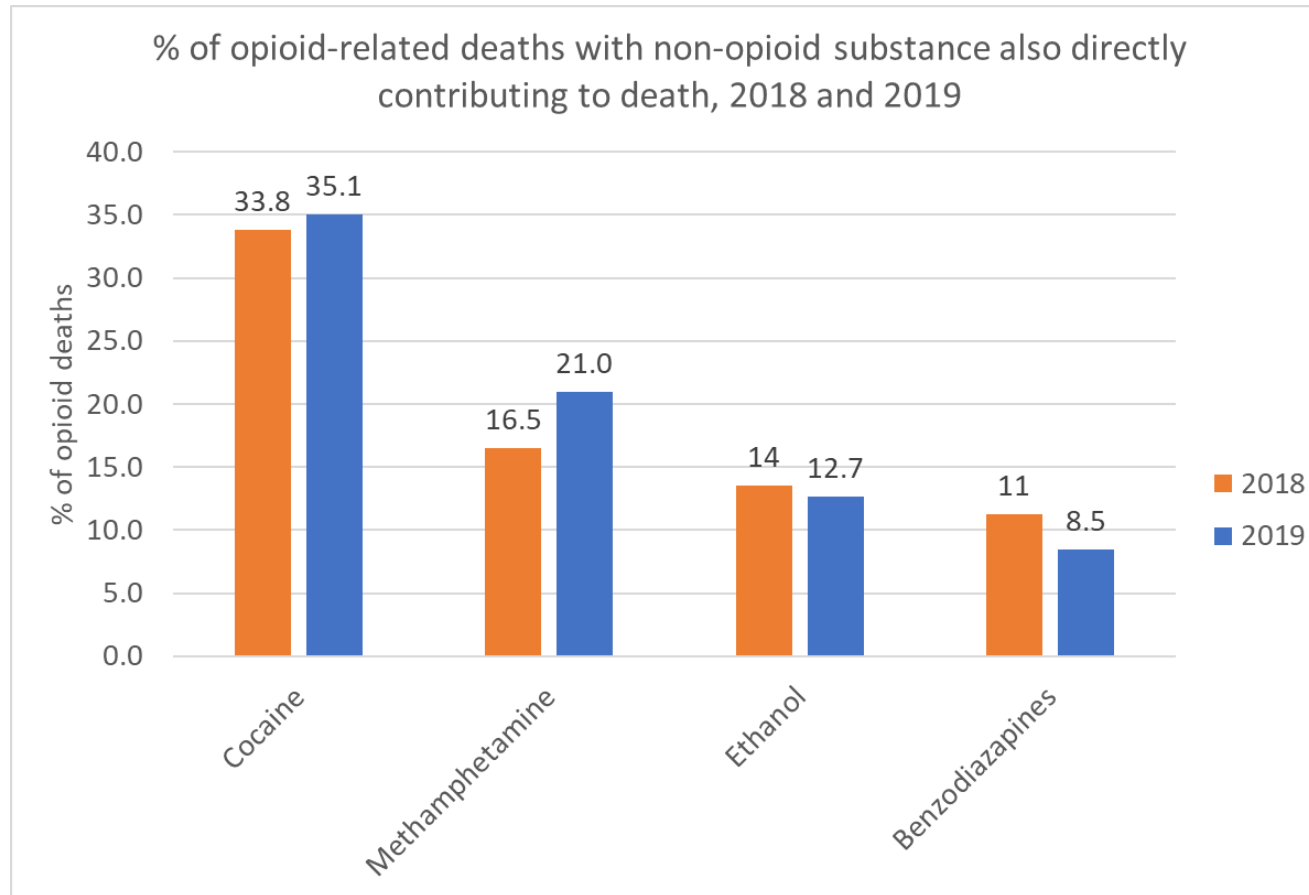
In 2019, carfentanil-related deaths represented about 1/3 of all opioid-related deaths

Year	# of carfentanil related deaths
2017	80
2018	95
2019*	485
Jan-Apr 2020*	1
*Preliminary	



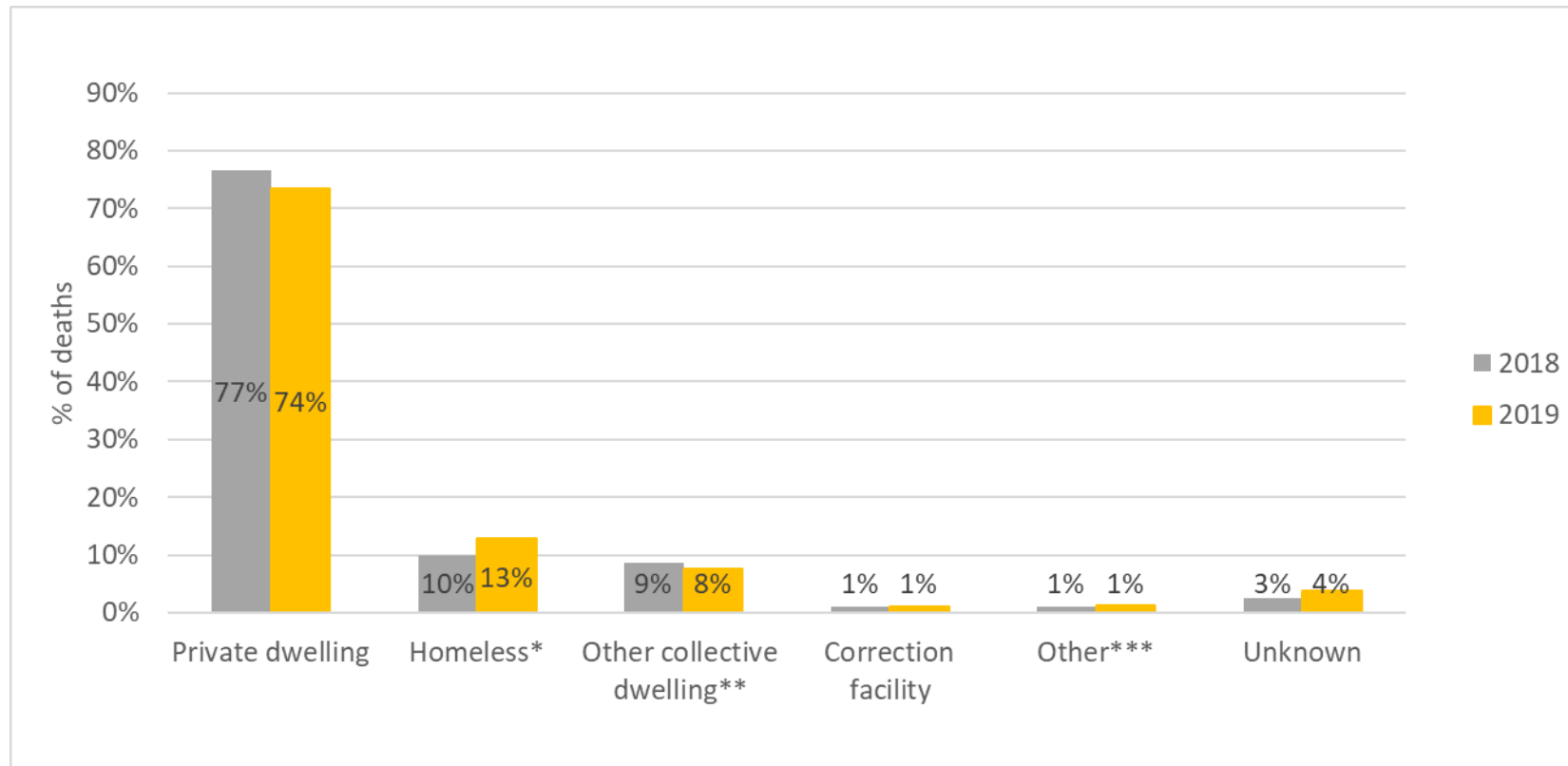
*Preliminary. Data effective July 13, 2020

Poly-substance involvement in opioid-related deaths, 2018 and 2019



* *Preliminary - ~30 deaths not included

Accidental opioid-related deaths by living arrangements of the deceased person, 2018 and 2019, Ontario



The majority of individuals lived in private dwellings but the % that were identified as homeless increased in 2019.

**includes unsheltered, emergency sheltered, provisionally accommodated, or at immediate risk of homelessness*

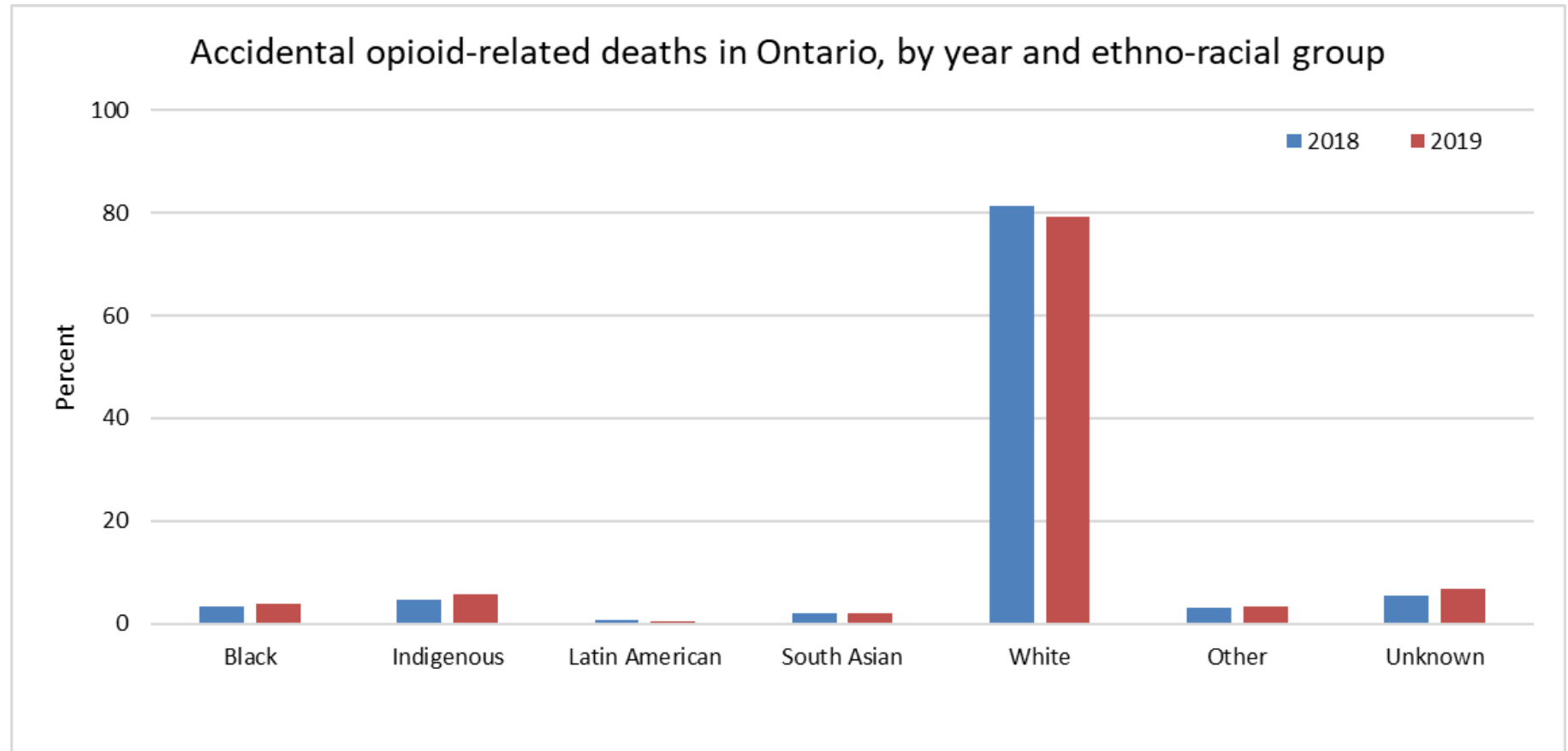
*** (including lodging and rooming houses, hotels, military bases, sober living facility)*

****Other includes:*

- Residential care facility (including group homes),*
- Retirement home (including senior residences),*
- Hospital or Long-term Care home,*
- Mental Health Facility/Mental Health Unit in hospital*

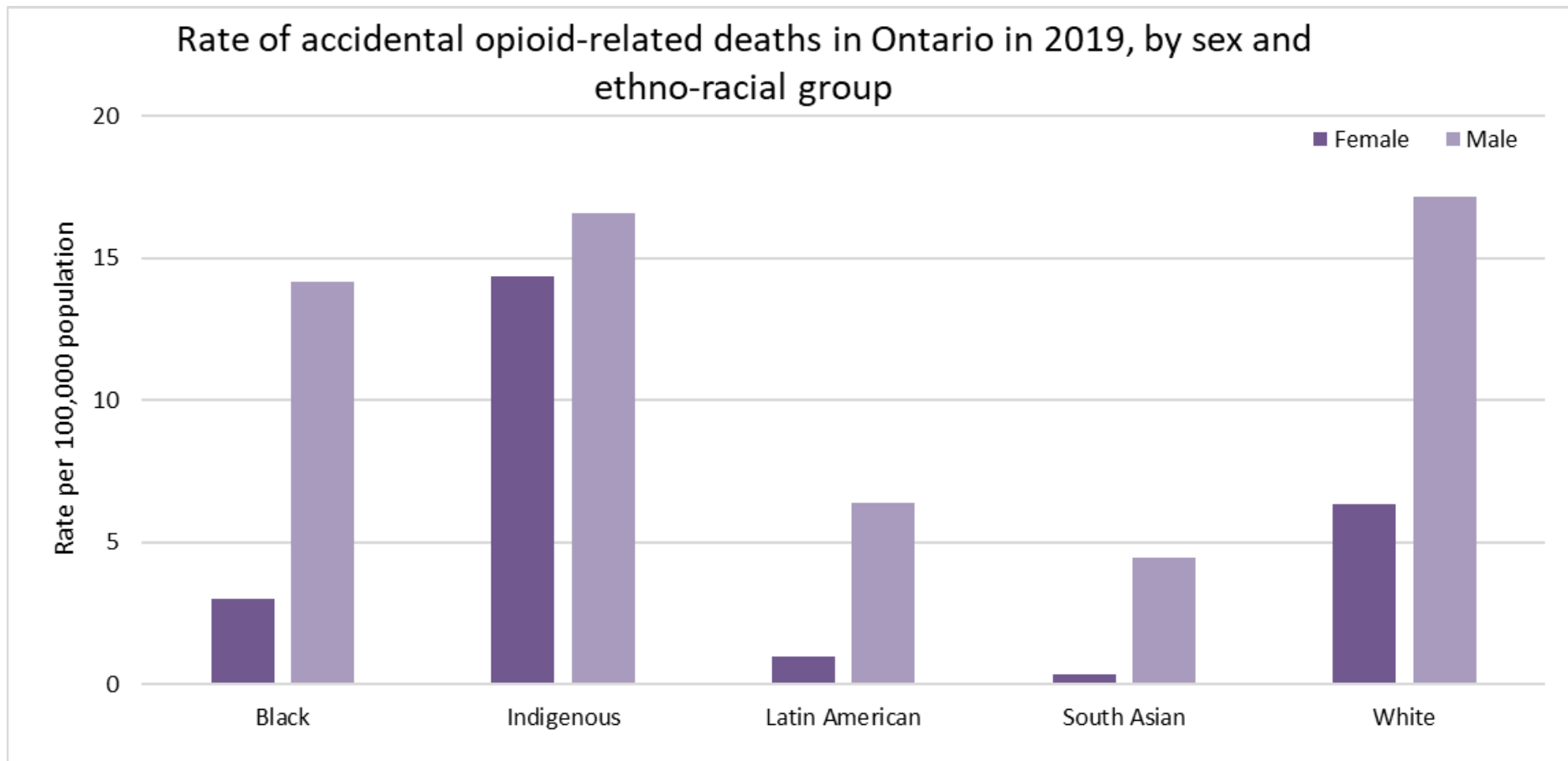
Accidental opioid-related deaths by ethno-racial group

Deceased individuals who were Indigenous and Black made up a slightly higher proportion of accidental opioid-related deaths in 2019 compared to 2018



Notes: Collection of this information may be informed by friends or family; however, there may be limitations, as self-identifying race and ethnicity is not possible.

People may be represented in more than one category.

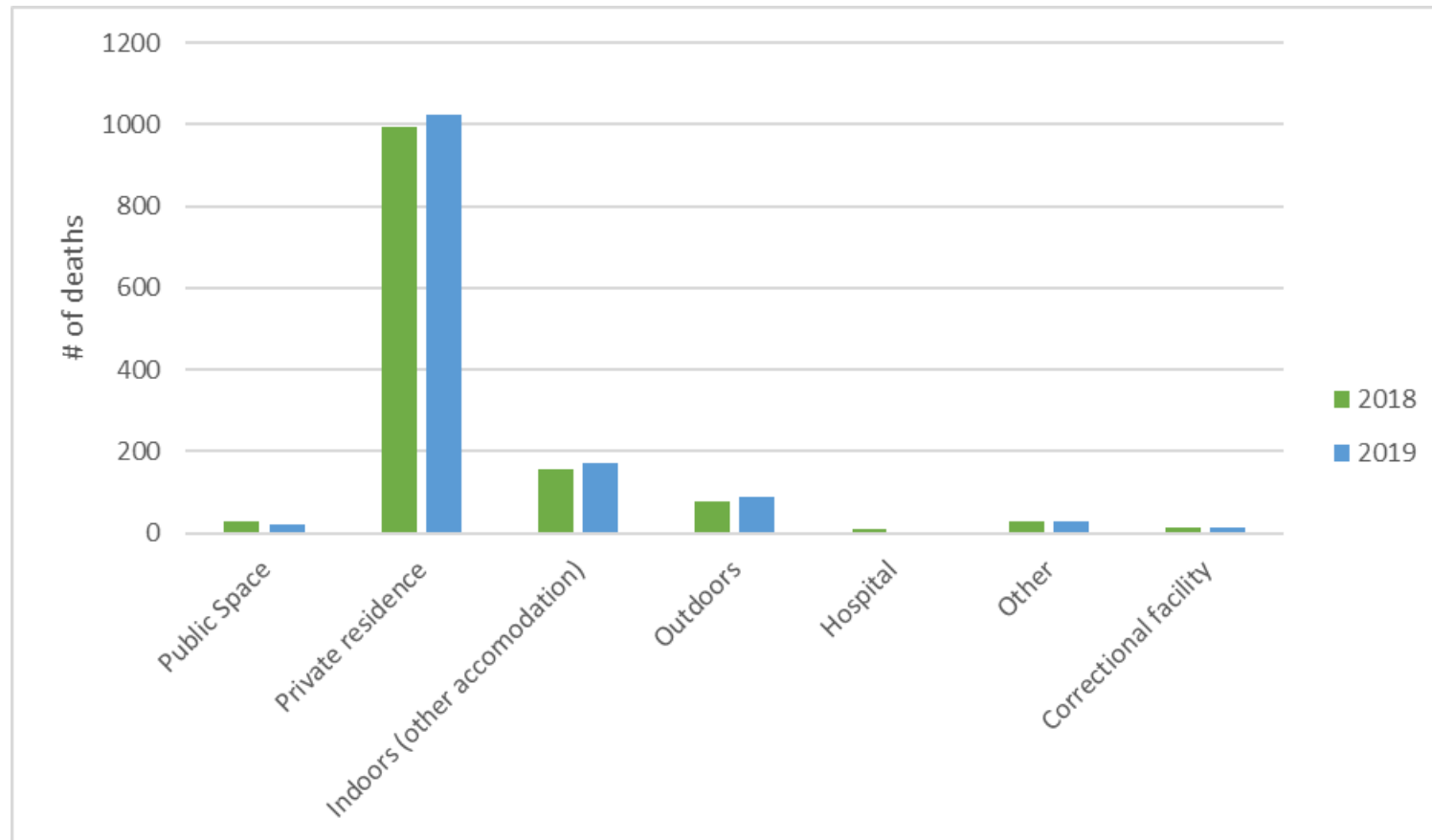


- Although Black and Indigenous decedents made up a small proportion of accidental opioid-related deaths compared to White decedents in 2019, the rate of these deaths per 100,000 population among males was almost as high as it was for White decedents
- The rate of accidental opioid-related deaths per 100,000 population was 2x higher among Indigenous females compared to White females

Notes: Ontario comparisons for “Other” and “Unknown” ethno-racial identities are not captured in the bottom figure.

Ontario general population values are based on Statistics Canada 2016 Census data on visible minorities and ethnic origin for the population in private households.

Accidental Opioid-related Deaths by Location of Incident, 2018 and 2019



In 2019:

- Private residence was the most common location of events leading to opioid-related deaths
- In 23 of the deaths the incident occurred in a shelter (compared to 21 in 2018)
- 52% of individuals were alone at the time of death and no one was around to intervene (data not shown)