

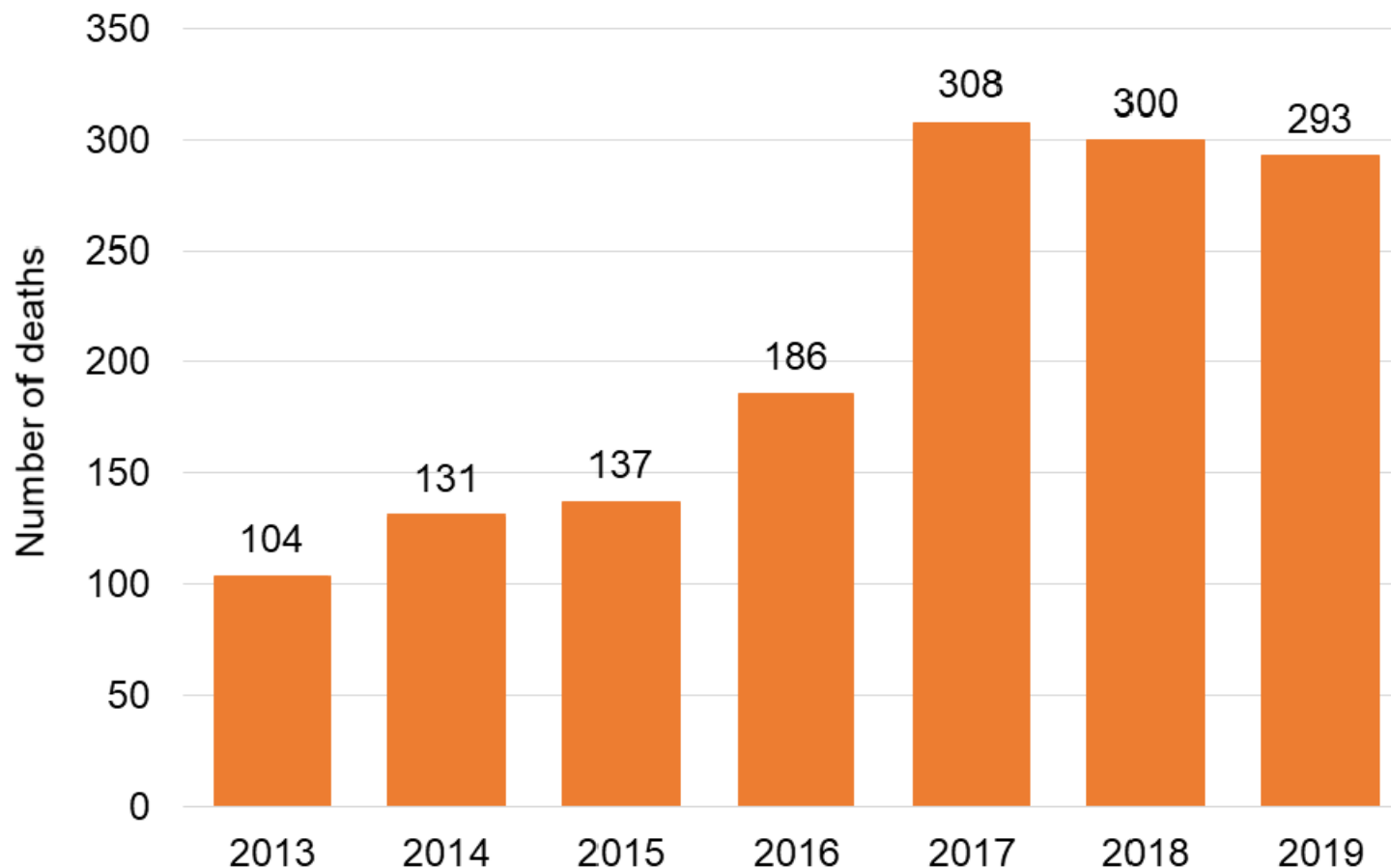
Opioid Poisoning Crisis in Toronto

Presentation to the Board of Health

November 16, 2020

Opioid overdose deaths in Toronto

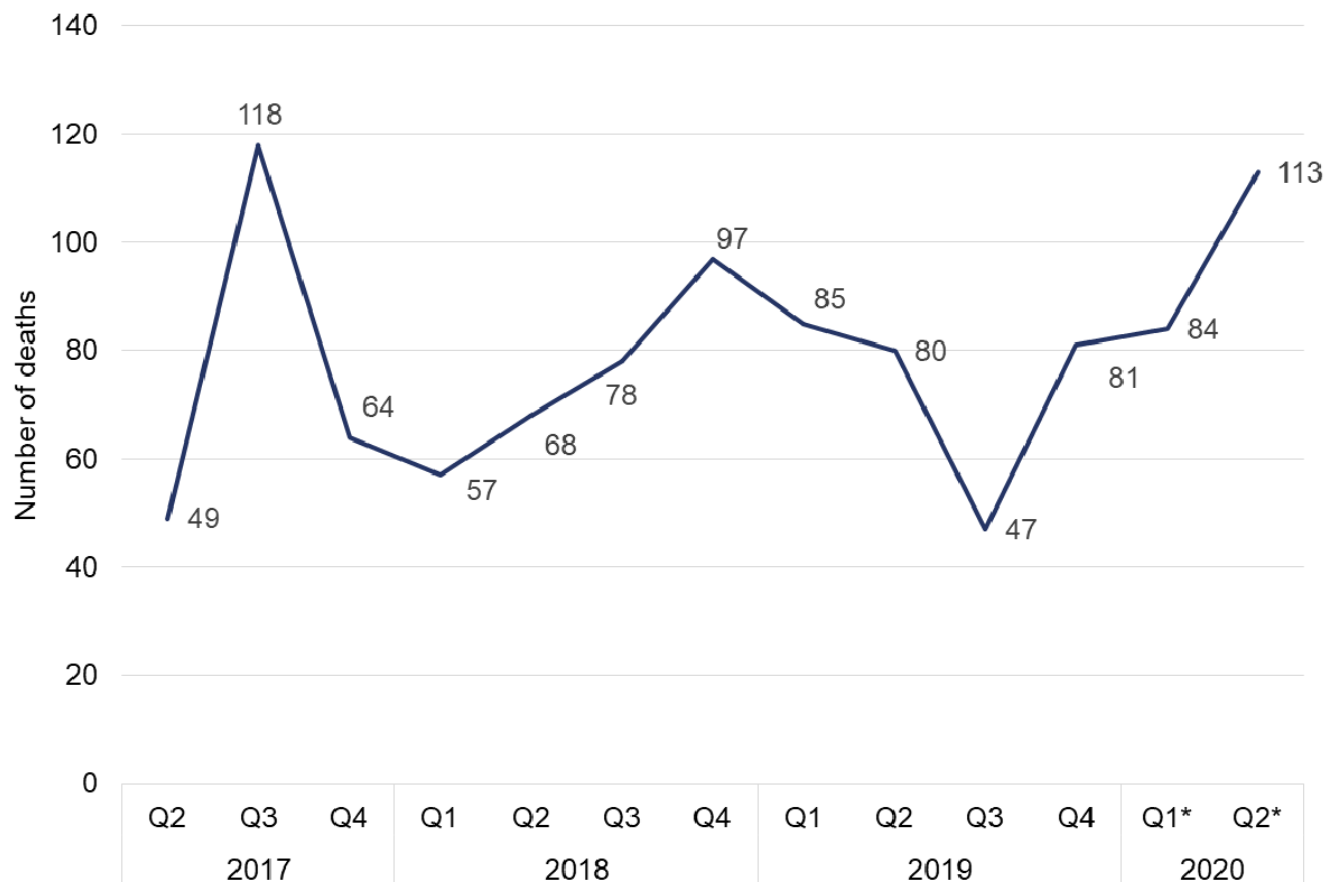
2013 to 2019



Sources: Public Health Ontario. Interactive Opioid Tool. 2013 to 2019.

Coroner's Opioid Investigative Aid, May 2017 to June 2020, Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, extracted October 5, 2020.

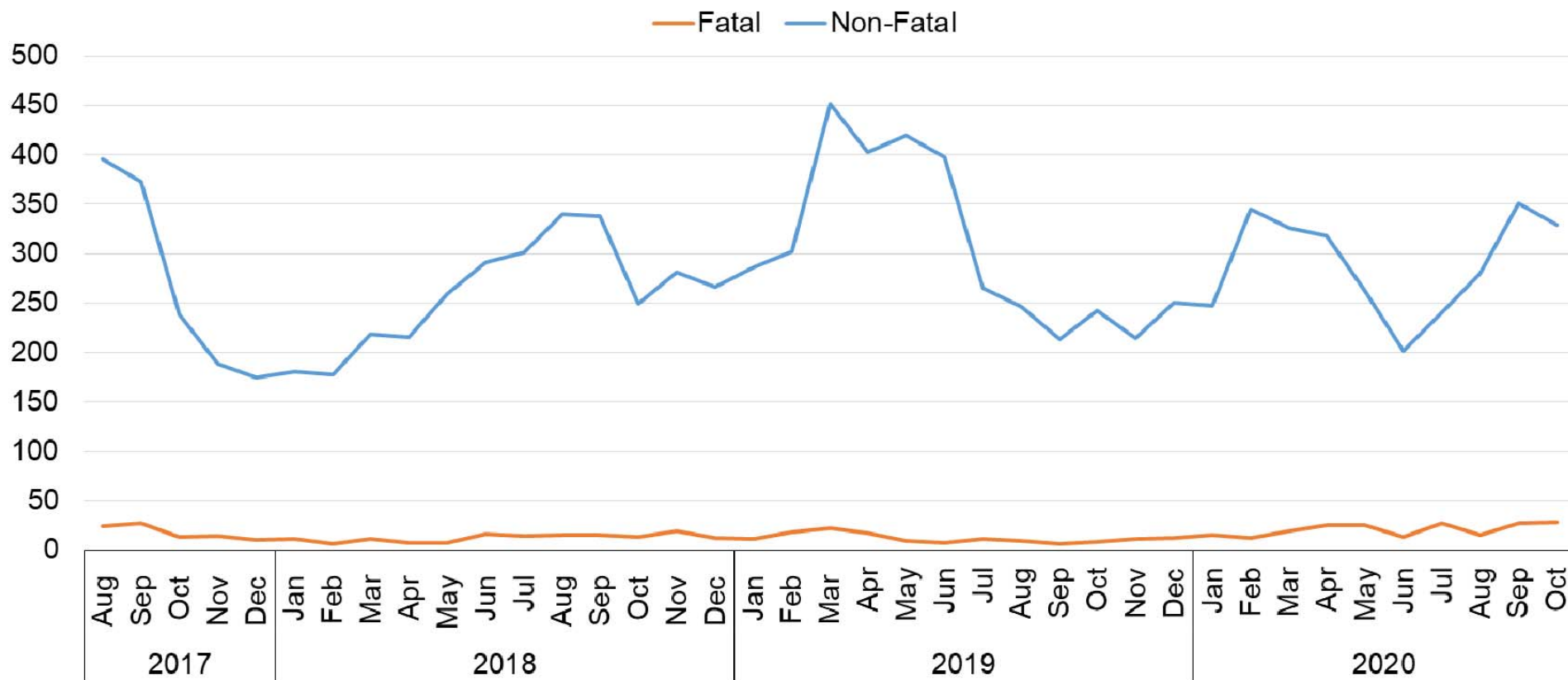
Opioid overdose deaths in Toronto



*Preliminary data. These numbers are expected to change as Coroners complete investigations

Sources: Coroner's Opioid Investigative Aid, May 2017 to June 2020, Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, extracted October 5, 2020.

Suspected opioid overdoses and fatalities attended by paramedics



Source: Toronto Paramedic Services

Impacts of COVID-19 on people who use drugs

- The full impacts are not yet known
- Preliminary reports:
 - Reduction in services
 - Fear of criminalization
 - Change in the availability of drugs
 - Increased need for safer supply
 - Concerns over exposure to COVID-19

Focus of TPH Response

- Implementing the *Toronto Overdose Action Plan*, and addressing emerging issues.
- *Advocacy* to advance key policy issues.
- Monitoring & reporting new data: 11 drug alerts issued during the pandemic.
- Delivery of harm reduction services through The Works, and supporting other harm reduction programs and City divisions.

Federal government:

- decriminalize simple possession of all drugs for personal use
- scale up prevention, harm reduction and treatment services
- expand funding for safer supply programs

Provincial government:

- convene an opioid task force
- support safer supply programs
- create an Urgent Public Health Need Sites program
- support expansion of supervised consumption services + models

Provincial government:

- allocate some of the new treatment funding to Toronto
- designate harm reduction and treatment services as essential services + fund appropriately
- fund grief and trauma supports

Recommendations

- Medical Officer of Health to work with the Executive Director of SDFA to include decriminalization in the City's Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.

Thank You

Questions?