

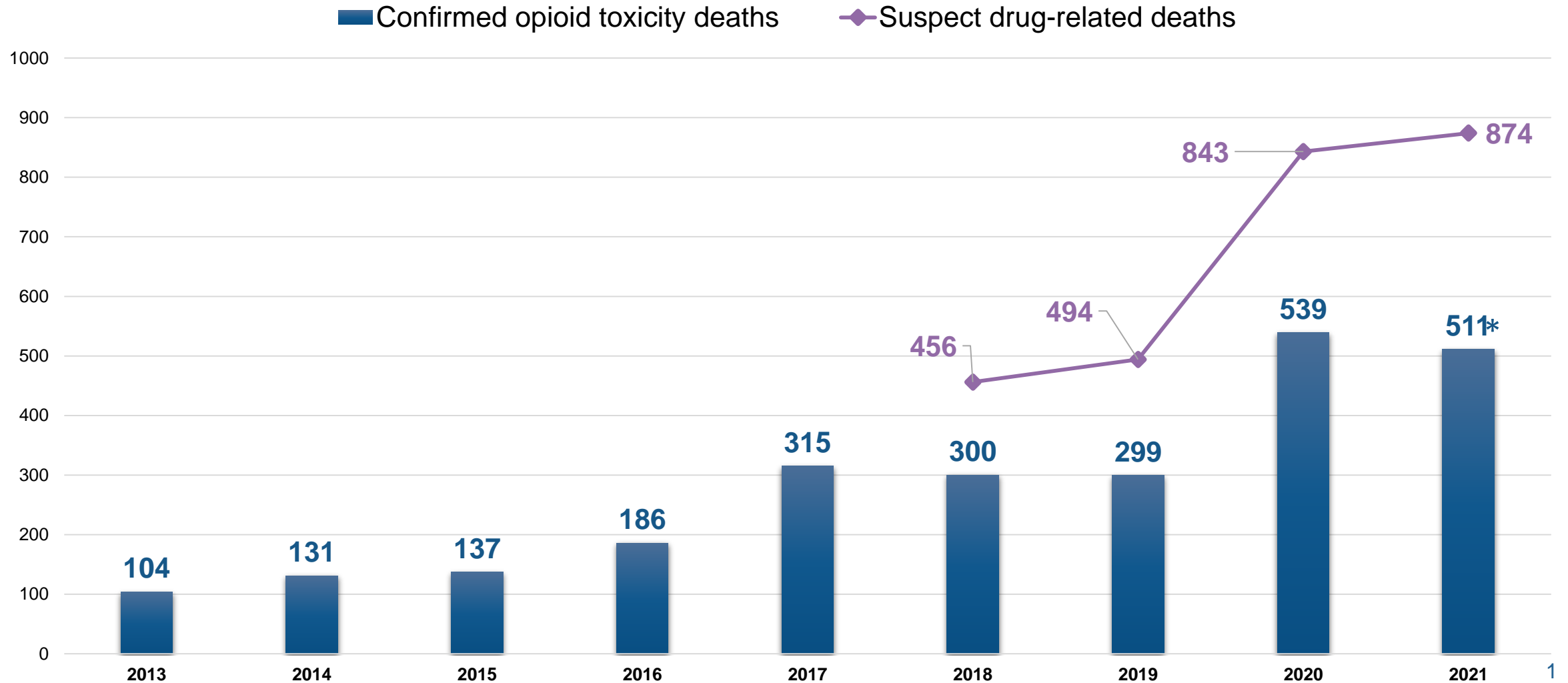
# **Toronto Overdose Action Plan: Status Report 2022**

Board of Health

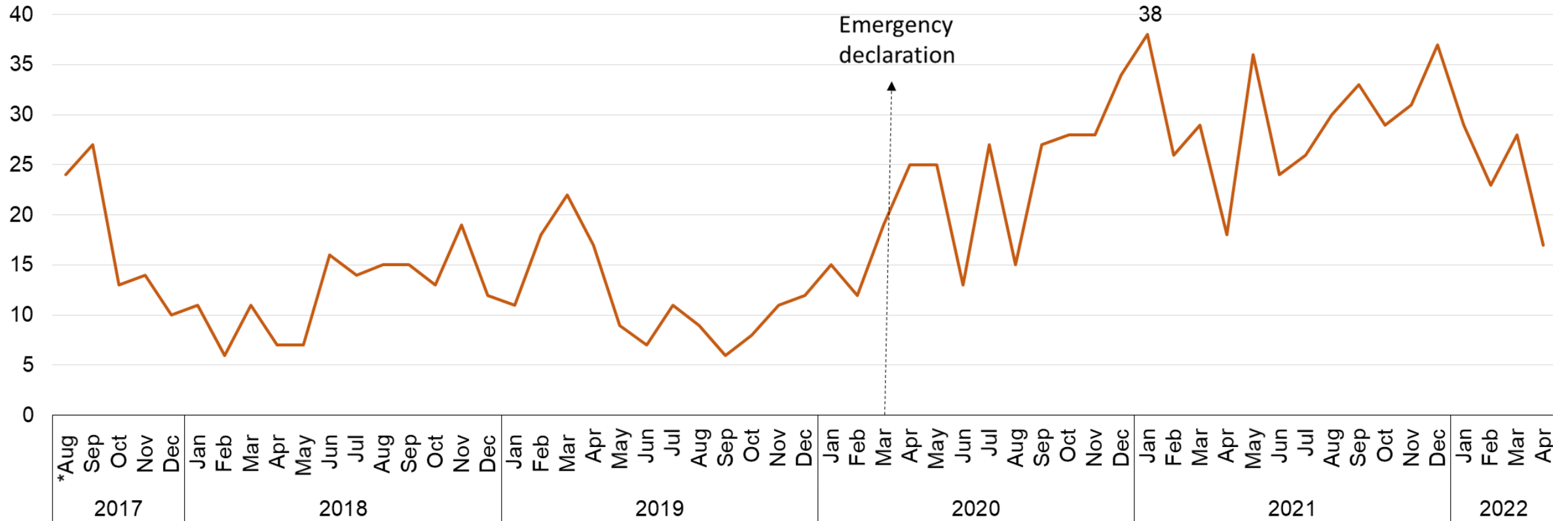
June 20, 2022

# Record numbers of drug-related deaths in Toronto in 2021

## Suspected drug-related and confirmed opioid toxicity deaths in Toronto



# Fatal overdoses attended by paramedics increased since COVID-19



# We are facing a drug poisoning crisis

- Toronto is facing a drug poisoning crisis, with at least 511 preventable deaths in 2021.
- The drug poisoning crisis continues to worsen during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Unregulated drug supply is increasingly dangerous.

## **Worsening crisis**

- increasingly toxic unregulated drug supply
- drug criminalization

## **Actions taken; Partnerships strengthened**

- more are needed
- progress made, but crisis continues

# Critical services are available

- Community alerts and info sharing
- Supervised consumption services
- Safer supply initiatives
- Toronto Community Crisis Service Pilots
- Harm Reduction Training for Indigenous Peoples

- Funding for community-based overdose prevention and response initiatives
- Toronto Opioid Overdose Action Network (TO2AN)
- Toronto Substance Use Crisis Centre
- iPHARE & Shelter Supports
- TCHC Harm Reduction

# Drug policy modernization is needed

- Decriminalization:
  - Exemption request to Health Canada
  - Community engagement
  - Continued collaboration
- Updating Toronto's Drug Strategy



## Federal Government

- National decriminalization for the possession of all drugs for personal use
- Support immediate scale up of prevention, harm reduction and treatment services
- Continued funding and additional support for safer supply options

## Provincial Government

- Scale up prevention, harm reduction, and treatment services, including safe inhalation
- Support more safer supply options, and more consumption and treatment services
- Long-term funding for drug checking
- Fund a Substance Use Crisis Centre and systems-level approaches to crisis

## Medical Officer of Health

- Continue working with Health Canada on decriminalization
- Conduct community consultations throughout 2022 to inform a refreshed Toronto Drug Strategy

- Toronto Public Health remains committed to working with community and government partners to improve our collective response to the drug poisoning crisis.