

# *Our Health, Our City:* Updates

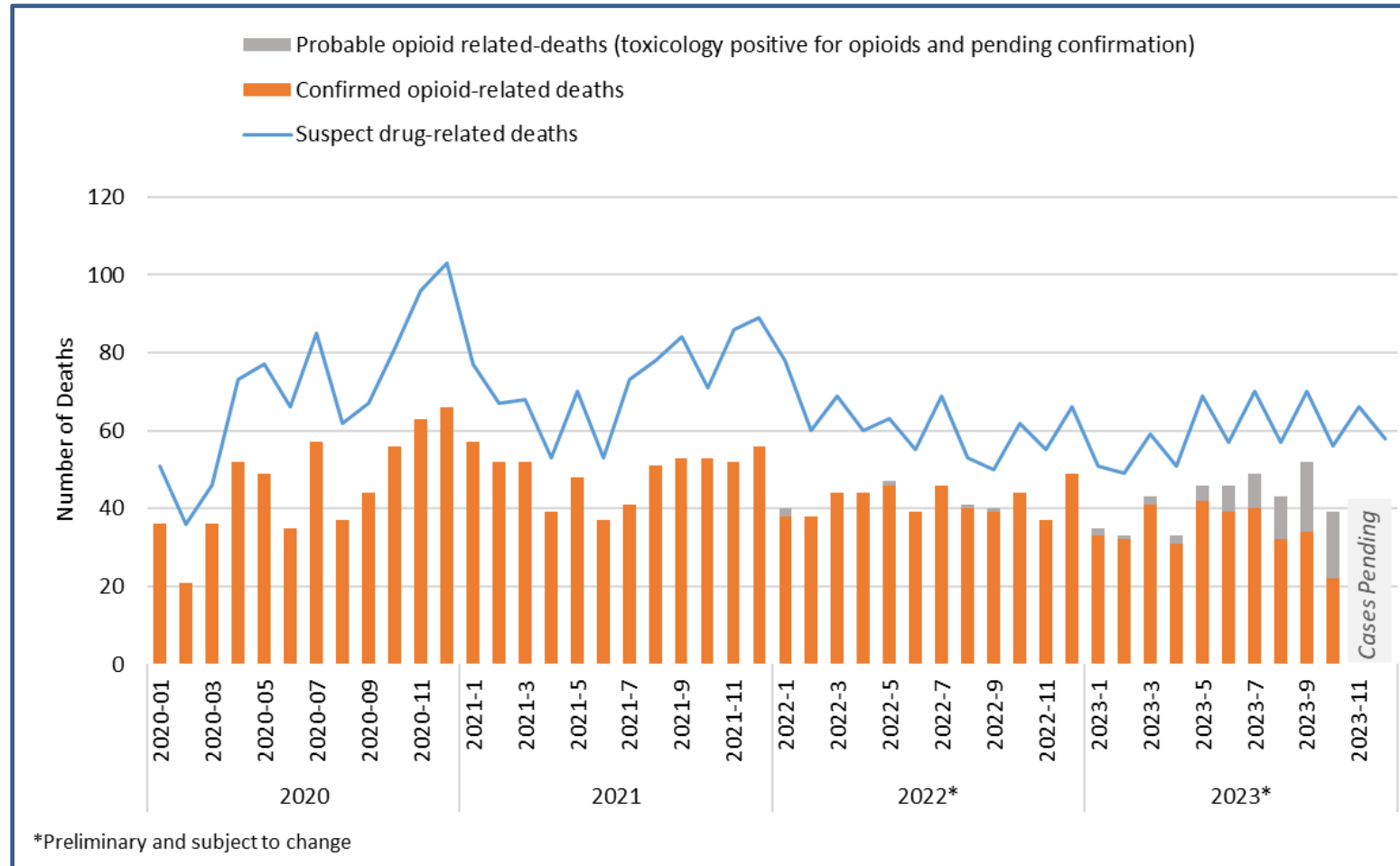
Board of Health  
March 25, 2024



# Overview

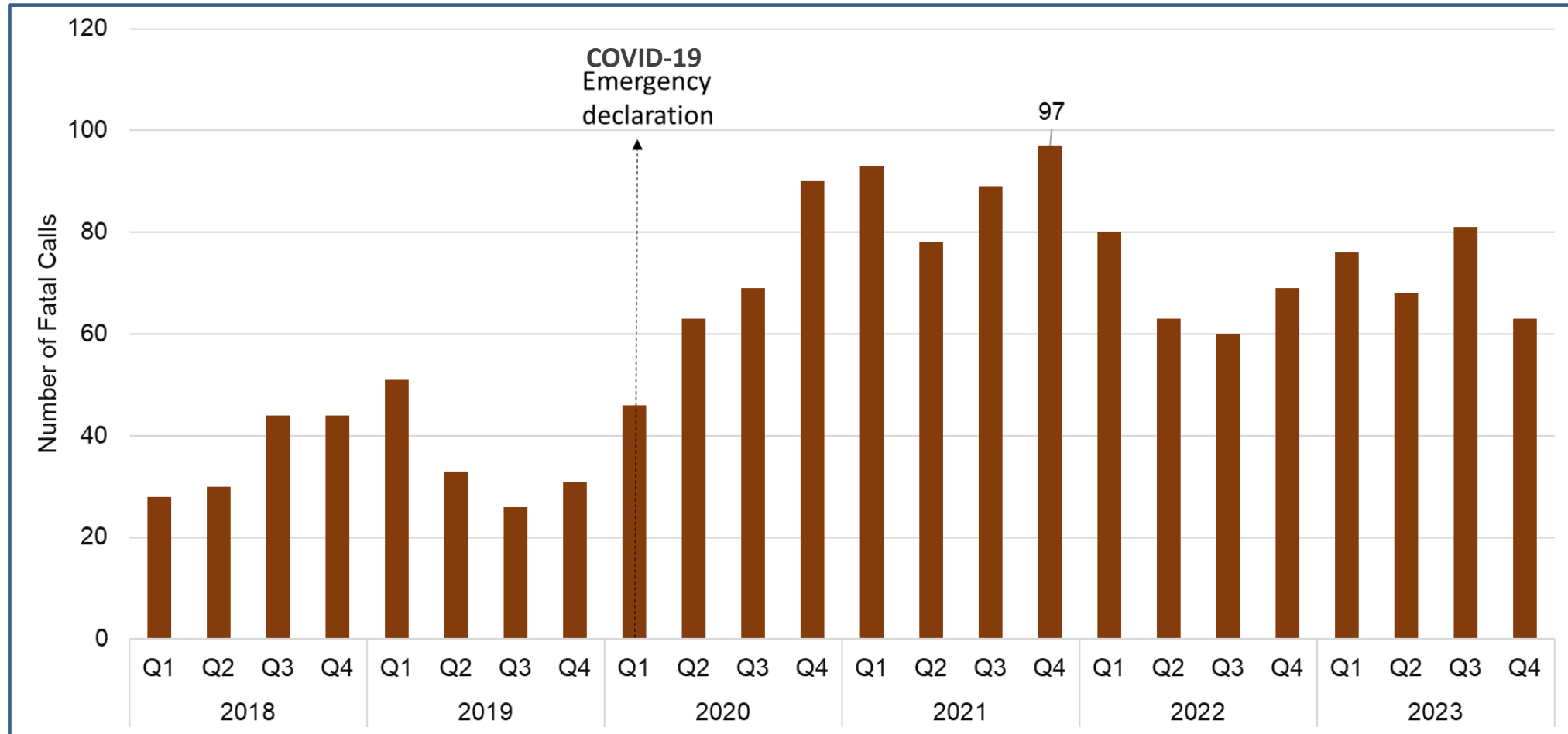
1. Drug Toxicity Crisis Update
2. *Our Health, Our City* Interdivisional Table Update
3. *Our Health, Our City* Year One Implementation Priorities
4. Toronto Public Health Clinical Services and Program Updates
5. *Our Health, Our City* Implementation Panel

# Suspected drug-related deaths and opioid-related deaths in Toronto, January 2020-December 2023



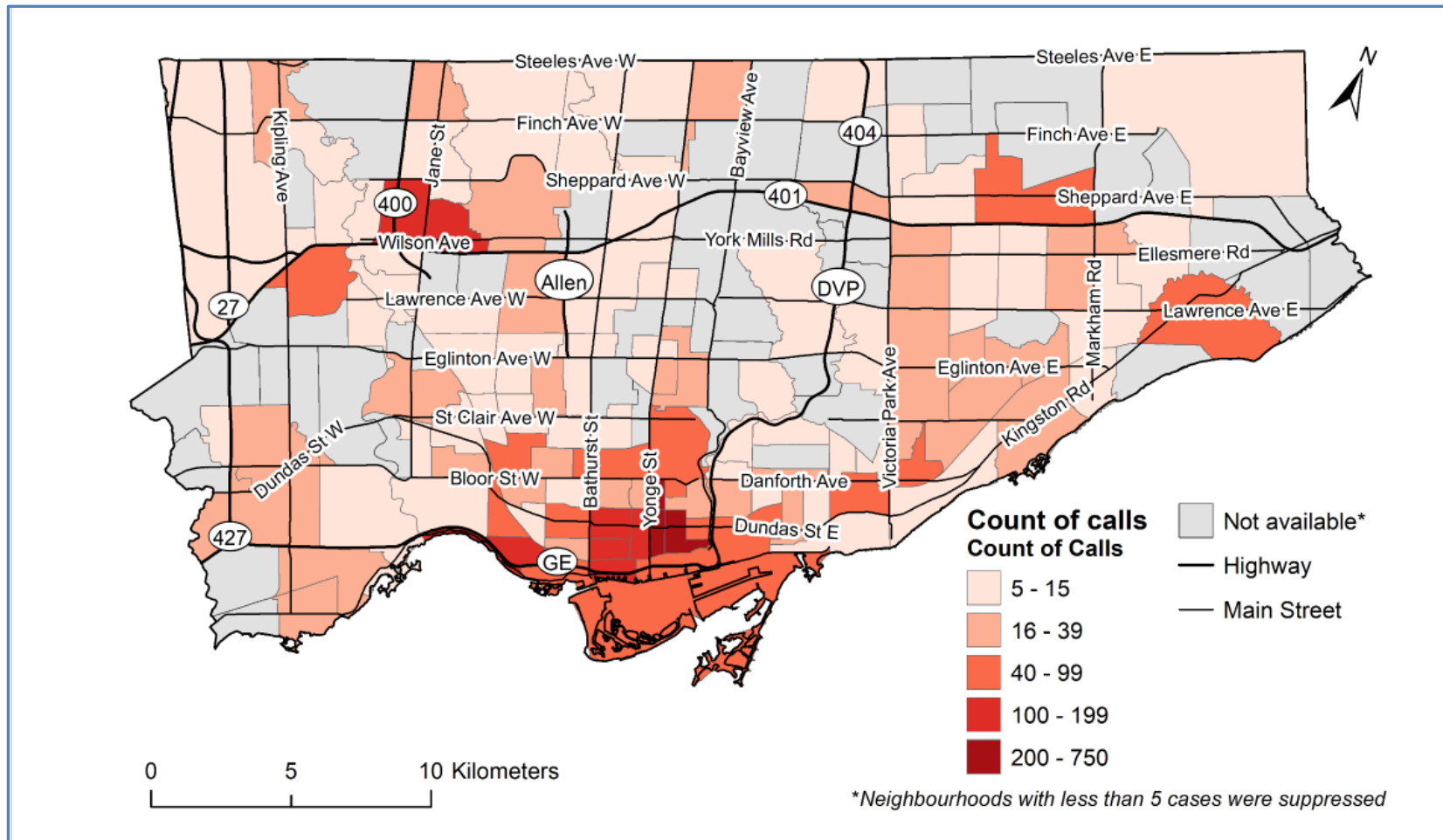
Source: Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario

# Quarterly fatal suspected opioid overdose calls attended by paramedics, January 2018-December 2023



Source: Toronto Paramedic Services

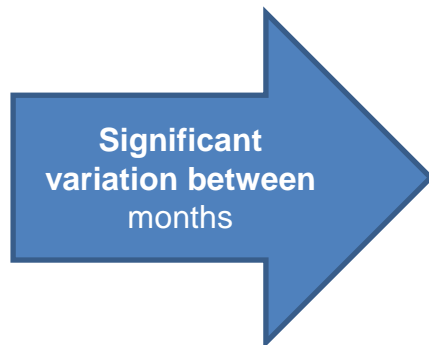
# Map of suspected opioid overdose calls by neighbourhood, Toronto, January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023



# Drug Checking Service Data

- Drug checking services have identified an unpredictable drug supply that continues to contain unexpected substances in varying quantities.
- Amount of fentanyl found in fentanyl substances in 2023/2024 (768):

Median amount found	Minimum amount found	Maximum amount found
4.5%	0.1%	83.1%



Year	Expected Drug	Substance Found	10 mg vs percent	
(Multiple values)	Fentanyl	Fentanyl	% of total sample	
Month	# of drug samples	Average* amount found (%)	Minimum amount found (%)	Maximum amount found (%)
All	768	4.5%	0.1%	83.1%
Mar 2024	21	5.1%	0.1%	14.9%
Feb 2024	38	4.7%	0.3%	70.6%
Jan 2024	90	6.0%	0.3%	83.1%
Dec 2023	52	8.2%	0.3%	39.3%
Nov 2023	66	2.0%	0.2%	11.7%
Oct 2023	74	2.0%	0.2%	70.5%

Source: Toronto's Drug Checking Service [drugchecking.cdpe.org](https://drugchecking.cdpe.org)

# Our Health, Our City

## STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Promote mental health and wellbeing across the lifespan.
2. Prevent and reduce harms and deaths related to substance use across the lifespan.
3. Expand access to the full continuum of high-quality, evidence-based and client-centred services to address mental health and/or substance use issues, including prevention, harm reduction and treatment supports.
4. Advance community safety and wellbeing for everyone.
5. Improve access to housing and other social determinants of health.
6. Support mentally healthy workplaces and optimize the mental health of workers.
7. Proactively identify and respond to emerging mental health and substance use issues.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Health and community safety for everyone
- Meaningful inclusion of people with lived and living experience
- Anti-Oppression, Anti-Racism, and Decolonization
- City-wide, Collaborative, and Comprehensive
- Evidence, Innovation, and Continuous Improvement



# Interdivisional Table

- Review Strategic Goals & Year One Implementation Priorities
- Implementation Panel Planning Update

Interdivisional Table  
March 18

1

- Tracking to begin
- Implementation Panel Update

Interdivisional Table

2

- Tracking continues
- Annual Progress Report Draft
- Implementation Panel Update

Interdivisional Table

3

- Finalize Annual Progress Report
- Implementation Panel Update
- Confirm implementation priorities for 2025

Interdivisional Table

4

Implementation  
Panel Launch

**BOH Report Back: March 25**  
(Implementation Panel Application  
Process)

**BOH Report Back (Q3)**  
(Implementation Panel Membership)

**BOH Report Back (Q4)**  
(Annual Progress Report)



# Interdivisional Table: Year One Priorities for the City

## 1 Housing

Advocate for ongoing and sustainable funding for shelter services and increase funding for supportive housing to help individuals experiencing homelessness. Create more affordable housing, including supportive housing for people with complex mental health and/or substance use related needs.

## 3 Responder–Hospital Protocols

Collaborate with first responders and hospitals to implement a coordination protocol that enhances the seamless transfer of individuals experiencing mental health and/or substance use crises to the most appropriate services.

## 2 24/7 Crisis Stabilization Space

Work with community partners and provincial government to implement low-barrier crisis stabilization spaces for people with mental health and/or substance use related issues that operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week across the city as part of a full continuum of evidence-based services, treatment and wrap around supports. .

## 4 Expand TCCS City-Wide

Expand Toronto Community Crisis Service to be city-wide, as Toronto’s fourth emergency service.

# Toronto Public Health's Priority Areas for Clinical Service Delivery

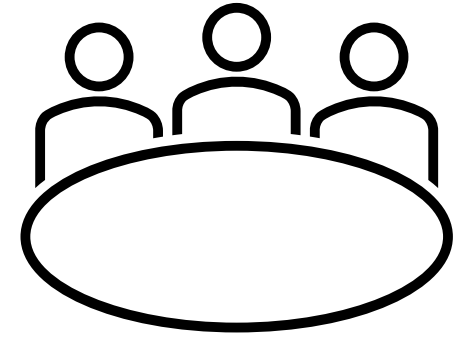


- The Works relocation
- Explore extending iOAT
- Explore expanded hours of current clinical services to 24/7
- Expanded outreach

# Downtown CORE Team

- **Builds on Existing Services at Toronto Public Health and Toronto Police Service:** This program complements services already offered in the Yonge & Dundas area.
- **Proactive & Prevention-Focused:** Focuses on preventing issues before they escalate, not just reacting to emergencies.
- **Comprehensive Support:**
  - Overdose & Substance Use Response
  - New Primary Care by Nurse Practitioner
  - Short-Term Case Management
  - Referrals to Health & Social Services
  - Immediate Handovers to Outreach/Crisis Teams
- **Data-Driven One-Year Pilot Program:** Designed based on local needs, informed by TPH & TPS data, and will be evaluated for effectiveness. Allows for thorough assessment of program impact.
- **Not a Replacement for Emergency Services:** This proactive initiative is not an emergency crisis response deployed by 911 or 211.
- **Community Collaboration:** Developed in consultation with and working alongside local stakeholders and partners: Gerstein Crisis Centre, Toronto Community Crisis Service, Street Health, Downtown-Yonge Business Improvement Area, Cadillac Farview, Toronto Metropolitan University and Unity Health Toronto

# Our Health, Our City Implementation Panel



- Board of Health directed the Medical Officer of Health to establish an implementation panel to support Our Health, Our City.
- It is recommended that the Our Health, Our City Implementation panel not be a consensus-based table. All advice from the panel will be shared with the Board of Health.
- The recommended mandate of the Our Health, Our City Implementation Panel is to provide advice to help implement the recommendations outlined in Our Health, Our City.

Panelist responsibilities may include:

- Attending meetings
- Providing advice on the annual implementation priorities
- Sharing data and knowledge (lived/living and/or professional expertise) to support implementation
- Fostering intersectoral relationships and collaboration
- Supporting recruitment of individuals for additional consultations or potential working groups, as may be required
- Championing action on recommendations and communicating implementation efforts with networks
- Providing feedback on the annual Our Health, Our City Progress Report

# Our Health, Our City Implementation Panel

## Terms of Reference Overview

- Chaired by Board of Health Director
- 6 individuals with lived/living experience
- 6 experts from the mental health and/or substance use sectors
- 6 representatives from City Divisions
- Bi-monthly meetings
- Stipend for those with lived/living experience

## Recruitment Process

- Applications open for 3 weeks starting March 27, 2024
- Report back to BOH on panelist recommendations for appointment by the BOH in Q3 2024



# Our Health, Our City Implementation Panel

- Starting **March 27, 2024**, interested candidates can apply online
- Applications will be open until **April 17, 2024**.
- Those who acquire additional assistance can email [tph.mshu@toronto.ca](mailto:tph.mshu@toronto.ca) to set up a phone interview or video conference call instead.

