



# CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

## Understanding Opioid Use in First Nation communities in Ontario

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# Background and 2013 Resolution

Rising use of opioids



Limited high quality data



In June 2013, the Chiefs in Assembly passed **Resolution 13/10**

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## CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

39<sup>TH</sup> ALL ONTARIO CHIEFS CONFERENCE  
June 25-26-27, 2013  
Hosted by Whitefish River First Nation

RESOLUTION 13/10

**SUBJECT:** PRESCRIPTION OPIOID SURVEILLANCE

**MOVER:** Chief R. Donald Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte

**SECONDER:** Chief Allan Towegeshig, Long Lake # 58 First Nation

**DECISION:** CARRIED  
Abstentions: Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, Proxy for Lac Seul First Nation and Chief Earl Klyne, Seine River First Nation

# Project Timeline: Opioid Use Among First Nations in Ontario

**2013:** Resolution 10/13

**2017:** Opioid Use among First Nations in Ontario

**2018:** Resolution 20/18

**2019:** CIHR Grant

**2021:** Two reports released

**2023:** First Annual report released

**2023-2025:** COO and ODPRN will continue to collaborate

# Current Projects



**Patterns and Trends in Opioid Prescribing and Related Harms**



**Treatment Outcomes**



**Pathways of Healthcare Use**

# Opioid Use, Related Harms, and Access to Treatment among First Nations in Ontario: Annual Update



## Objective

- Examine trends and patterns in opioid prescribing and opioid-related poisoning among First Nations people

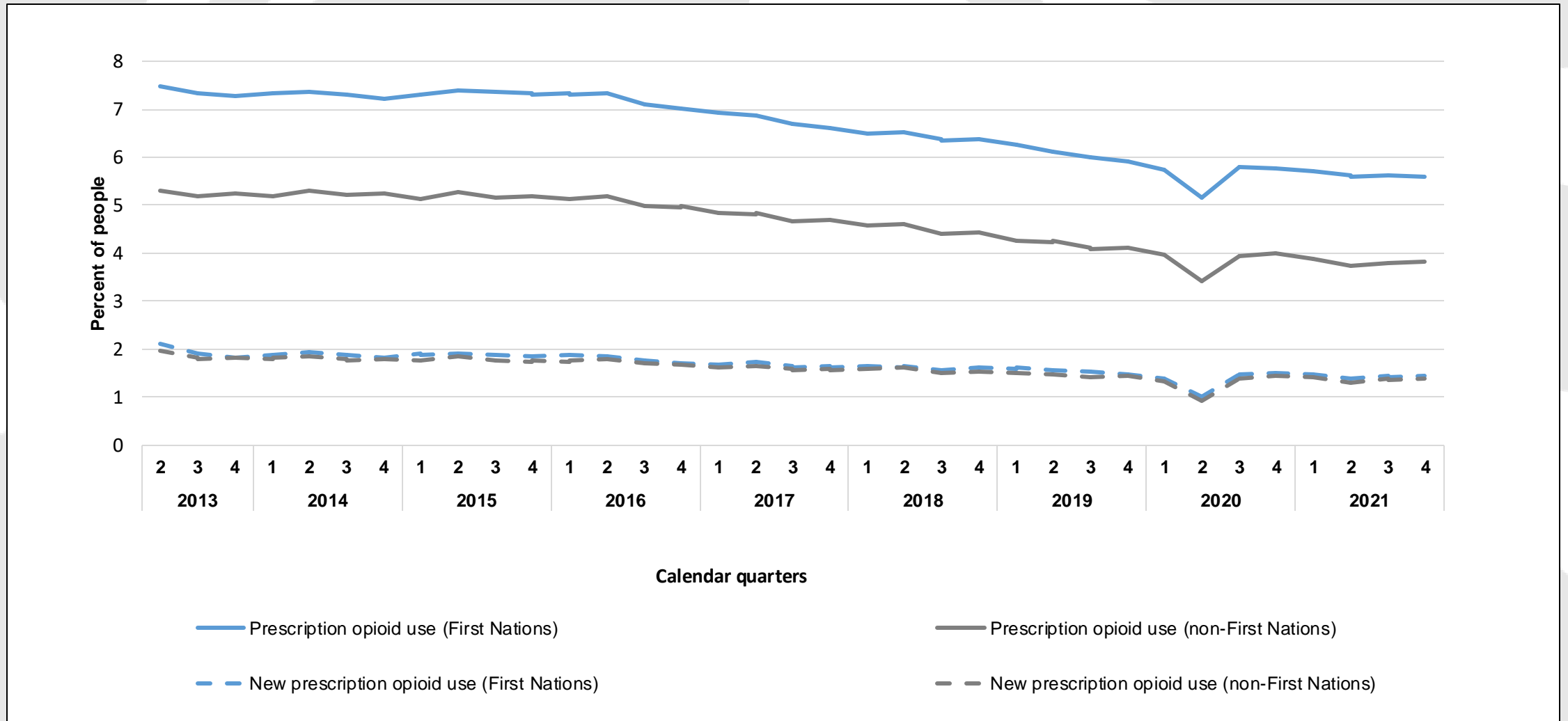
## Timeline

- Trends: Fiscal year 2013-2021
- Demographics: Calendar year 2021

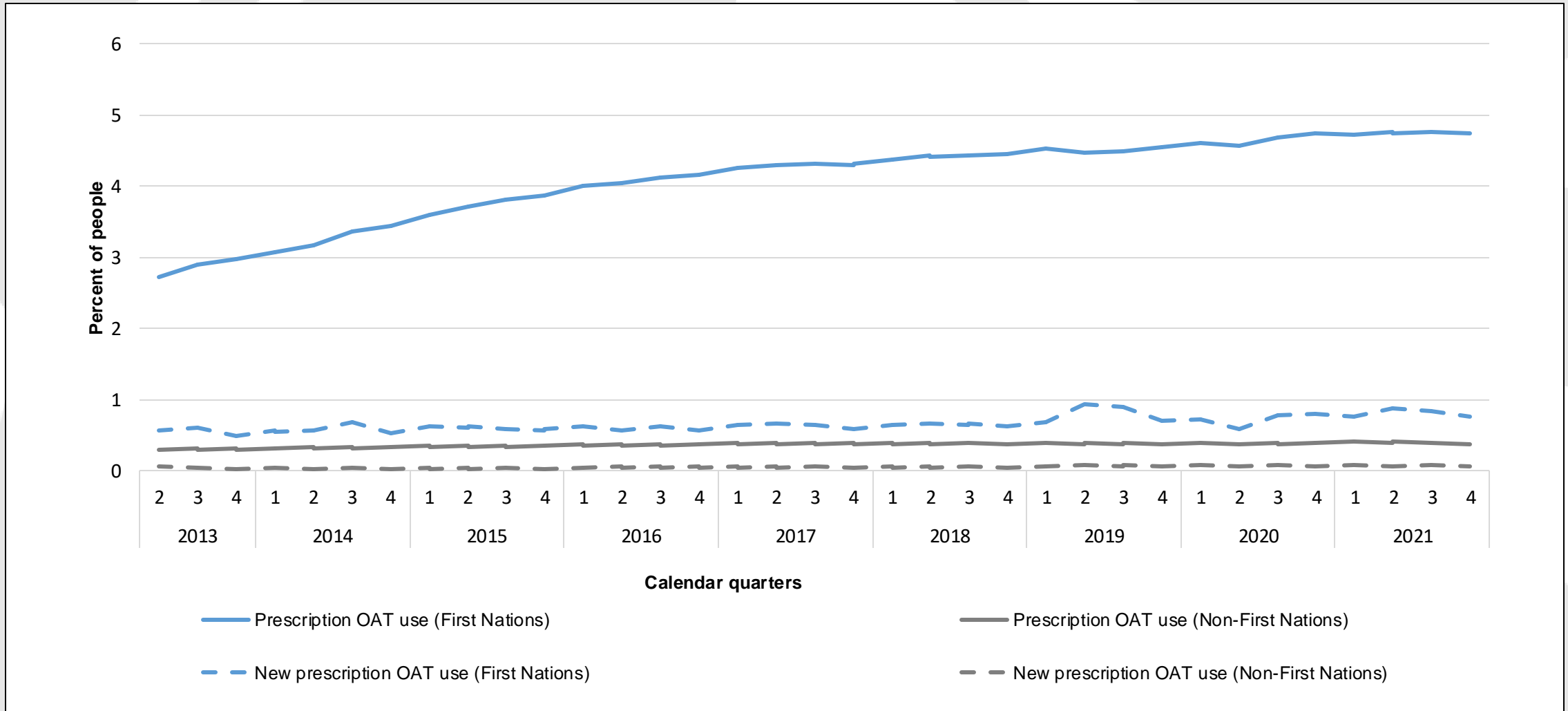
## Indicators

- Opioid prescribing
  - Opioid use for pain
  - Combined prescribing of opioids for pain and benzodiazepines
- Opioid agonist therapy (OAT) to treat opioid use disorder
- Opioid-related poisoning
  - Emergency department visits
  - Deaths
- Comparison between **First Nations** and **non-First Nations** people

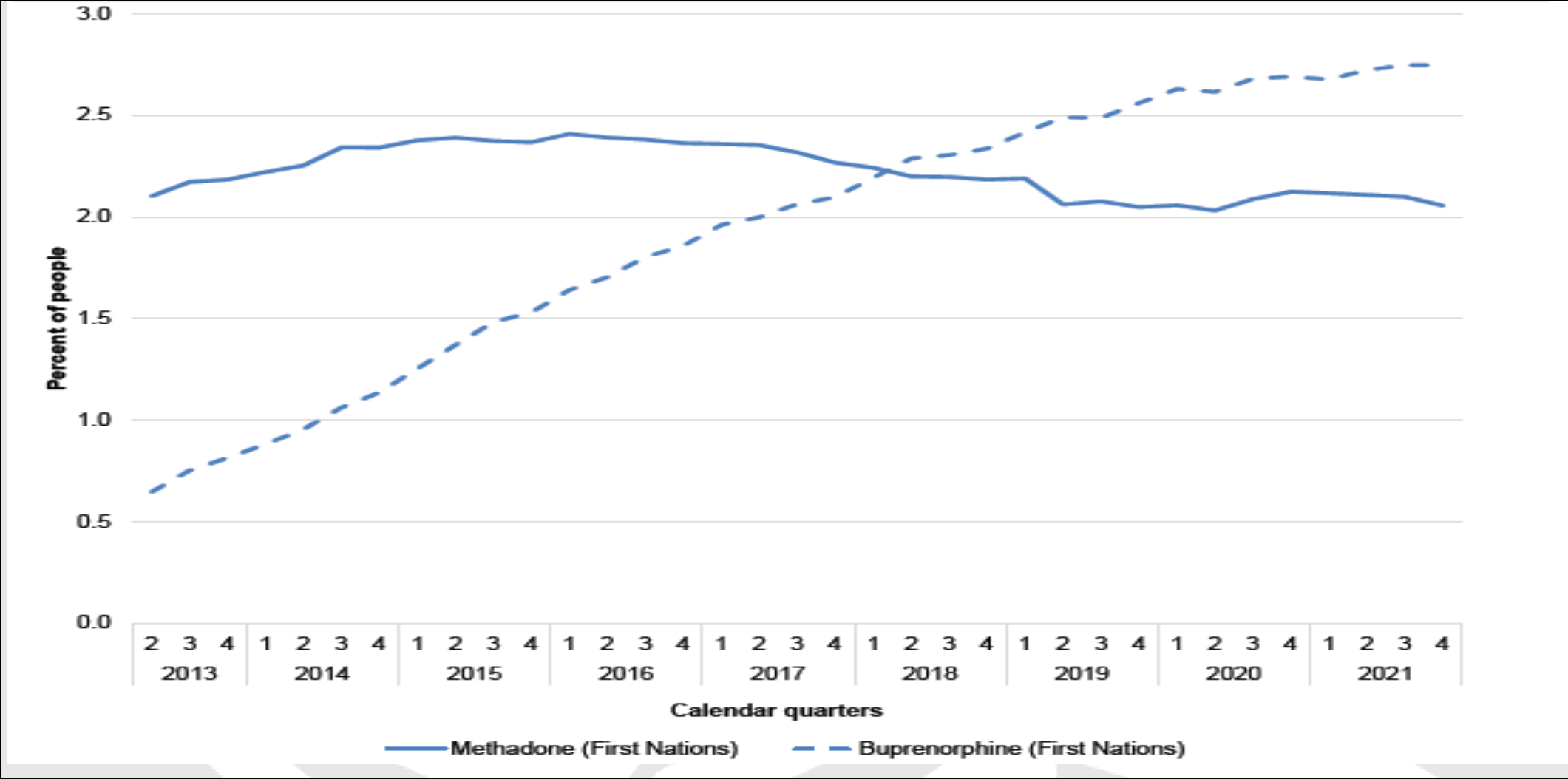
# Percent of people who used prescription opioids for pain, from 2013 to 2021



# People who used OAT to treat OUD, from 2013 to 2021

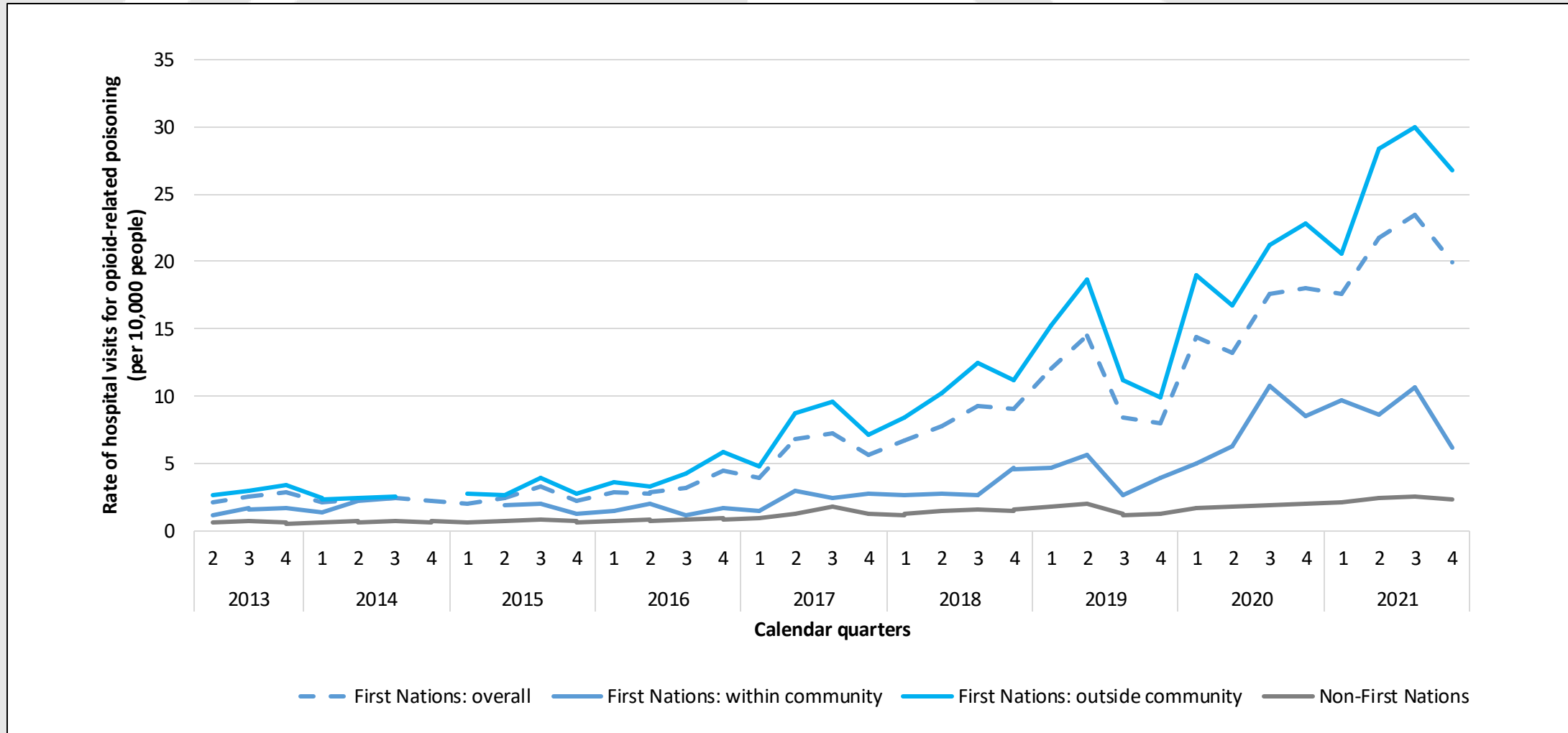


# People prescribed opioid agonist therapy, by type from 2013 to 2021

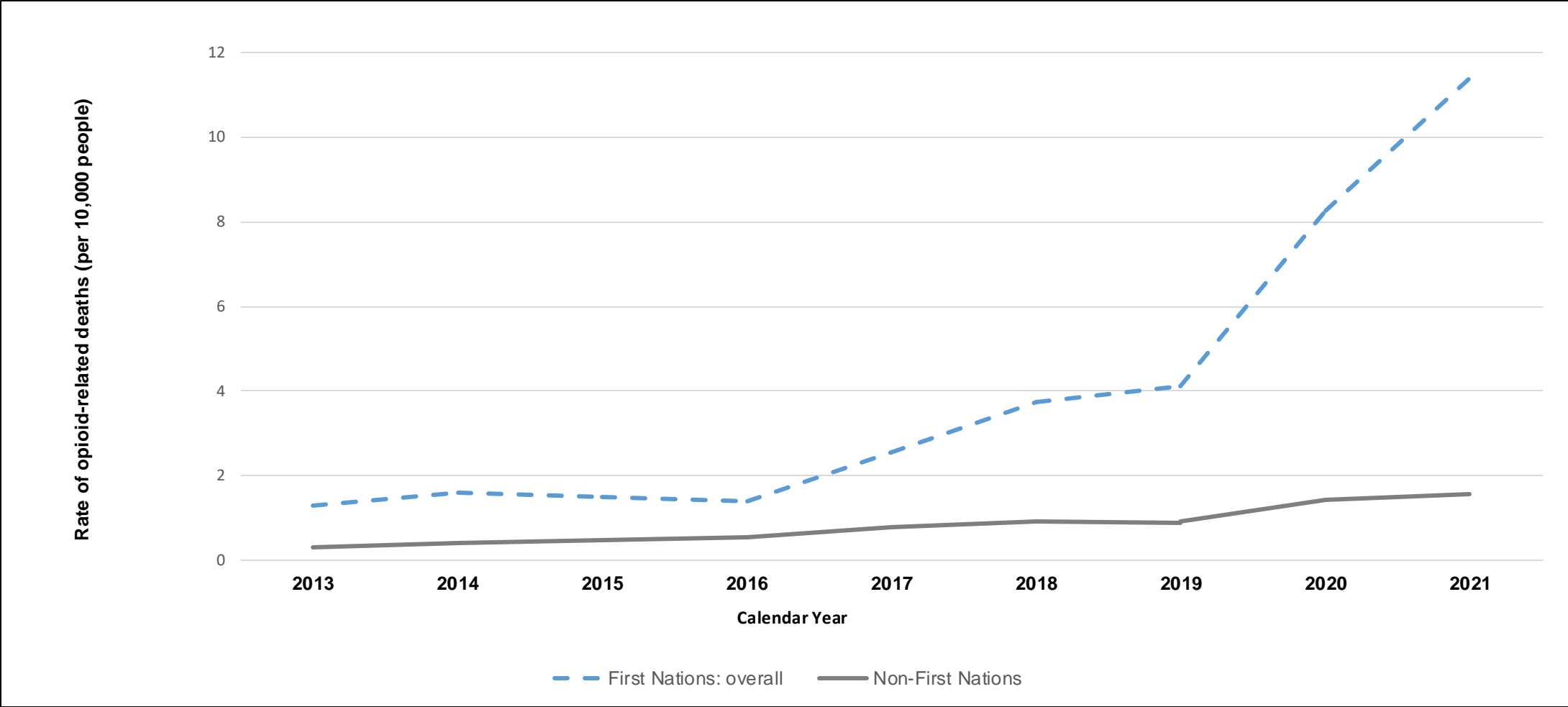




# Hospital visits for opioid-related poisoning, from 2013 to 2021



# Rate of opioid poisoning-related deaths from 2013-2021



# Opioid-related deaths with other substances detected

## FIRST NATIONS INDIVIDUALS

In 2019

Fentanyl was involved in

**73%**

of opioid-related deaths



Stimulants were involved in

**49%**

of opioid-related deaths



Alcohol was involved in

**49%**

of opioid-related deaths



Benzodiazepines were involved in

**23%**

of opioid-related deaths



In 2021

Fentanyl was involved in

**90%**

of opioid-related deaths

Stimulants were involved in

**82%**

of opioid-related deaths

Alcohol was involved in

**23%**

of opioid-related deaths

Benzodiazepines were involved in

**63%**

of opioid-related deaths

# Our Research Approach

## Build trust, respect, and commitment

COO Steering  
Committee



OCAP® Certified



Research  
Agreement



Data  
Governance  
Committee



Ongoing  
Communication



# Circle of Lived Experience Advisory Committee



## Do you or someone you know struggle with opioid use?

If so, Chiefs of Ontario is looking for First Nation people with lived experience of opioid use to become members of an advisory committee about research on Opioid Use and Harms among First Nations people in Ontario.

Your Participation will help to:

- Identify programs or policies that may be helpful for people who use opioids.
- Provide understanding how research can be used to remove barriers and provide better planning for programs and services
- Ensure that the voices of First Nation people with lived experience is incorporated into the research.

Committee Members will have the opportunity to:

- Participate in trainings that will be provided based on what the committee thinks would be most beneficial to them.
- Be involved in future research projects.
- Be part of a group that is interested in helping others who struggle with opioid use.
- Add skills to your resume

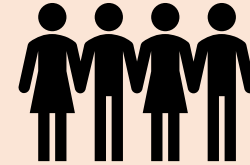
**Meetings will be held virtually every three months and participants will be compensated for their time.**

**If you would like more information or are interested in becoming a committee member, please contact us [circle@coo.org](mailto:circle@coo.org)**

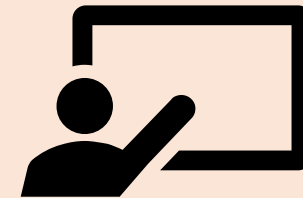
# Knowledge Translation

Implement a **knowledge translation framework** for broad dissemination and uptake of research in First Nations communities and to relevant policy-makers and clinicians.

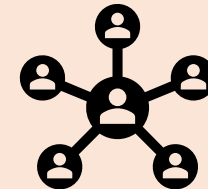
A research coordinator leads knowledge translation initiatives



Utilize opportunities to present research findings



Steering Committee, Health Co-ordination Unit and  
Data Governance Committee



# What does this information mean for First Nations people and communities in Ontario?

Prescribed rates of opioid use have decreased but rates of harm from opioids are increasing and higher among First Nations

An unpredictable potent unregulated opioid supply is the driving factor to opioid related poisonings and deaths

Opioid related hospitalizations and deaths have continued to climb among First Nations people

Rates of opioid related deaths are approximately 7X higher among First Nations

# Thank you!

**Questions?**

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