

# 1 IN 7 ONTARIANS RECEIVED AN OPIOID IN 2016

**1 in 8**

(1.7 million)

were dispensed an opioid for 

**PAIN**



Mainly older **women** in urban settings across all income levels

**55** median age  
**55%** women  
**87%** urban

**1 in 43**

(318 thousand)

were dispensed an opioid for 

**COUGH**



Mainly middle-aged **women** in urban settings across all income levels

**49** median age  
**58%** women  
**95%** urban

**1 in 243**

(58 thousand)

were dispensed an opioid for 

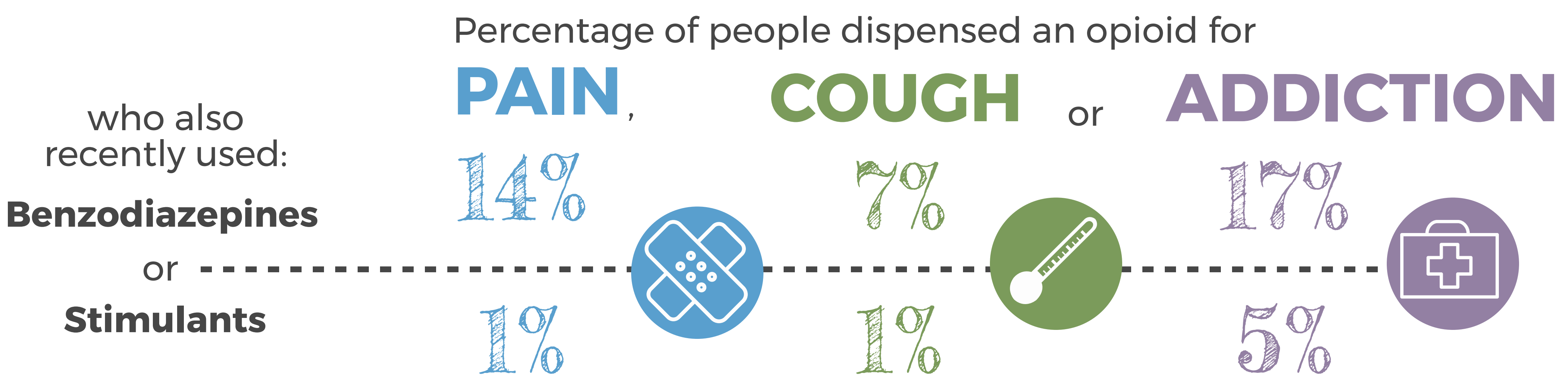
**ADDICTION**



Mainly younger **men** in urban settings **within lower income levels**


**36** median age  
**63%** men  
**86%** urban

## Recent Medication Use




## Healthcare System Use

People dispensed an opioid for **ADDICTION** visited their physician the most with a median of **42** office visits, compared to **7** for pain, and **6** for cough.




**Emergency department visits** were more common among people dispensed an opioid for **Pain and Addiction** compared to **Cough**.

Pain and Addiction	43%
Compared to Cough	47%
Ontario average	23%




The highest rate of people with an **opioid overdose incident** occurred among those receiving an opioid for **ADDICTION**.

**135** per 10,000 residents, compared to **8** for pain, and **2** for cough.



Similarly, **hospitalizations** occurred more among people dispensed an opioid for **Pain and Addiction** compared to **Cough**.

Pain and Addiction	12%
Compared to Cough	10%
Ontario average	5%



## Geographic Variation

**Pain** or **Addiction** concentrated in northwestern and rural regions in Ontario

**Cough** clustered in southern and urban areas

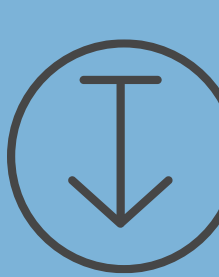


However, **Pain ≠ Addiction**. Some regions with high addiction treatment had only moderate prescribing for pain. This suggests illicitly obtained opioids may be contributors to addiction in these areas.

## Opioids to Treat...

### Pain

In 2 years, total opioid volume dispensed decreased by **18%** driven by reductions in long-acting opioid formulations.





Nearly **40%** of long-acting opioids dispensed to ongoing users had daily doses that exceed thresholds in the 2017 Canadian guidelines.

Most commonly dispensed long-acting opioids:

- #1 Hydromorphone**
- #2 Oxycodone**

### Cough

Seasonal use in winter months, as expected. Average daily dose was low.



### Addiction

The number of Ontarians accessing opioids to treat addiction is increasing. In 2016:

<b>71%</b> received <b>Methadone</b>	<b>23%</b> received <b>Buprenorphine/Naloxone</b>	<b>6%</b> received both.
--------------------------------------	---	--------------------------