Opioid Prescribing: Is it Contributing to the Opioid Crisis?

In 2017:

11 CANADIANS died every day from opioids

An average of 17 people were hospitalized every day in Canada due to opioid poisoning.

About 1 in 5 CANADIANS are being prescribed an opioid in a given year.

20.50% are chronic opioid claimants and accounted for ~64% of all opioid prescriptions.

Opioids and benzodiazepines should not be taken together, yet

16% public plan claimants take both

9% private plan claimants take both

People among 25 to 44 followed by 45 to 64 year-old age groups use the highest dose of opioids.

Every year some people keep increasing their doses (despite guidelines supporting lower MED)

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† A chronic opioid user in our analysis is defined as a claimant who took 1 or more opioids continuously for at least 90 days in that year

†† Morphine Equivalent Dose (MED) was used throughout this report, as it provides a view on what people are taking compared to evidence-based guidelines

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