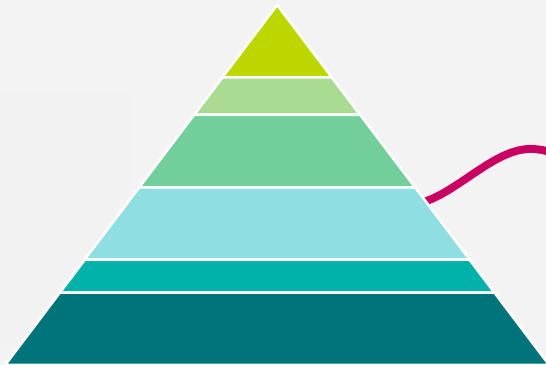


Recent local trends in drug-related overdose deaths

Michael King

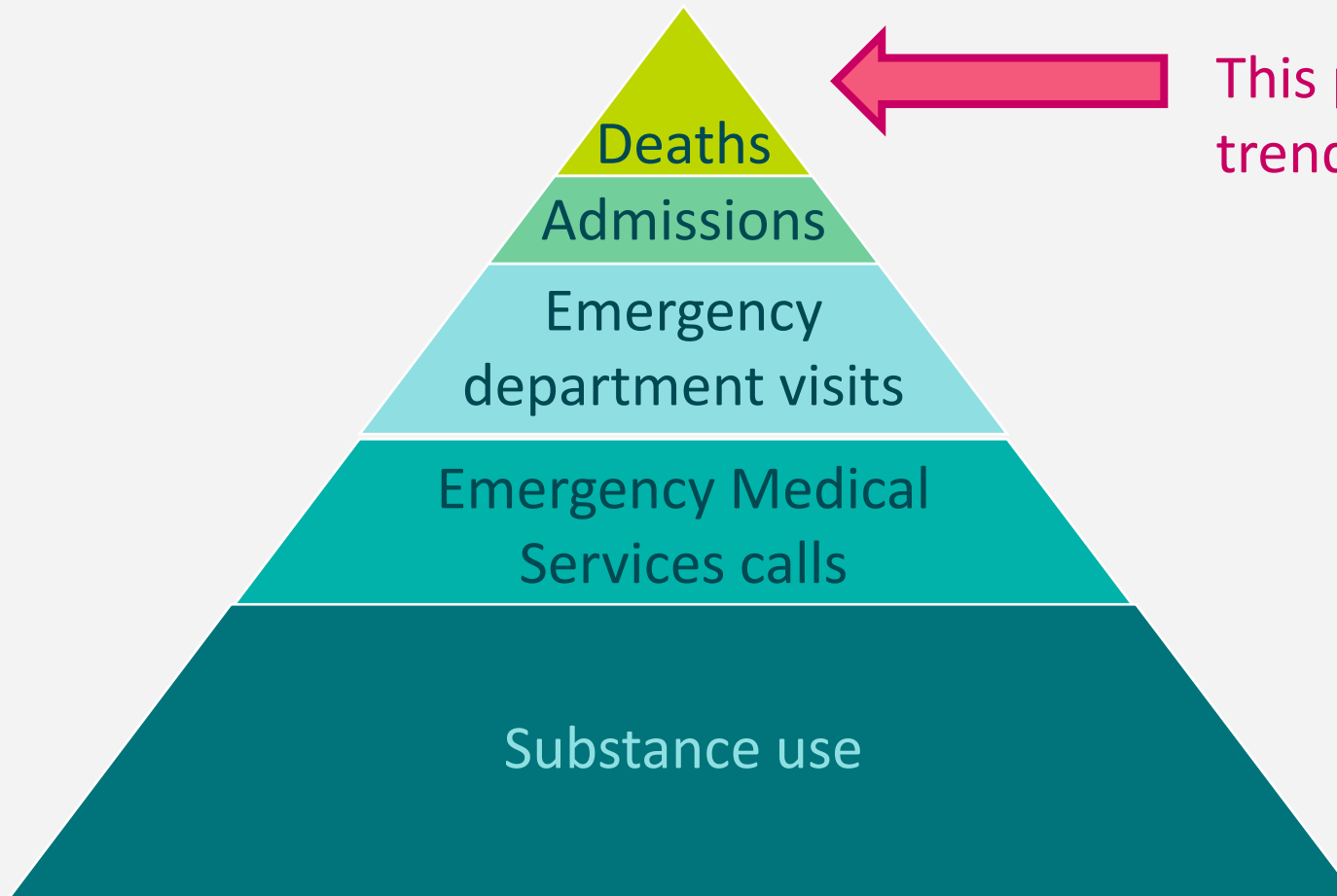
Epidemiologist, Public Health Sudbury & Districts

December 7, 2023



Public Health
Santé publique
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

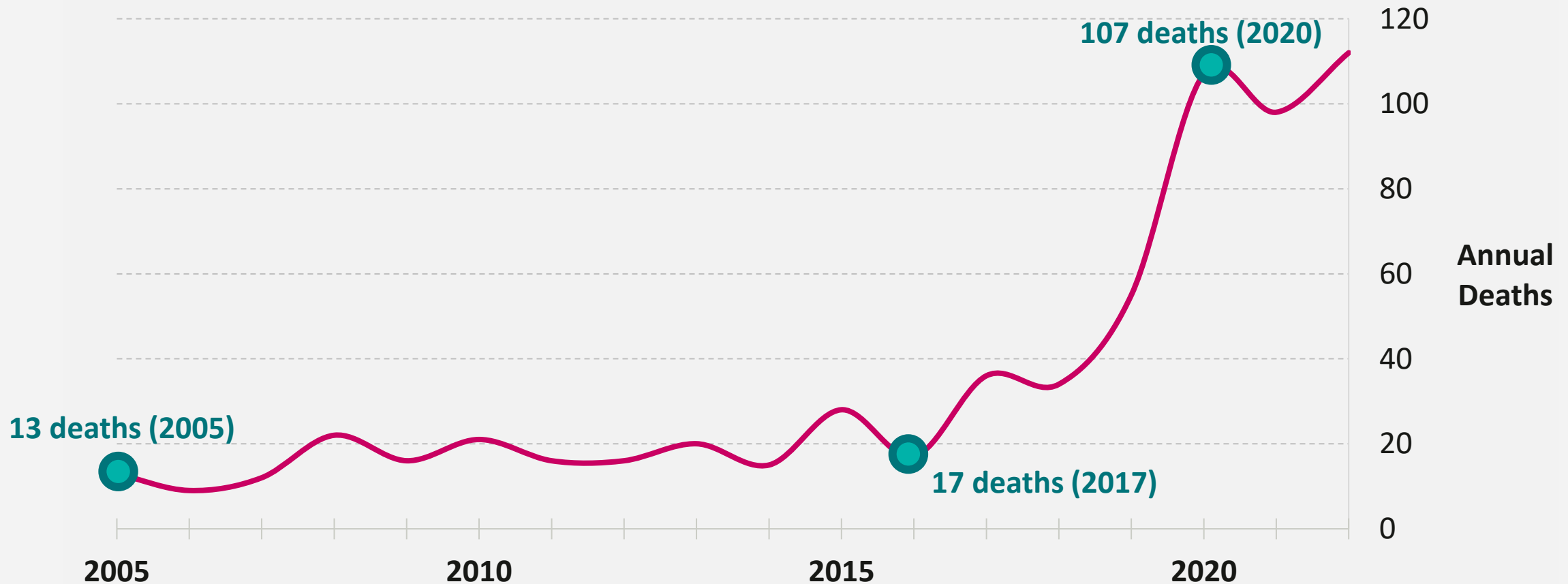
We can measure the burden of substance use in a number of different ways



This presentation will focus on trends in **drug-related deaths**

Local opioid-related deaths increased by over 500% from 2017 to 2020

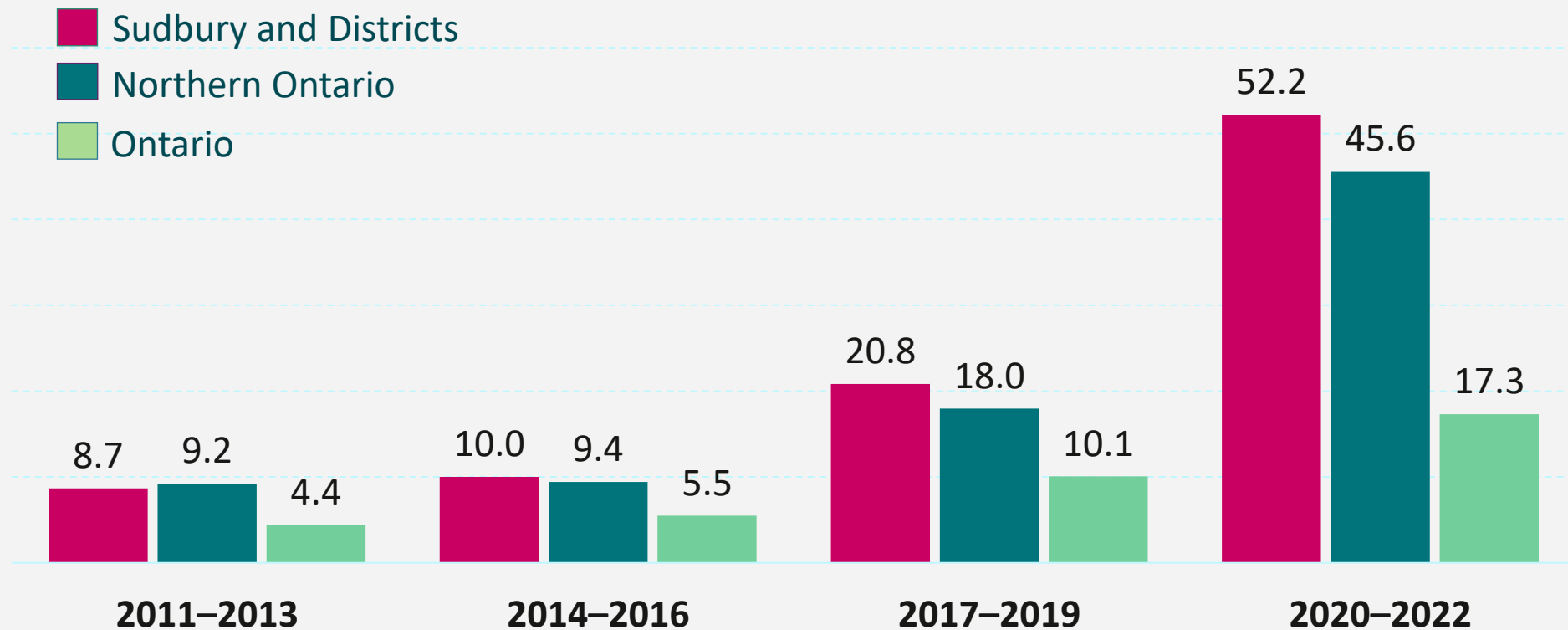
Opioid-related deaths, by year, Sudbury and districts, 2005–2022



Source: Interactive Opioid Tool, Public Health Ontario, Extracted October 20, 2023

Rates in northern Ontario have increased much faster than rates elsewhere in the province

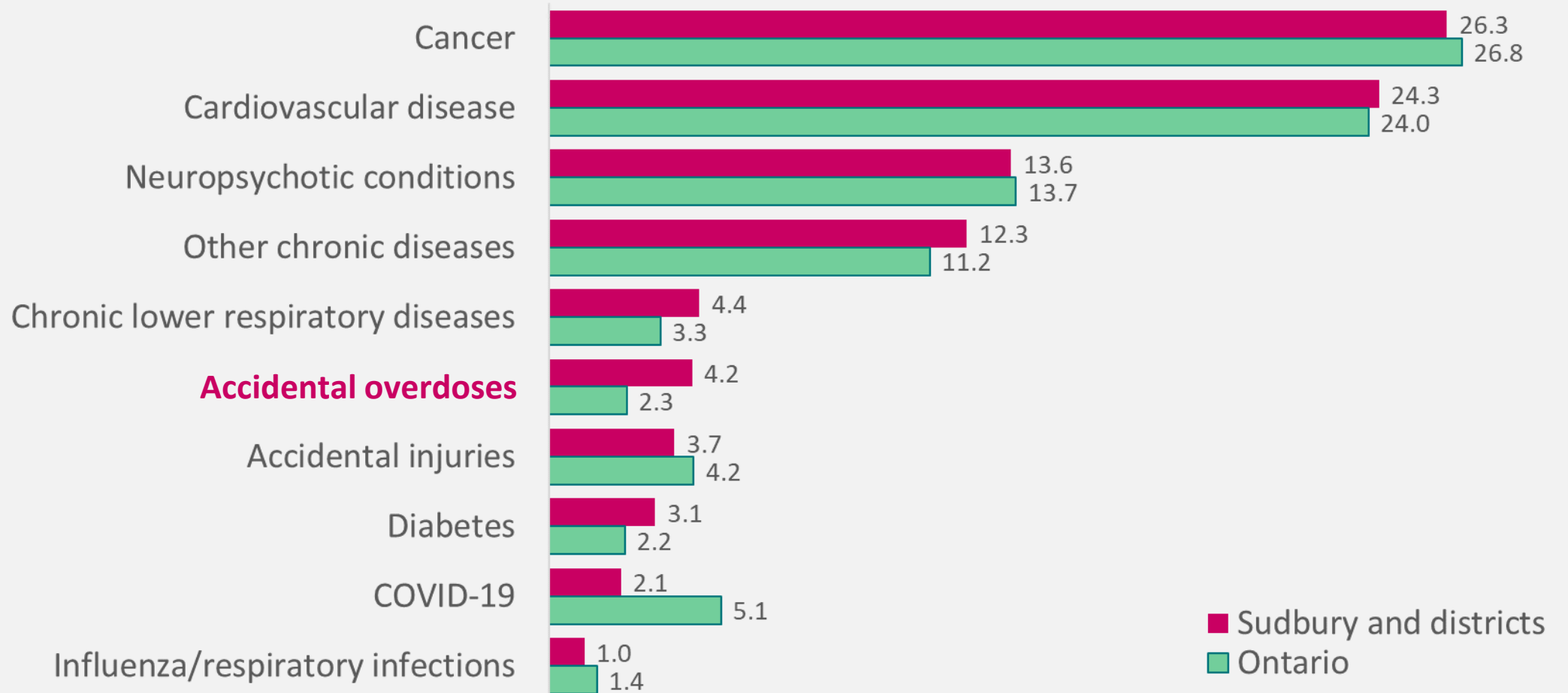
Annual opioid-related mortality rate per 100,000 population, by 3-year period and geographic region, 2011–2022



Source: Interactive Opioid Tool, Public Health Ontario, Extracted October 20, 2023

Accidental overdoses caused 4% of all local deaths in 2021

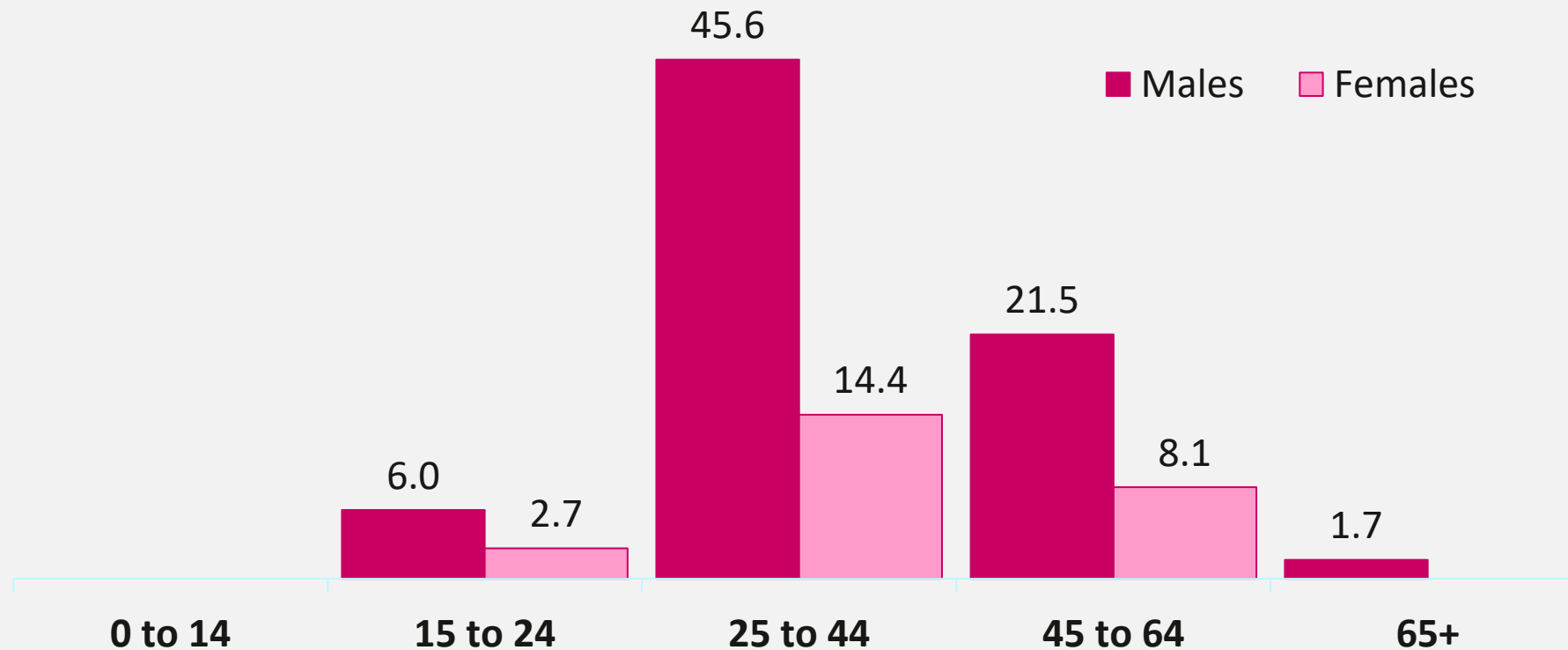
Top 10 leading causes of death (%), by cause and geographic region, 2021



Source: Ontario Mortality Data 2021, IntelliHEALTH Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Health, Extracted October 30, 2023

Most opioid-related deaths are among those aged 25–44, and especially males

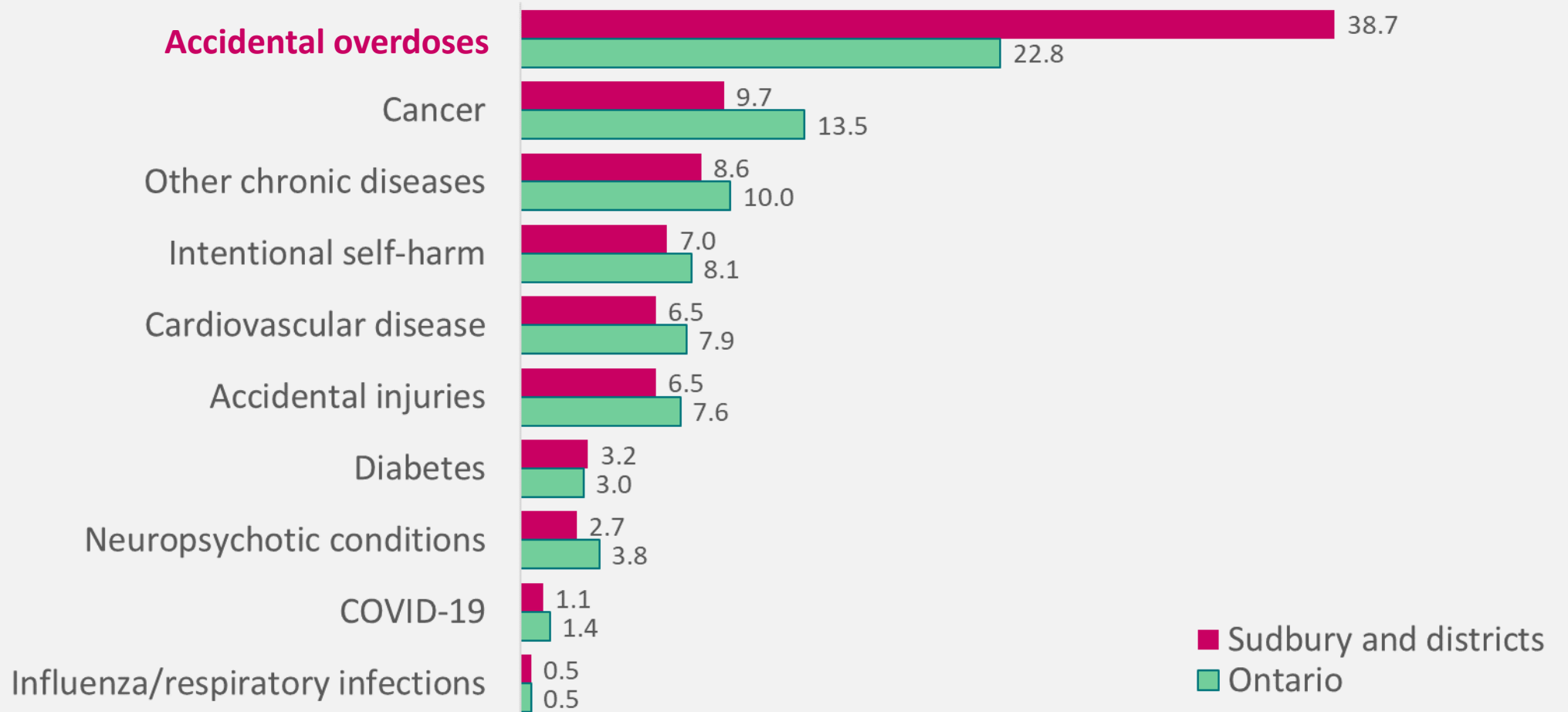
Percentage (%) of opioid-related deaths, by age group and sex, Sudbury and districts, 2020–2022



Source: Quarterly Public Health Unit Opioid-related Deaths Reports [unpublished], Public Health Ontario, June 20, 2023

Accidental overdoses are *the* leading cause of death among those aged 0–49 years

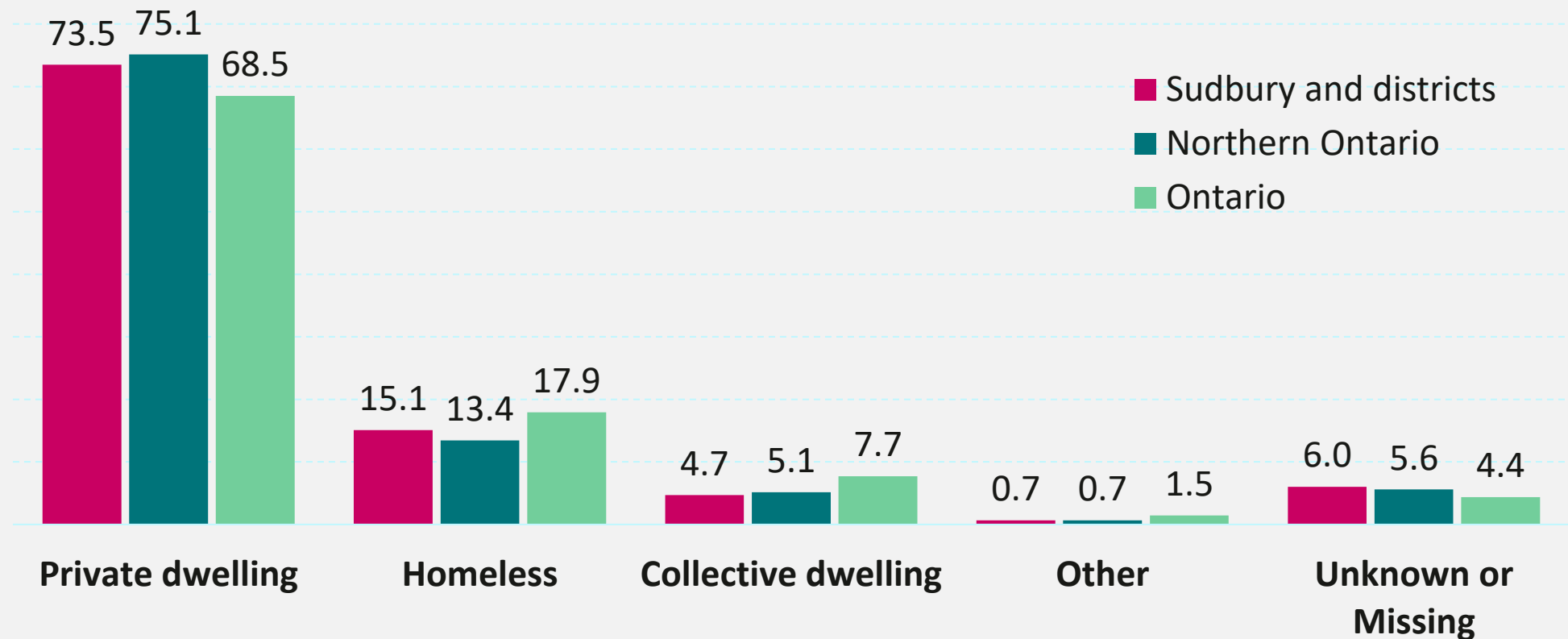
Top 10 leading causes of death (%), by cause and geographic region, ages 0–49 years, 2021



Source: Ontario Mortality Data 2021, IntelliHEALTH Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Health, Extracted October 30, 2023

Most people dying from an opioid overdose live in a private residence

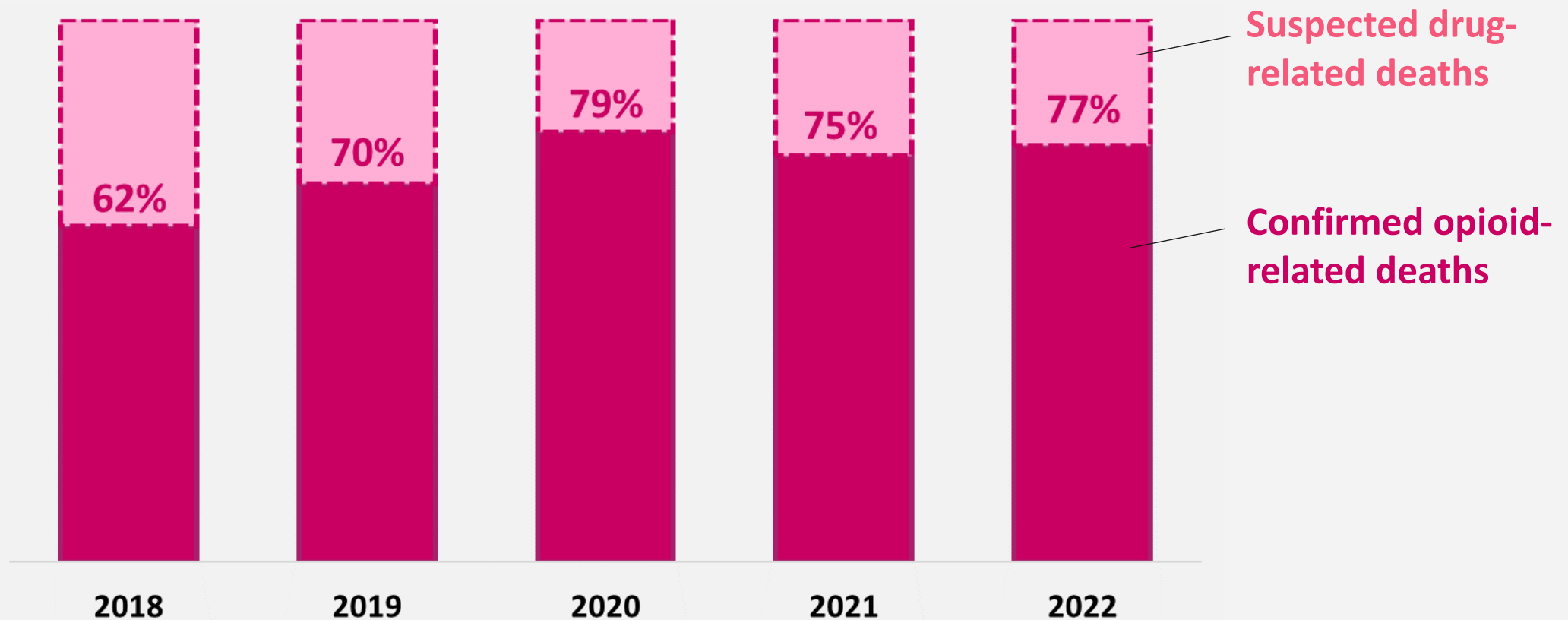
Percentage (%) of opioid-related deaths, by living arrangements of the decedent and geographic region, 2020–2022



Source: Quarterly Public Health Unit Opioid-related Deaths Reports [unpublished], Public Health Ontario, June 20, 2023

Most local drug-related deaths are caused by opioids

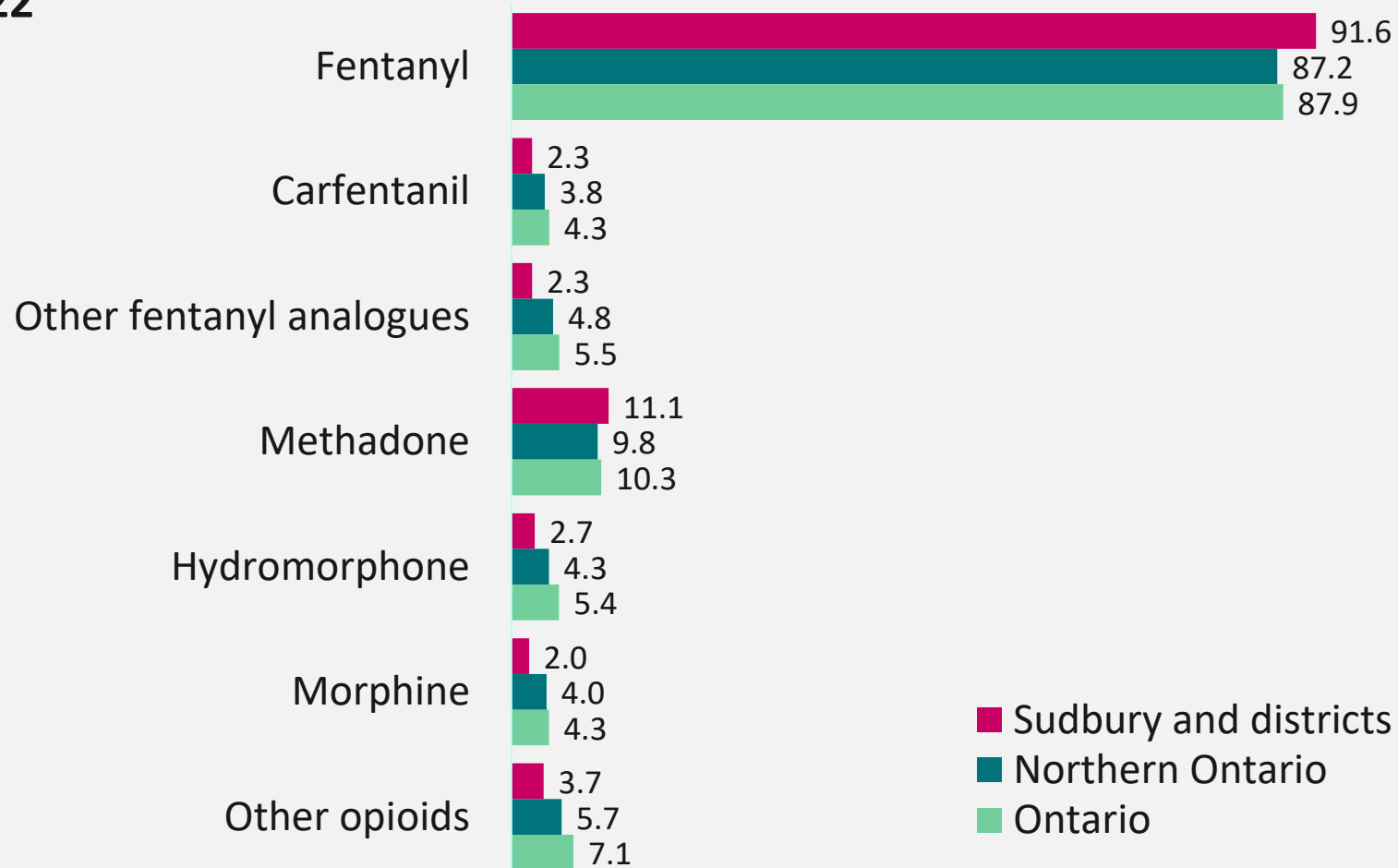
Confirmed opioid-related deaths as a percentage (%) of suspected drug-related deaths, by year, Sudbury and districts, 2018–2022



Source: Monthly update: Opioid and suspect drug-related deaths in Ontario [unpublished], Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario, June 20, 2023

Fentanyl is the most common opioid causing death

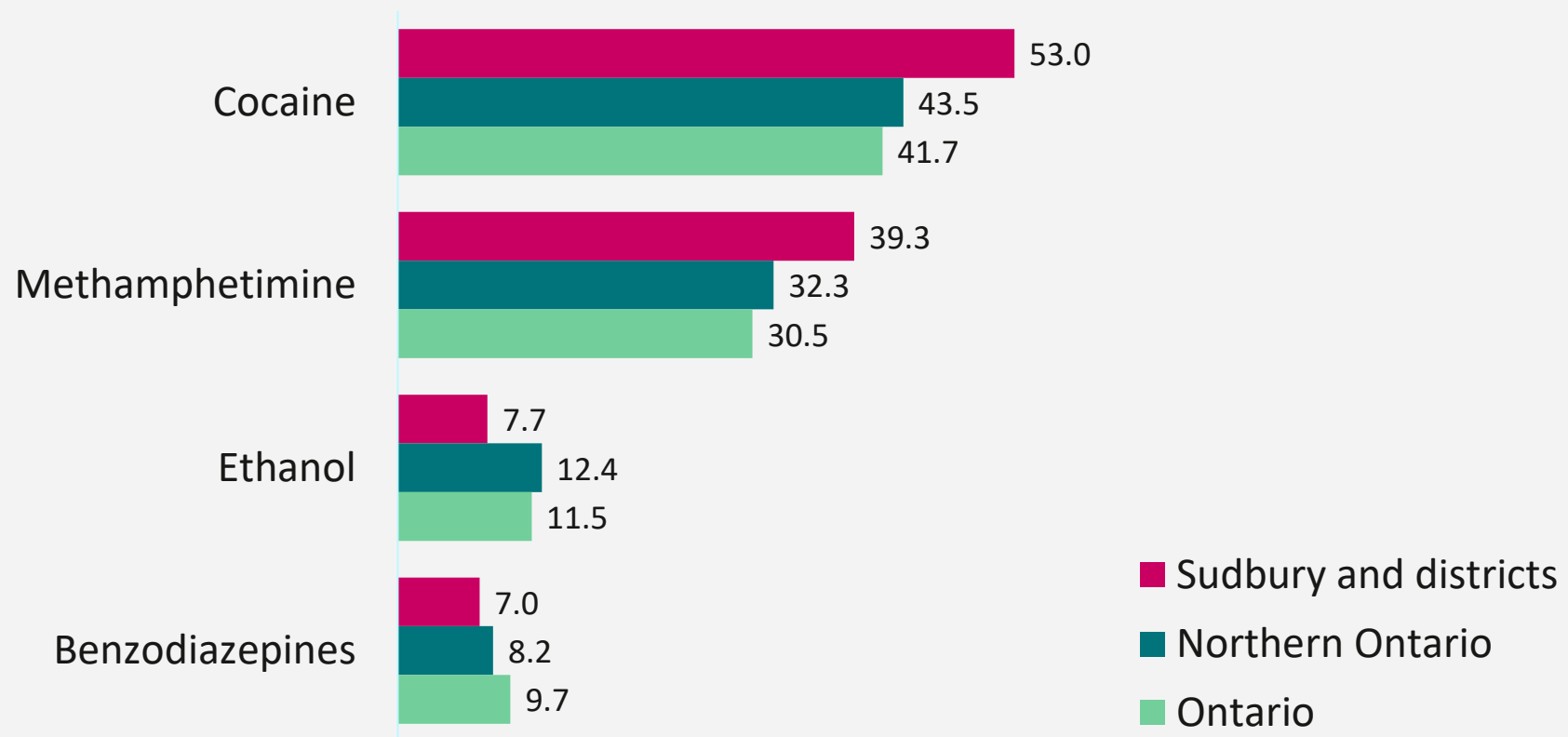
Percentage (%) of opioid-related deaths, by opioid directly causing death and geographic region, 2020–2022



Source: Quarterly Public Health Unit Opioid-related Deaths Reports [unpublished], Public Health Ontario, June 20, 2023

Other substances are involved in a majority of opioid-related deaths

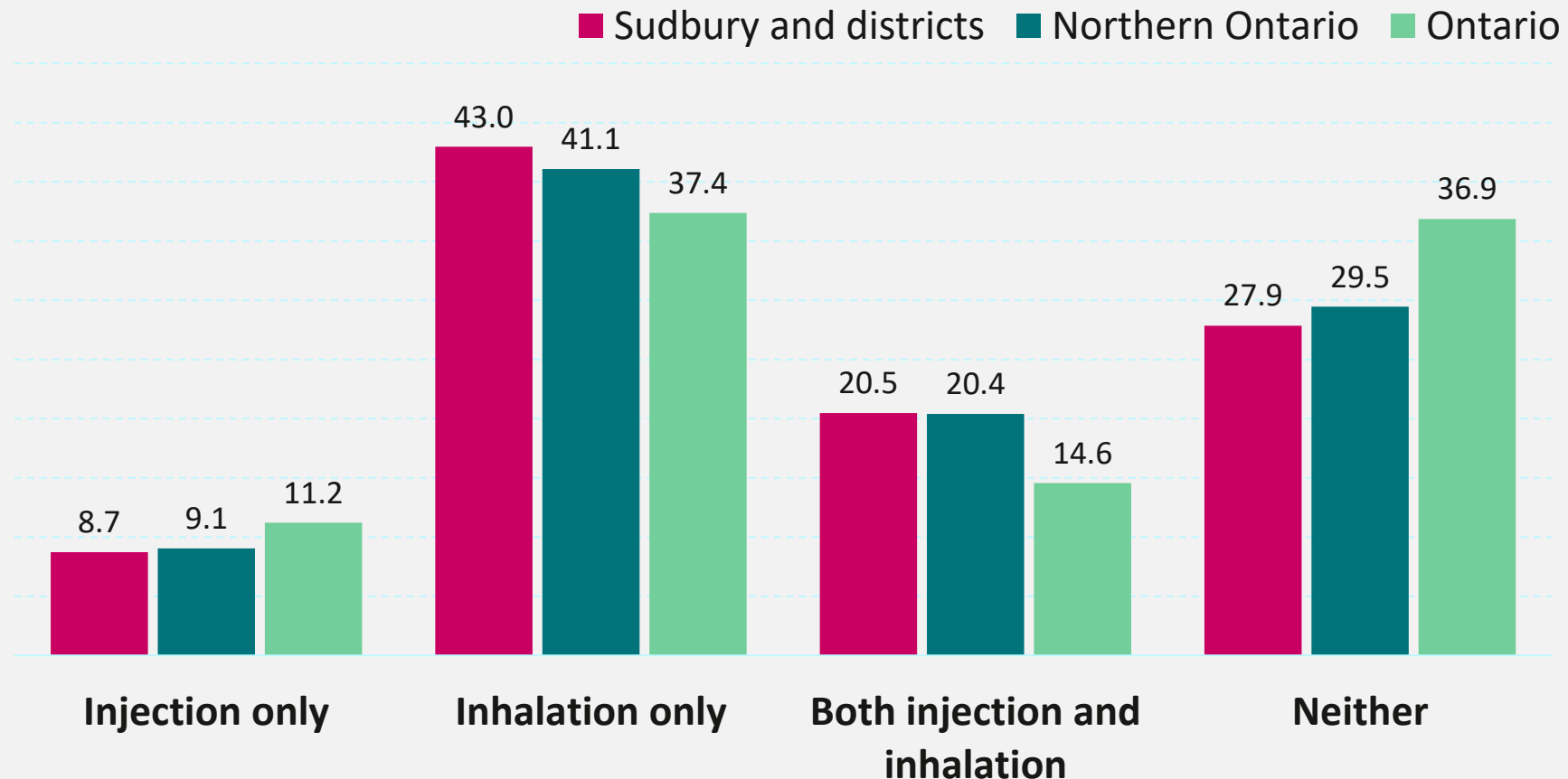
Percentage (%) of opioid-related deaths, by other drugs directly contributing to the death and geographic region, 2020–2022



Source: Quarterly Public Health Unit Opioid-related Deaths Reports [unpublished], Public Health Ontario, June 20, 2023

Most opioid-related deaths now involve inhalation

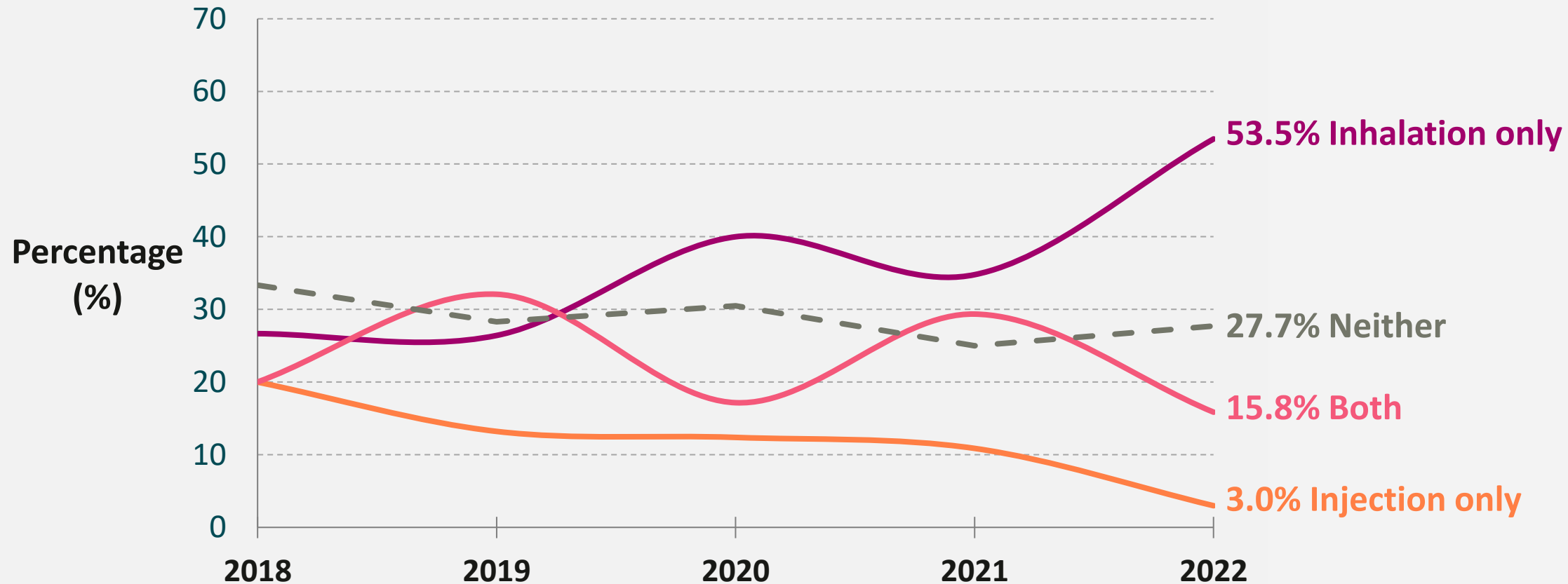
Percentage (%) of opioid-related deaths, by evidence of injection and/or inhalation drug use and geographic region, 2020–2022



Source: Quarterly Public Health Unit Opioid-related Deaths Reports [unpublished], Public Health Ontario, June 20, 2023

Deaths involving inhalation have increased in recent years

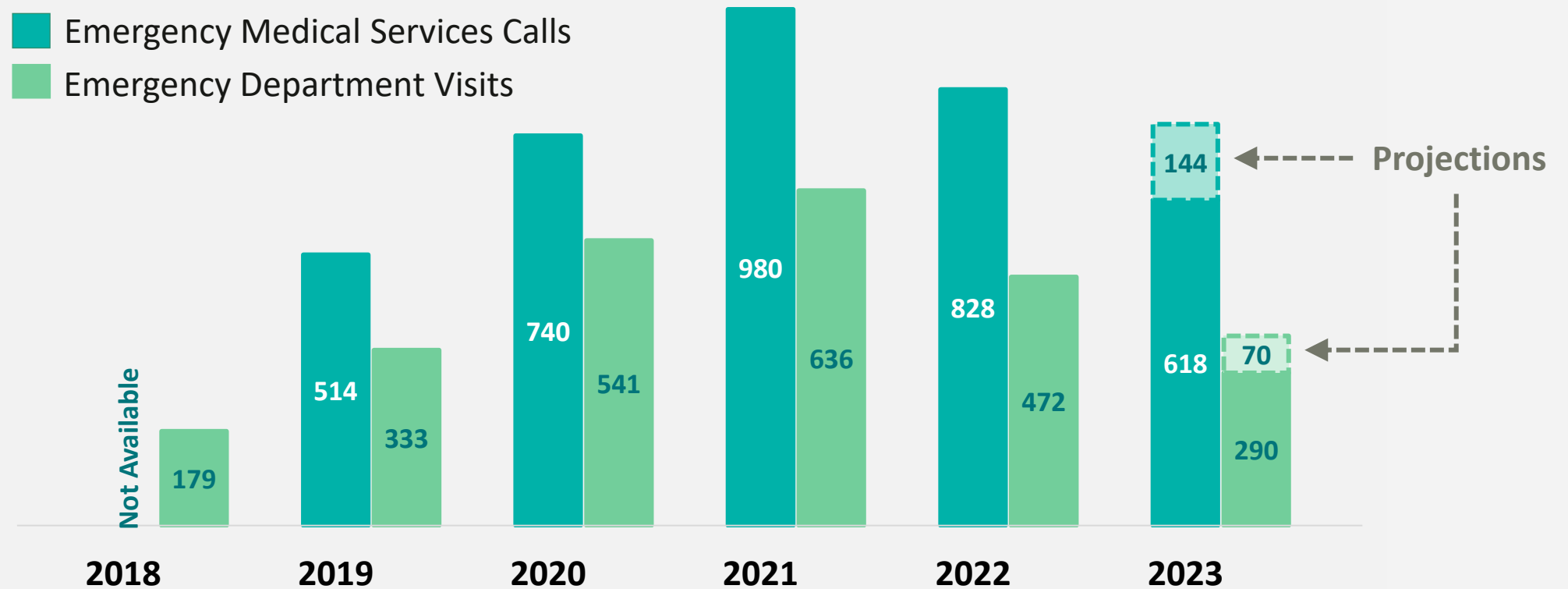
Percentage (%) of opioid-related deaths, by evidence of injection and/or inhalation drug use and year, Sudbury and districts, 2018–2022



Source: Quarterly Public Health Unit Opioid-related Deaths Reports [unpublished], Public Health Ontario, June 20, 2023

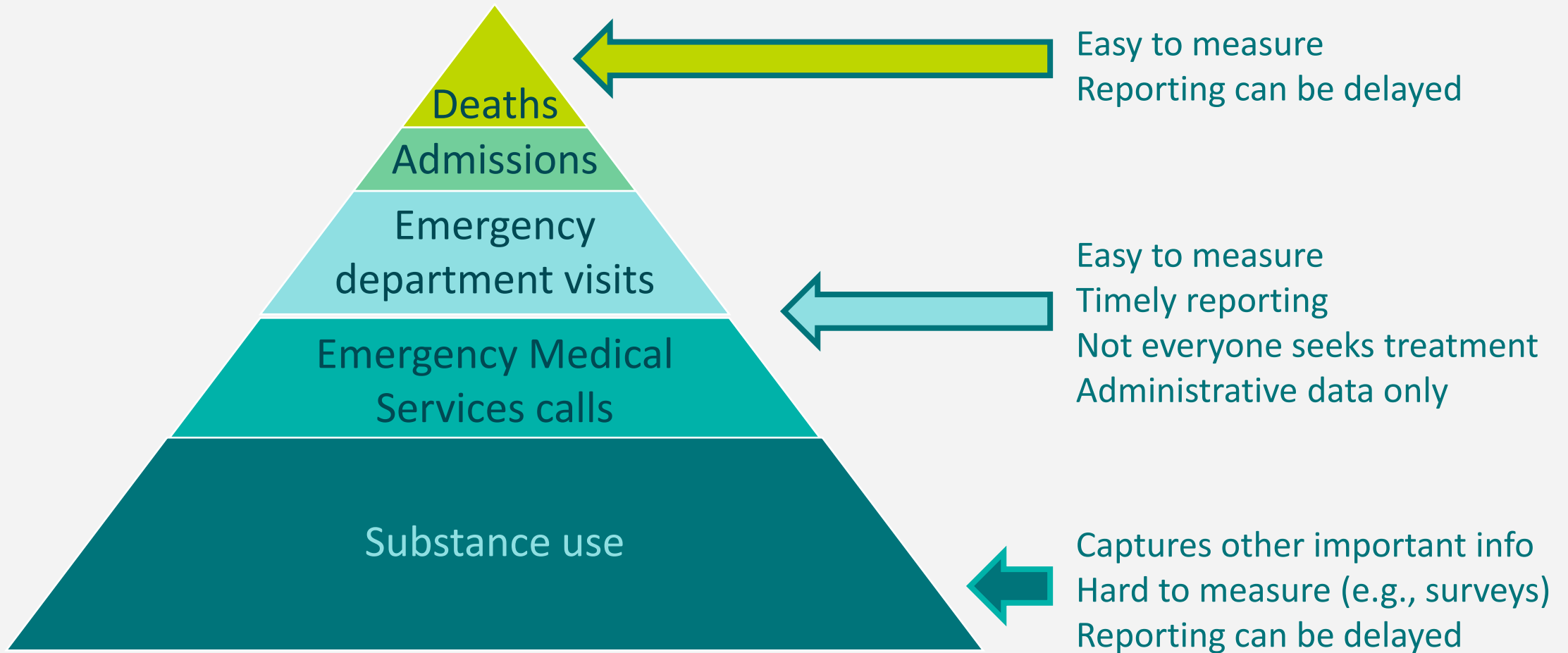
Other opioid-related indicators have decreased since 2021

Number of opioid-related emergency medical services (EMS) calls and emergency department visits, by year, Sudbury and districts, 2017–2023 (projected)



Sources: (1) Weekly emergency department visits for opioid overdose FY2017-18 to FY2023-24 Week 29 [unpublished], Ontario Ministry of Health and (2) City of Greater Sudbury Emergency Medical Services [unpublished], Extracted October 25, 2023

Each of our data sources have important limitations and fail to paint a complete picture of the problem



In summary...



Local rates of drug-related deaths **increased dramatically**



This is especially true in **Northern Ontario**



Overdoses are the **leading cause of death** before the age of 50



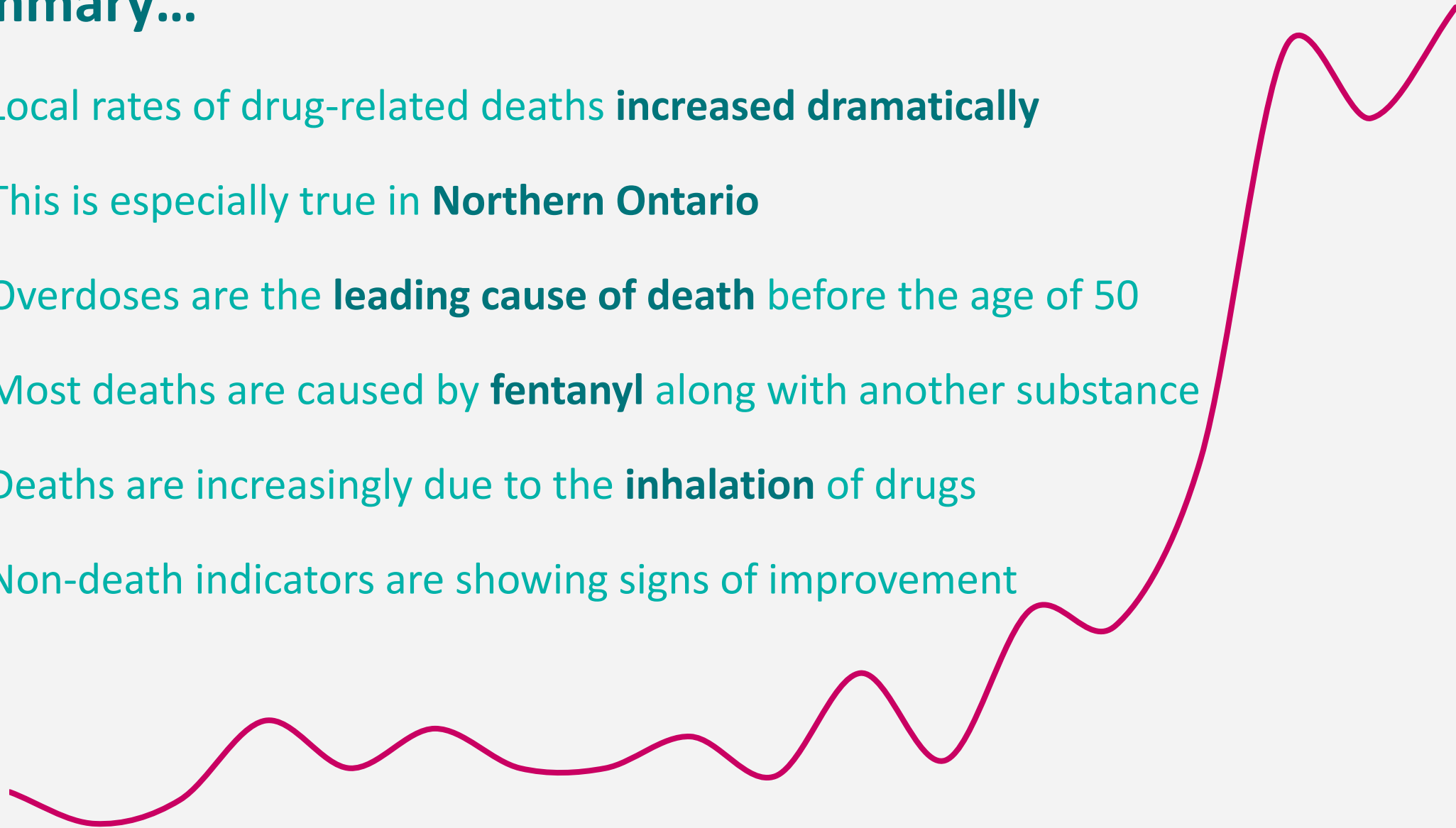
Most deaths are caused by **fentanyl** along with another substance



Deaths are increasingly due to the **inhalation** of drugs



Non-death indicators are showing signs of improvement





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