

# ADDRESSING THE DRUG TOXICITY CRISIS in the emergency department

September 2023



## THE PROBLEM:

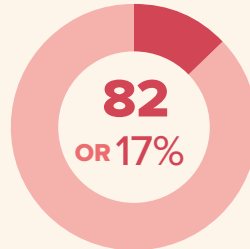
# IN 2022,

a total of

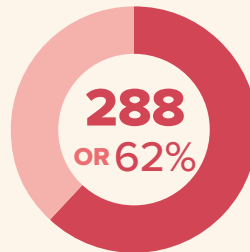
 **492** 

illicit drug toxicity deaths occurred within the VCH region

Of the 492,



were discharged from a VCH ED fewer than 30 days before their death



visited a VCH ED in the year before their death



## WHAT'S BEST PRACTICE ED CARE?



Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians position statement on opioid use disorder includes:

- ✓ Providing harm reduction
- ✓ Initiating Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT)
- ✓ Improving transition of care

## WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Implementing a substance use response toolkit across all VCH EDs:



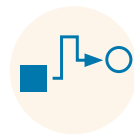
Harm reduction

- Take-home naloxone kits
- Safer use supplies
- Information for patients and staff



OAT

- Dispense missed doses
- Start OAT in ED
- Buprenorphine/naloxone to-go (BTG) packs (microdosing and standard)



Transition of care

- Outreach referrals
- Pathway to community care
- Next day follow-up