

Fentanyl in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark:

*A Presentation to the Municipal Drug Strategy
Coordinator's Network of Ontario*

Dr. Jennifer LeMessurier, BSc (Hons), MPH, MD

Public Health and Preventive Medicine Resident – University of Ottawa

February 26, 2016



Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District

HEALTH UNIT

Your Partner in Public Health

Fentanyl misuse is a serious public health problem

Fentanyl deaths are a Canada-wide 'disaster'

Mysterious narcotic is hundreds of times more powerful than heroin

By Aleksandra Sagan, CBC News | Posted: Aug 10, 2015 5:00 AM ET | Last Updated: Aug 10, 2015 4:36 PM ET

Fentanyl patches stolen from downtown pharmacy, Toronto police warn

Second large theft of the powerful painkiller in recent weeks

CBC News | Posted: Aug 28, 2015 9:22 AM ET | Last Updated: Aug 28, 2015 3:51 PM ET

3 nabbed in Smiths Falls drug bust

BY DOUG HEMPSTEAD, OTTAWA SUN

FIRST POSTED: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 01, 2015 11:38 PM EST | UPDATED: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 01, 2015 11:42 PM EST



Fentanyl now leading cause of opioid deaths in Ontario

KAREN HOWLETT AND ANDREA WOO

TORONTO and VANCOUVER — The Globe and Mail

Published Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016 9:25PM EST

Last updated Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016 10:41PM EST

What is fentanyl?

- Synthetic opioid prescribed to treat **severe pain**
 - Available in patch and powder form
 - Increasing availability of bootleg fentanyl
- Fentanyl is **high risk** for **misuse** and **overdose**
 - 100X stronger than morphine
 - **40X stronger than heroin**



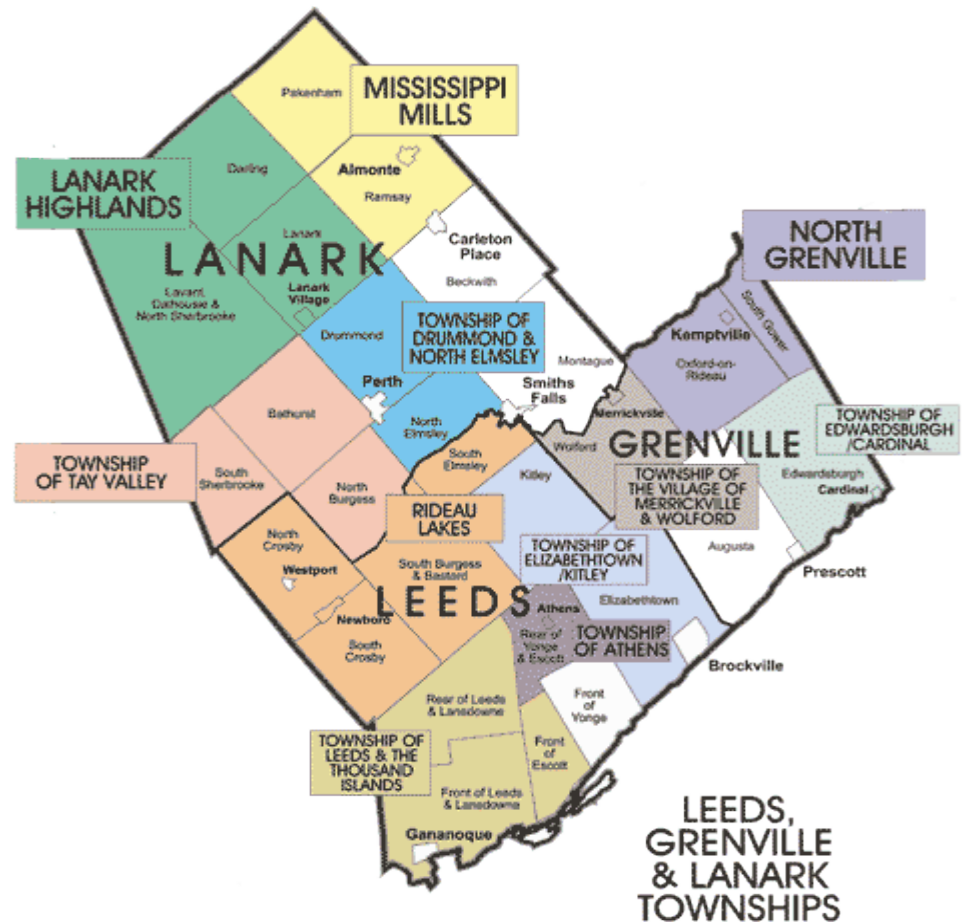
Fentanyl misuse

- Available primarily as **prescription** fentanyl patches (personal misuse, sold or stolen patches)
- Users are **extracting** and **injecting** gel from patches, **smoking**, **chewing**, and **eating** patches
- Used patches may contain **60-80%** of original dose
- Drug may not be evenly distributed on patch



Fentanyl in Leeds, Grenville & Lanark

- **Ten possible fentanyl-related deaths in tri-county area over 18 months***



*Information as of August 31, 2015

Fentanyl in Leeds, Grenville & Lanark

- **‘Revive’** opioid overdose program
(recruiting since Nov 2014)
 - **81.2% using fentanyl***
 - **23% had an overdose on fentanyl***



*Information as of August 31, 2015

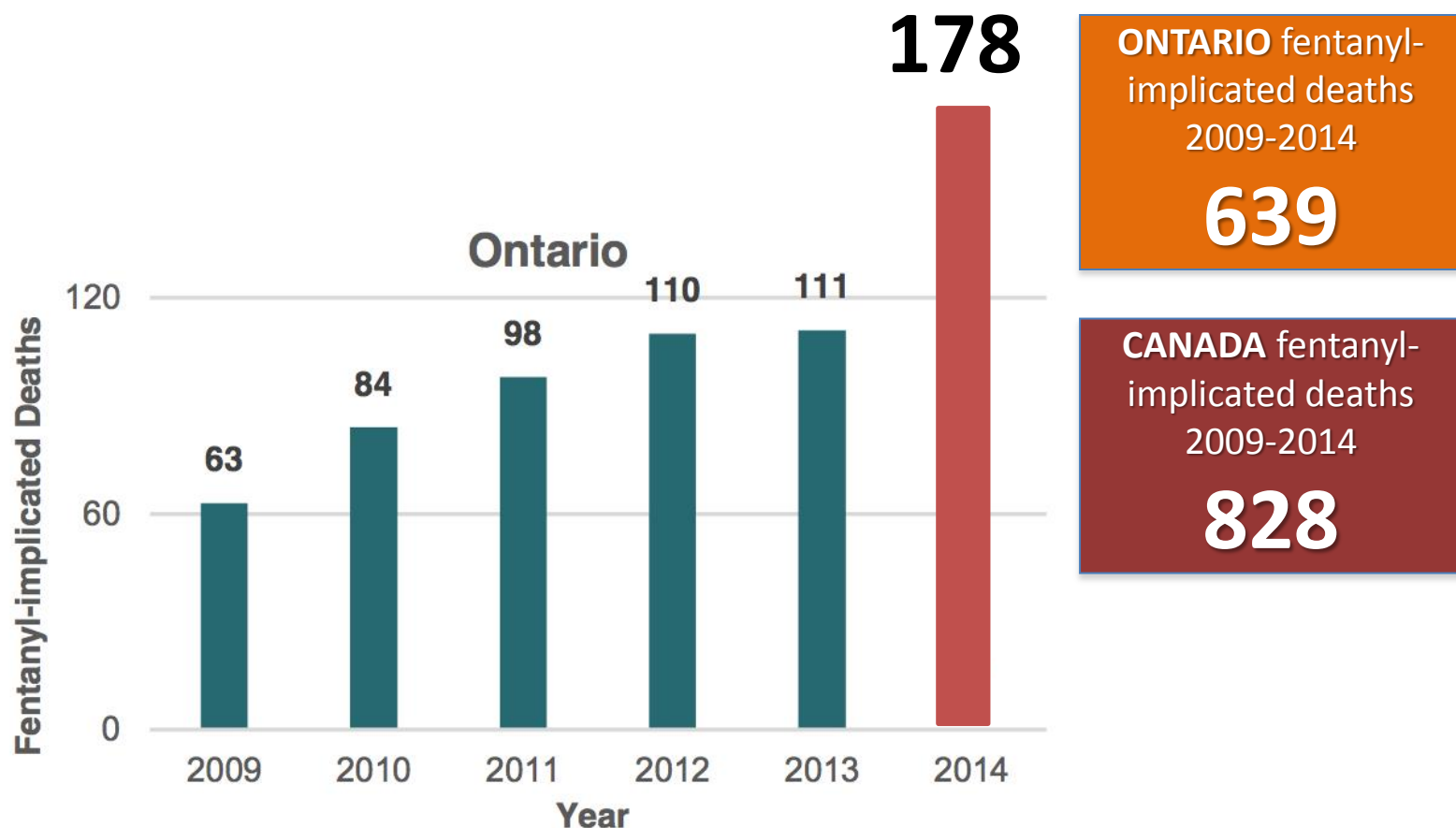


Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District

HEALTH UNIT

Your Partner in Public Health

Fentanyl – Scope of the Problem



Fentanyl-implicated deaths in Ontario between 2009-2014

Fentanyl – Scope of the Problem

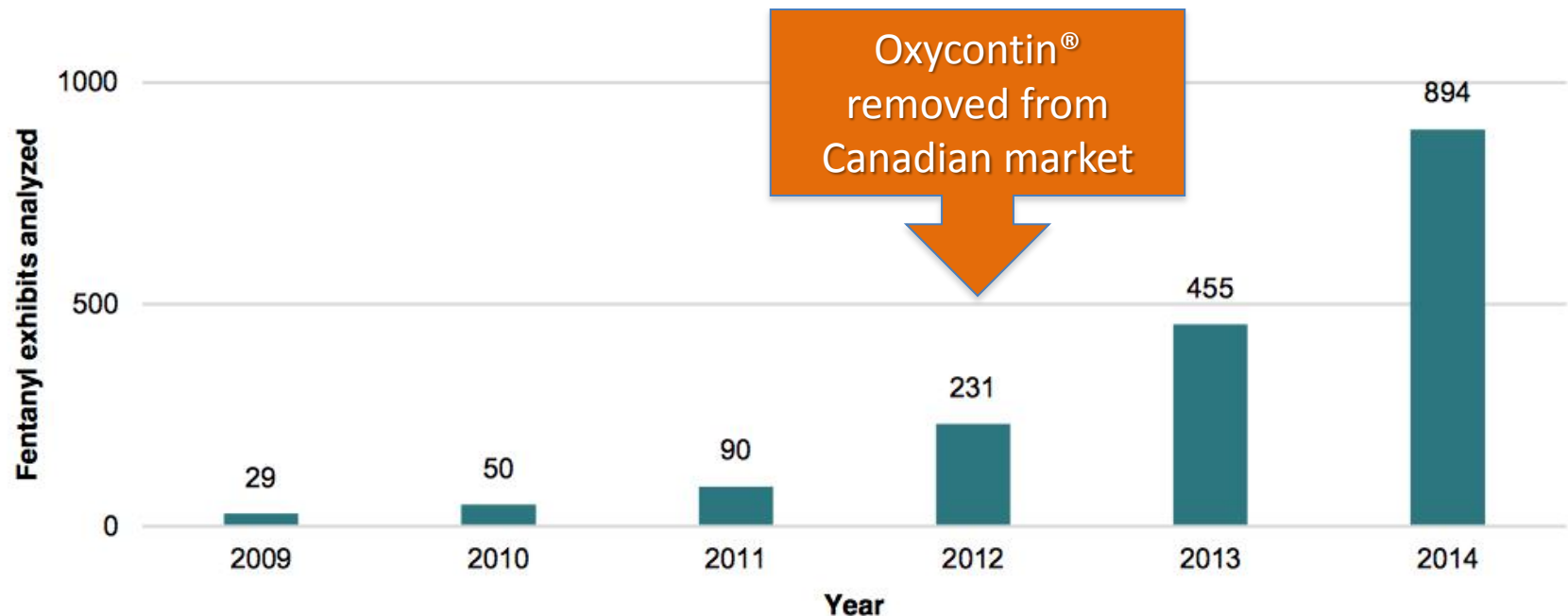
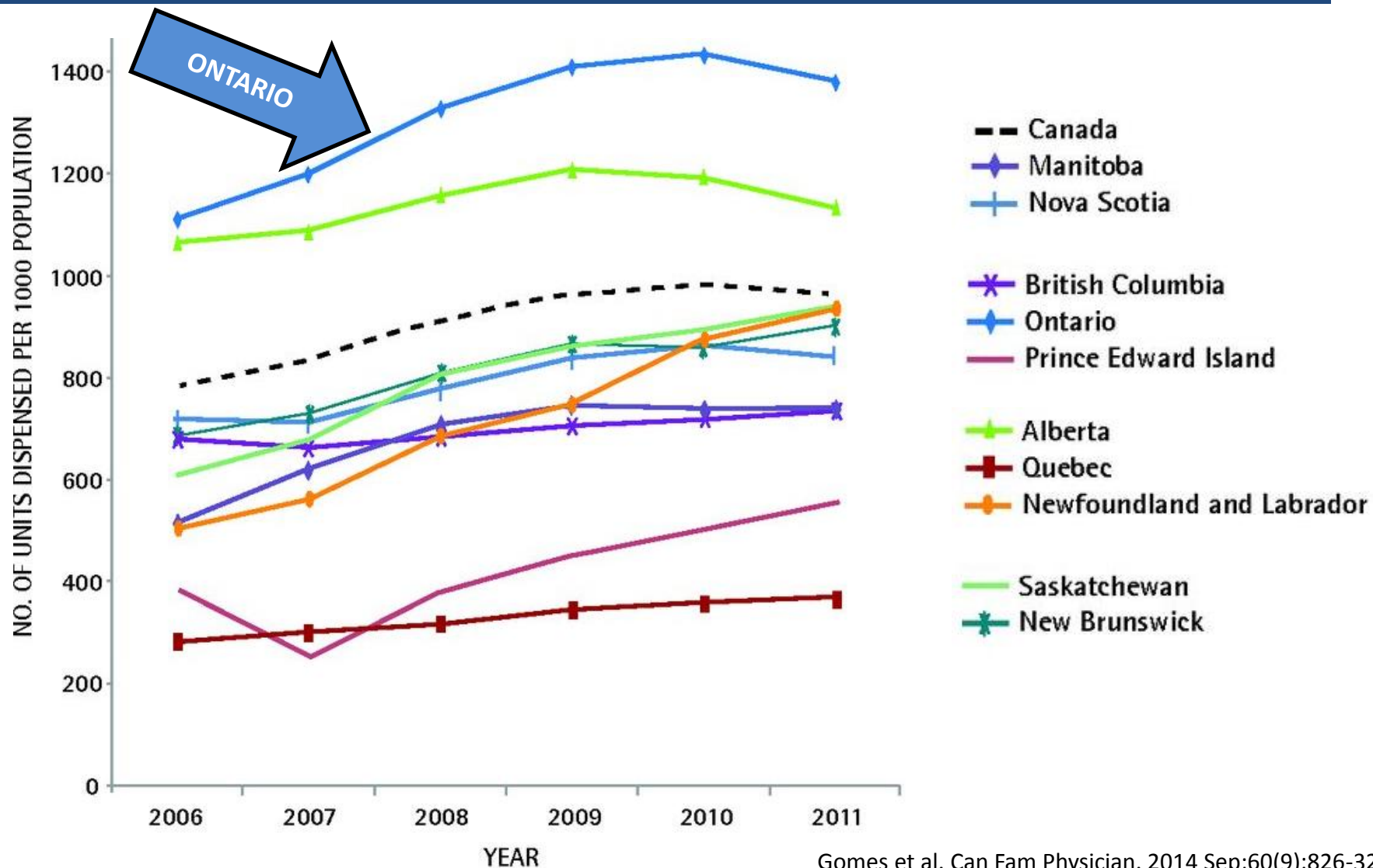
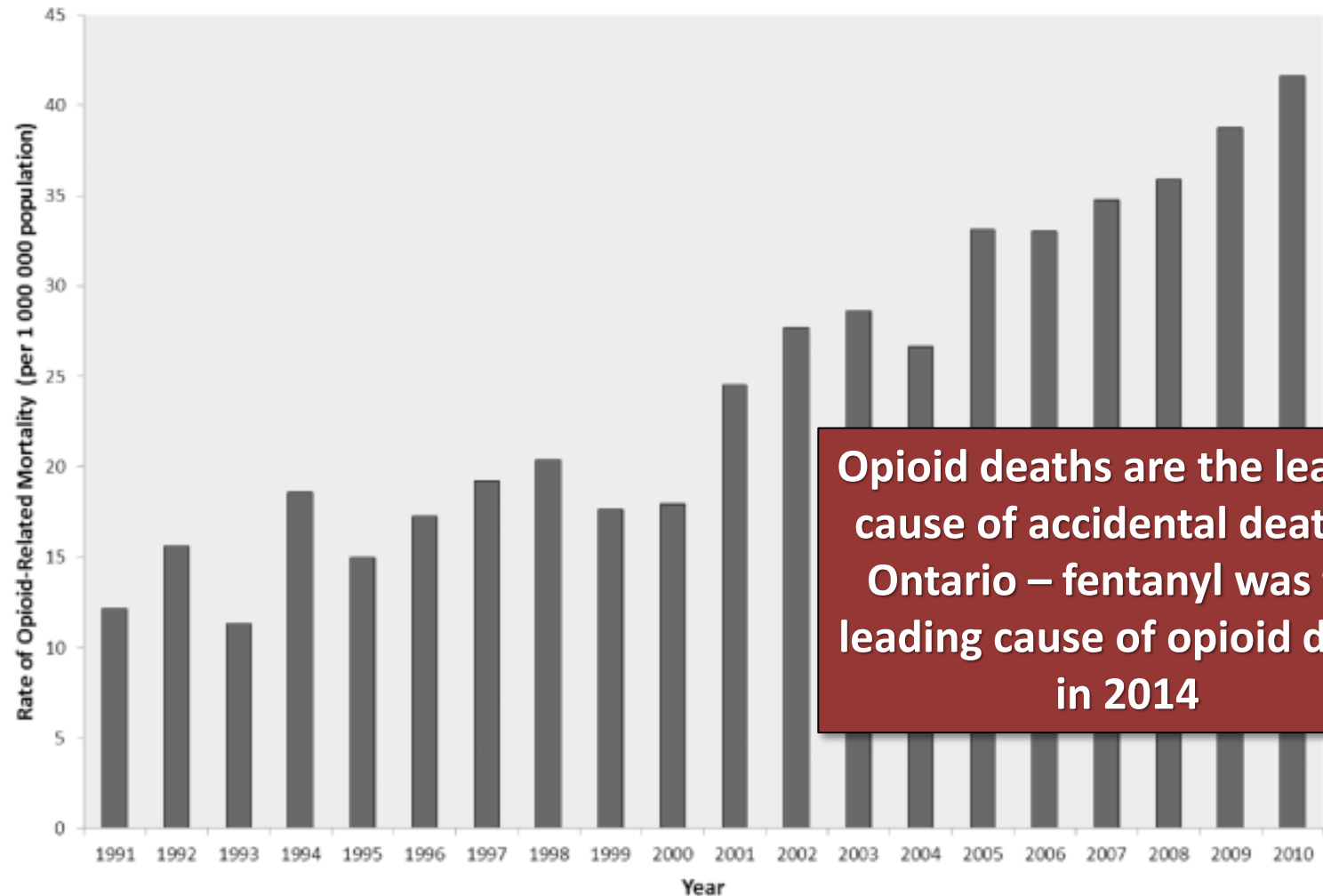


Figure 1. Number of fentanyl seizures analyzed by Health Canada's Drug Analysis Service

High-dose opioid prescriptions in Canada, 2006-2011

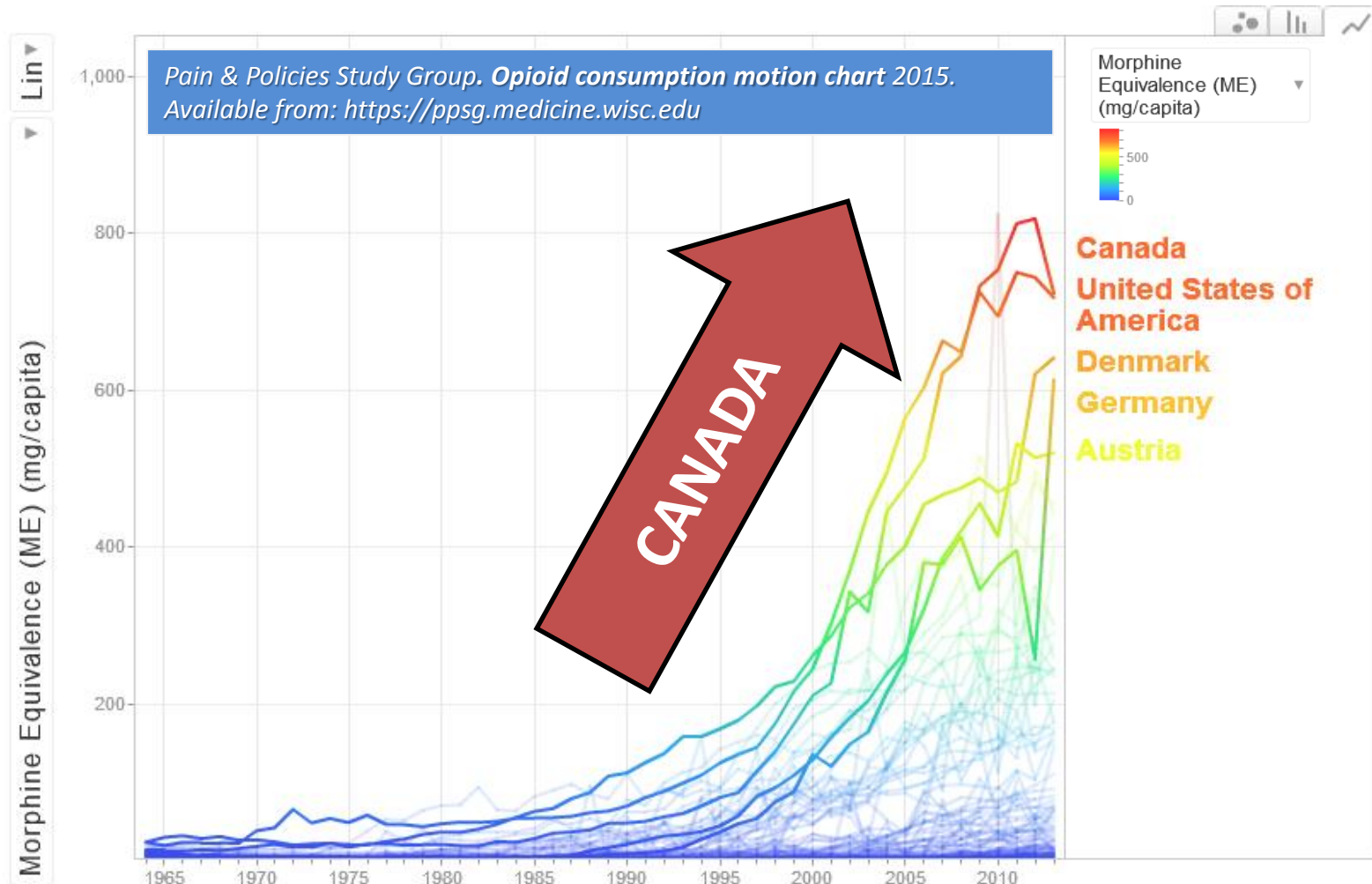


Opioid deaths in Ontario, 1991-2010



Global trends in opioid use

*in milligrams morphine equivalence per capita, by country, from 1965 to 2013**



Morphine equivalence based on six principal opioids used to treat moderate to severe pain: fentanyl, hydromorphone, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, and pethidine.

Goals of a local 'Fentanyl Harm Reduction Initiative'

- Working with healthcare providers, law enforcement, and community members to increase awareness of the problem and collaborate on an initiative
- Decrease **fentanyl misuse, overdoses, and fentanyl-related deaths** in the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark community



Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District

HEALTH UNIT

Your Partner in Public Health

Four Pillars Drug Strategy

MacPherson, D. A framework for action: A four-pillar approach to drug problems in Vancouver. April 2001.

Framework for Action: An Approach to Drug Problems

Education
➤ Physicians
➤ Pharmacists

Fentanyl
Patch 4 Patch
Initiative

Prevention

Treatment

Harm Reduction

COMMUNITY
HARM
reduction
Steering Committee

revive

Enforcement

Methadone Maintenance Treatment
Suboxone Substitution Therapy

Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District

HEALTH UNIT

Your Partner in Public Health

Fentanyl Patch 4 Patch Initiative

Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police. Patch4Patch Initiative. November 2014.

- **Fentanyl patch return program**
 - Physicians, pharmacies, and patients collaborate to promote safe use and disposal of patches
 - **Patients return their used patches before receiving their next refill**
 - Other jurisdictions have had some success in preventing prescription diversion
 - Some local physicians and pharmacists already using this strategy



Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District

HEALTH UNIT

Your Partner in Public Health

'Revive' program

- **Naloxone is an emergency treatment to reverse opioid overdose**
- Having an opioid user, friend, or family member trained to give naloxone at the time of overdose **can save a life**
- **Naloxone take-home kits and training are available through the Health Unit 'Revive' program**
 - www.healthunit.org/harmreduction/revive.html



Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District

HEALTH UNIT

Your Partner in Public Health

'Revive' program

- **>50%** 'Revive' participants reported witnessing opioid overdose
- **10.4%** naloxone kits used
- **Nine opioid overdoses have been reversed** with since November 2014



Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District

HEALTH UNIT

Your Partner in Public Health

Summary and Discussion

- **Fentanyl misuse is a local problem** contributing to a growing and important provincial and national public health issue
- We have a **shared responsibility** in addressing fentanyl misuse, overdoses, and fentanyl-related deaths in our community
- Tackling fentanyl deaths within the broader context of opioid prescribing practices and opioid addiction in Ontario requires a **comprehensive and collaborative strategy**



Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District

HEALTH UNIT

Your Partner in Public Health

Thank you



Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District

HEALTH UNIT

Your Partner in Public Health