Opioid use disorder is a serious, life-threatening condition and is associated with significant impairment and distress.\(^1\)

People with opioid use disorder have a mortality rate that is more than 10 times that of the general population.\(^2\) In Ontario, approximately 1 in every 8 deaths among people 25 to 34 years old is related to opioid use.\(^3\)

The rate of opioid-related emergency department visits is nearly four times higher in some regions of Ontario compared with others.

In 2016, the rate of opioid-related visits to the emergency department was 3.2 per 10,000 population province-wide, and varied between regions from 1.5 to 5.4 per 10,000 population.\(^4\)

People with opioid use disorder may not be able to access the care they need.\(^5\)

This includes access to buprenorphine/naloxone and methadone — effective opioid replacement therapies for opioid addiction.\(^6\)

The rate at which these medications are dispensed to treat opioid addiction is up to 11 times higher in some regions than in others, ranging from 17 to 189 people per 10,000 population receiving either drug.

Reasons for this variation may include differences in need and in access to treatment.

The opioid-related death rate in Ontario increased by 285% between 1991 and 2015.\(^7\)

**OPioid-related deaths:**

- 53 per million population in 2015
- 14 per million population in 1991

Together, we can improve the quality of care for people living with opioid addiction and their families. That’s why Health Quality Ontario — in collaboration with health care providers, people who have used opioids, and their families and caregivers — has developed this quality standard outlining what quality care looks like.