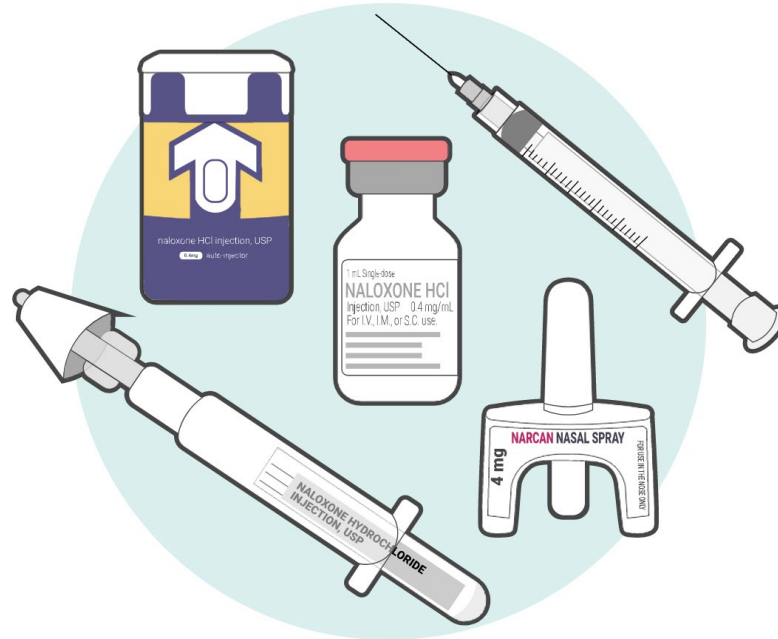


OPIOID OVERDOSE EMERGENCY IN ONTARIO

ROMA CONFERENCE 2020

ISSUES AT THE TABLE

- Opioids are on the minds of municipal councils.
- AMO Health Task Force actively involved in addressing the issue.
- Municipal input is critical in shaping recommendations.
- Opportunities for coordinating government responses to the opioid crisis.



OPIOID EMERGENCY

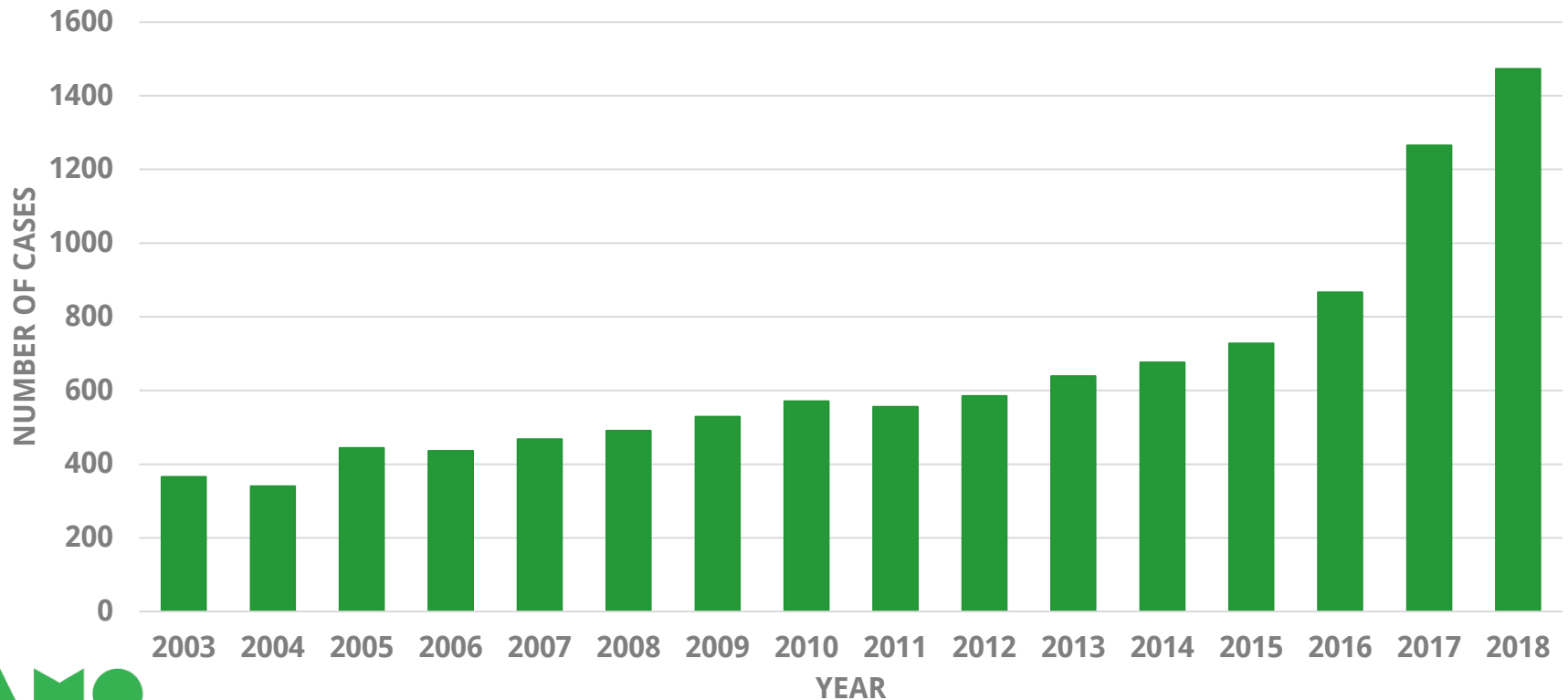
- An emergency, more than a crisis.
- Opioids affect communities across the province.
- Opioid addiction affects society collectively.
- Limitation of treatment options for residents in rural, northern and remote communities.



OPIOIDS: BEHIND THE NUMBERS

- Steady rise in opioid-related deaths in the last decade.
- 102% increase in opioid-related deaths from 2015 to 2018.

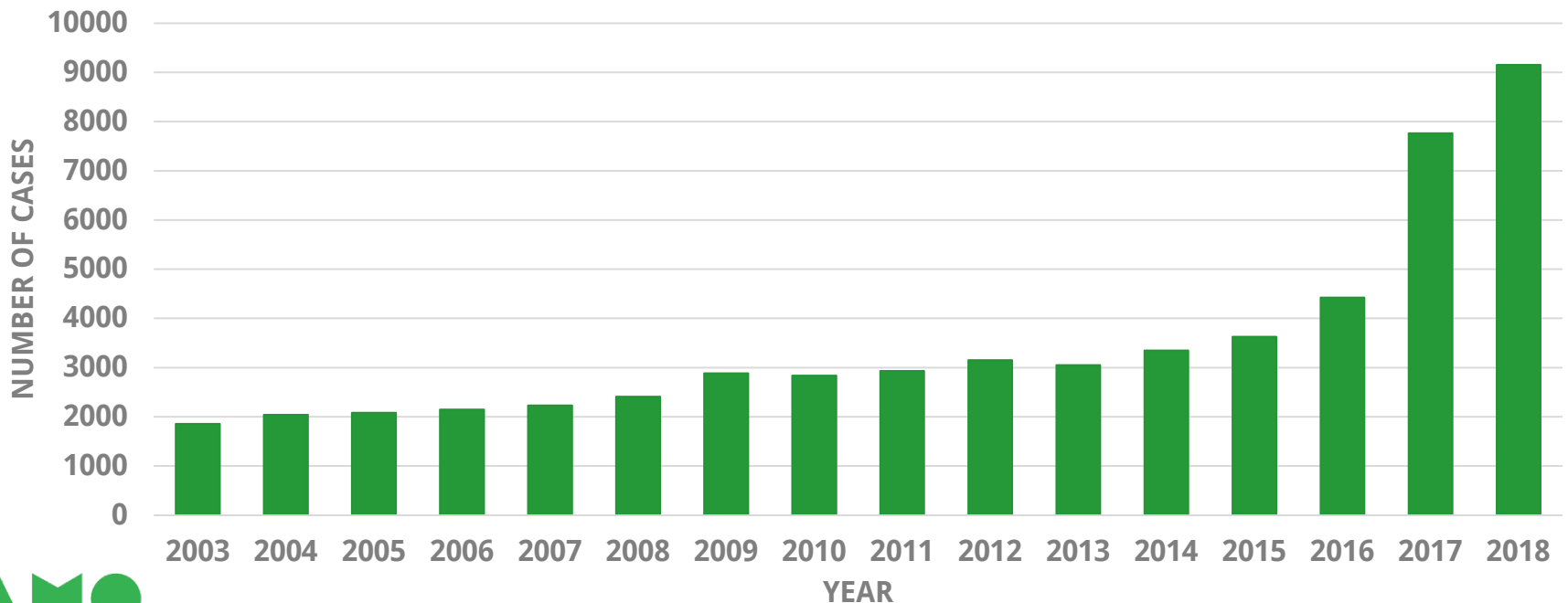
Opioid-related deaths in Ontario 2003 - 2018



OPIOIDS: BEHIND THE NUMBERS

- Exponential increase in opioid-related emergency department visits.
- 152% increase in visits from 2015 to 2018.

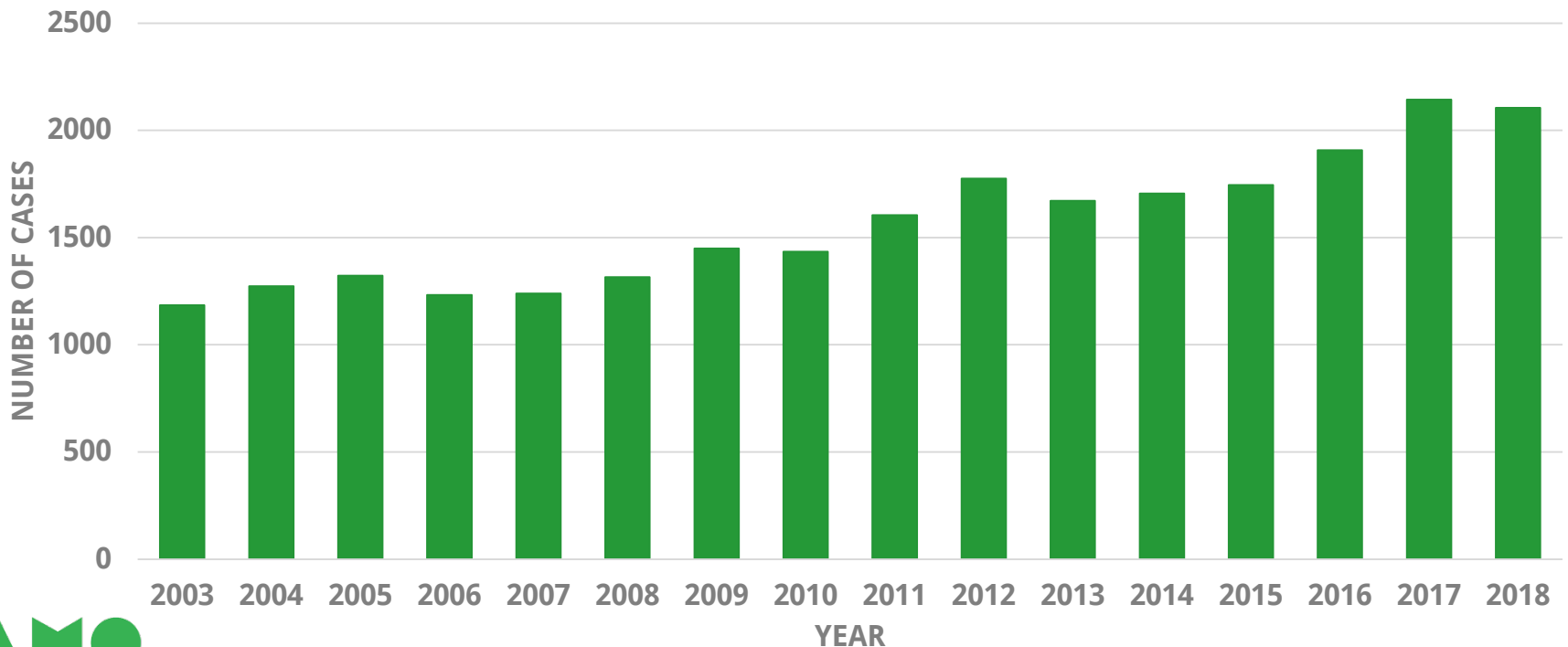
Opioid-related emergency department visits in Ontario
2003 - 2018



OPIOIDS: BEHIND THE NUMBERS

- 78% increase in hospitalizations from 2003 to 2018
- 21% increase in hospitalizations from 2015 to 2018.

Opioid-related hospitalizations in Ontario
2003 - 2018



THE PRESSURE IS ON

- Multiple stakeholders involved in responding to the opioid emergency.
- Immense pressure on municipal services and emergency responders to address the issue.
- A more comprehensive provincial response is needed urgently.
- A need for crisis intervention for mental health disorders and addictions.



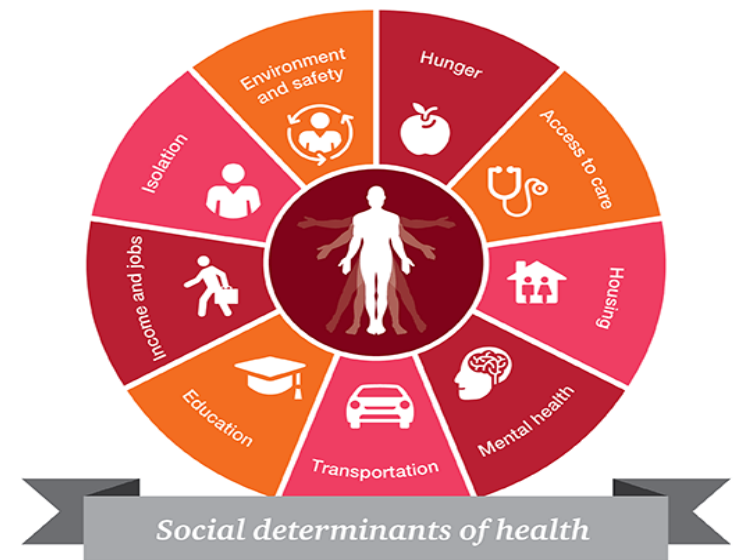
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

- Municipalities are in the front line of the opioid emergency.
- Implementing opioid overdose mitigation efforts in the new provincial strategy to be drafted.
- Adoption of the AMO Health Task Force's recommendations by the AMO Board of Directors.
- Collaboration amongst various municipal sector representatives.



FOUNDATIONAL STEPS TO SUCCESS

1. Province acknowledging the emergency and commit to long-term funding.
2. Develop a provincial strategy that will support local strategies using a public health approach.
3. Appointing dedicated provincial coordinator who will solely overlook opioid emergency.
4. Engaging with all relevant stakeholders including municipalities and public health units.



FURTHER RECCOMENDATIONS

Address root causes
of addiction

Undertake studies
and identify leading
practices

Information sharing
on successful
elements

Utilizing real-time
data reporting

Developing sub-
strategies in
consultation with
Indigenous People

More funding for
harm reduction and
rehabilitation

Funding to assist
treating mental
illness and addiction

Health/social service
collaboration with
municipalities

Enhancing diversion
programs

FURTHER RECCOMENDATIONS

Ensuring necessary resources are available

Enhance community paramedicine

Ministry of Health working with the medical community

Public education campaign

Promote youth-resilience programs

MoH funding for Naloxone kits

Funding to enforce laws on illicit drugs supply, production and distribution

Establish and maintain 30,000 housing units

Provincial advocacy to federal government

GETTING THE BALL ROLLING

- Advocacy for municipalities on the opioid emergency.
- Commitment to work with the province to address the opioid emergency.
- Municipalities developing and implementing local drug strategies (E.g. the 2018 Simcoe-Muskoka Opioid Strategy).
- The need for provincial resources to initiate mitigation and response efforts.



CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have further questions, thoughts or ideas please feel free to contact:

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Thank you for your participation.