

**2**

**1**

**KEY POINTS**

* There are key differences in patient characteristics for opioid misuse/abuse in First Nations peoples compared to non-First Nations peoples, such as rates of accidental death due to opioid toxicity and access to opioid agonist therapy
* Risk factors include psychosocial stress, socioeconomic determinants, chronic pain, and polysubstance use or additions
* Gender is an important factor in screening for risk and considerations for treatment

**Selected Studies**

Highlights:

* Low risk patients for abuse are generally older, compliant, thoughtful, responsible, and easy-going with a stable mood
* Patient risk factors for abuse include personal or family history of abuse, youth, criminal history, contact with high-risk individuals or environments, risky behaviour, severe depression or anxiety, and exposure to multiple psychosocial stressors

Highlights:

* Rates of apparent accidental opioid drug toxicity deaths are 3x higher in FNs than in non-First Nations in AB (FN men and women equally represented)
* FN opioid toxicity deaths are significantly higher in the Calgary Zone while non-FN deaths are highest in the Edmonton Zone
* FN women are the highest proportion of individuals accessing opioid dispensing and OAT drugs from community pharmacies

Highlights:

* Younger adults and men are at greatest risk for OUD
* Women are less likely than men to receive substance abuse treatment and tend to misuse for emotional and affective distress, whereas men tend to misuse for legal and problematic behavioural issues
* Psychosocial risk factors include: single status, unemployment, low education, poor health, tobacco/alcohol use, comorbidity, and stress

The literature does point to one set of patient characteristics that can be used to predict opioid misuse/abuse in chronic pain patients. However, certain risk factors can be frequently found throughout this body of research (e.g. young age). In 2017, the AFNIGC released a report on the state of opioid-related deaths amongst First Nations peoples in Alberta. This report demonstrates that the patient characteristics for opioid misuse/abuse in non-First Nations peoples are not applicable to First Nations peoples. These key differences must be understood by healthcare providers and systems.

Highlights:

* Opioid use disorder (OUD) is more likely to occur among those who are younger, male, and to have past substance abuse issues (alcohol or cocaine)
* Past drug or DUI convictions are also predictors of OUD
* Race, income, education, depression score, disability score, pain score, and literacy were not patient factors associated with misuse

***THEME:***

***PATIENT PREDICTORS OF OPIOID MISUSE***

**REFERENCES:**

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2. Jamison, RN, et al. (2011). Assessment and treatment of abuse risk in opioid prescribing for chronic pain. *Pain Research and Treatment, 2011*, 1-12.
3. Kaye, AD, et al. (2017). Prescription opioid abuse in chronic pain: An updated review of opioid abuse predictors and strategies to curb opioid abuse: Part 1. *Pain Physician, 20*, S93-S109.
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**3**

**4**

**OPIOID PRESCRIBING PROJECT**

**LITERATURE SUMMARY SHEET**