

Demographics & Life Expectancy

KEY MESSAGES:

- Algoma is home to an aging population, with a higher proportion of seniors aged 65 years and older compared to Northeast Public Health Units (NE PHUs) and Ontario⁽¹⁾.
- A male and female baby born in Algoma are expected to live to 77.2 and 81.6 years respectively⁽⁵⁾.
- Infant mortality in Algoma has significantly reduced from 7.5 to 4.8 per 1,000 live births from 2000 to 2021⁽⁶⁾.
- Algoma's all-cause mortality (873.4 per 100,000) remains higher than the province (665.5 per 100,000)⁽⁶⁾.
- Lung cancer and accidental drug poisoning are the top two leading causes of preventable deaths in Algoma, respectively⁽⁶⁾.

Geography

Algoma Public Health's (APH) boundary covers over 41,000 square kilometers and contains 21 municipalities, two large unorganized areas and numerous Indigenous communities⁽¹⁾. The region serviced by the health agency stretches over an eight-hour drive along Highway 17 from Spanish in the east to White River in the north.

Northern Ontario is serviced by seven public health units, five of which serve the Northeast region while the other two serve the Northwest. The Northeast public health units (NE PHUs) include Algoma Public Health, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Porcupine Health Unit, Public Health Sudbury & Districts, and Timiskaming Health Unit.

Fun fact:

The Algoma Public Health service area is as large as half of Lake Superior - the largest of the Great Lakes, whose surface area spans over 82,000 square kilometers⁽²⁾.

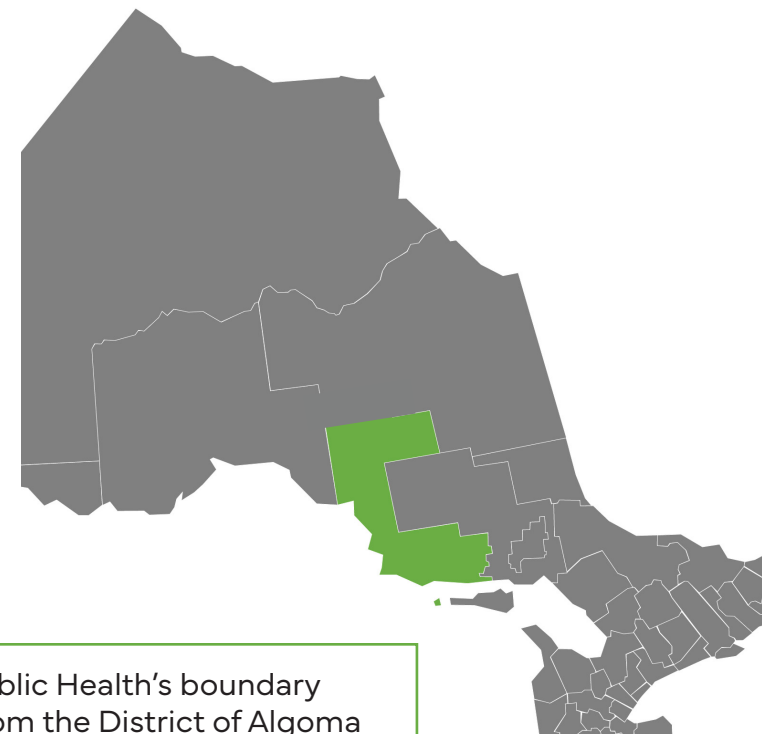
Algoma Public Health



Lake Superior



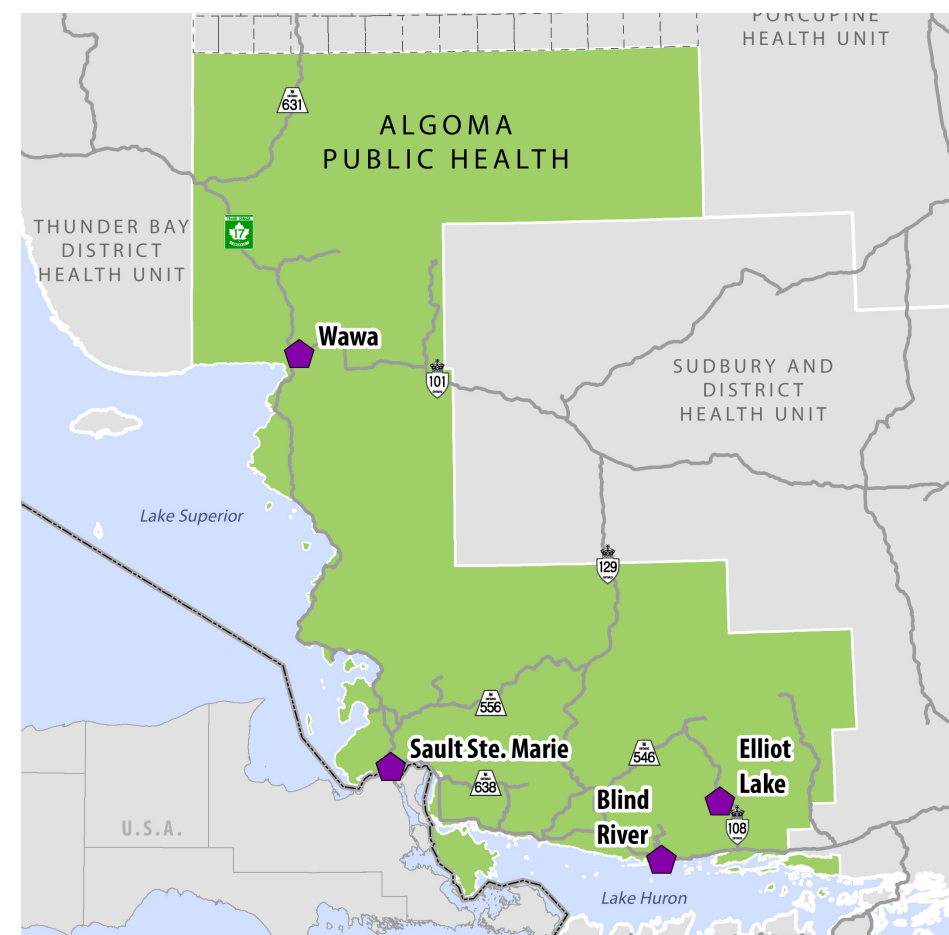
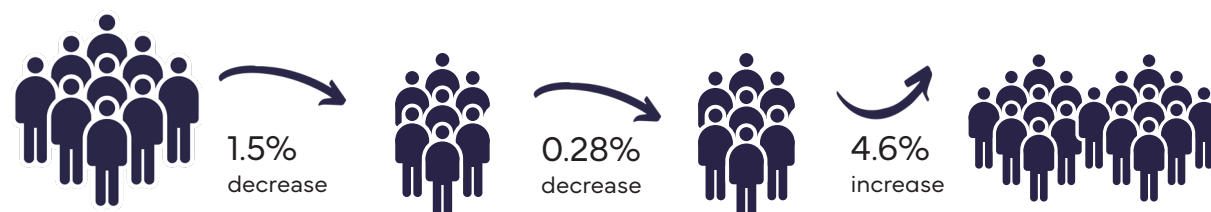
Note: Algoma Public Health's boundary differs slightly from the District of Algoma or the Census Division of Algoma, which are commonly used by Statistics Canada.



Population and age

The population serviced by Algoma Public Health in 2021⁽¹⁾

112,764



Algoma's population is comprised of⁽¹⁾:

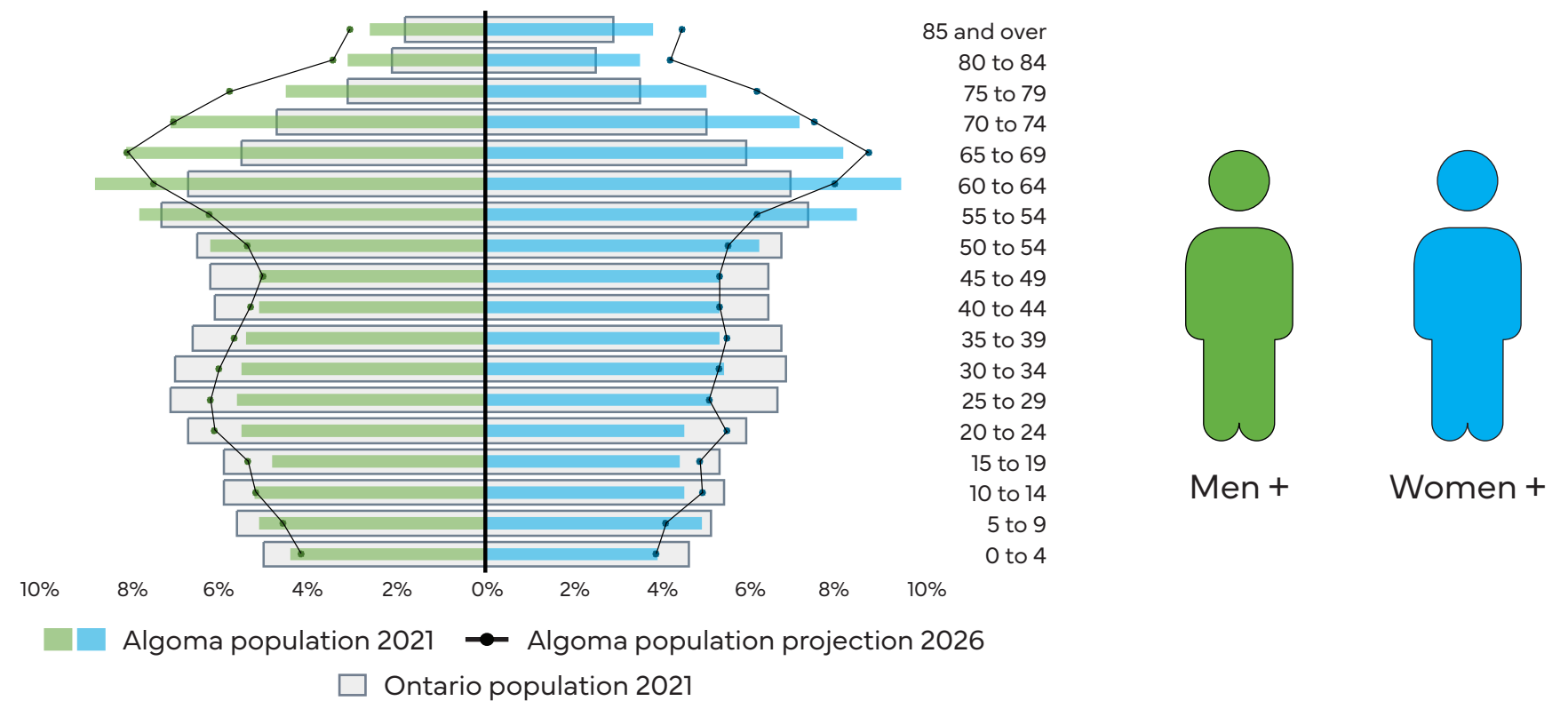


Average age of an Algoma resident⁽¹⁾: **46.4** years old

26.5%
of Algoma's population is aged 65 years and older

- The population declined from 2011 to 2016 by 1.5%⁽¹⁾, and further from 2016 to 2021 by 0.28% and it is expected to grow by 4.6% between 2021 and 2026⁽³⁾.
- The average age in Algoma is higher than that of NE PHUs residents (44.7 years old) and Ontario residents (41.8 years old)⁽¹⁾.
- An alternate method of looking at age is to use the median, which is a measure that is less affected by extreme values in the population. The median age of an Algoma resident is 50 years old, compared to 46.8 and 41.6 years old in the NE PHUs and Ontario respectively⁽¹⁾.
- Algoma has a higher percentage of seniors than both the NE PHUs (23.3%) and Ontario (18.5%)⁽¹⁾.
- By 2026, residents aged 65 years and older are projected to be 29.2% of Algoma's population⁽³⁾.

Population distribution and projections by age group and gender in Algoma and Ontario⁽³⁾

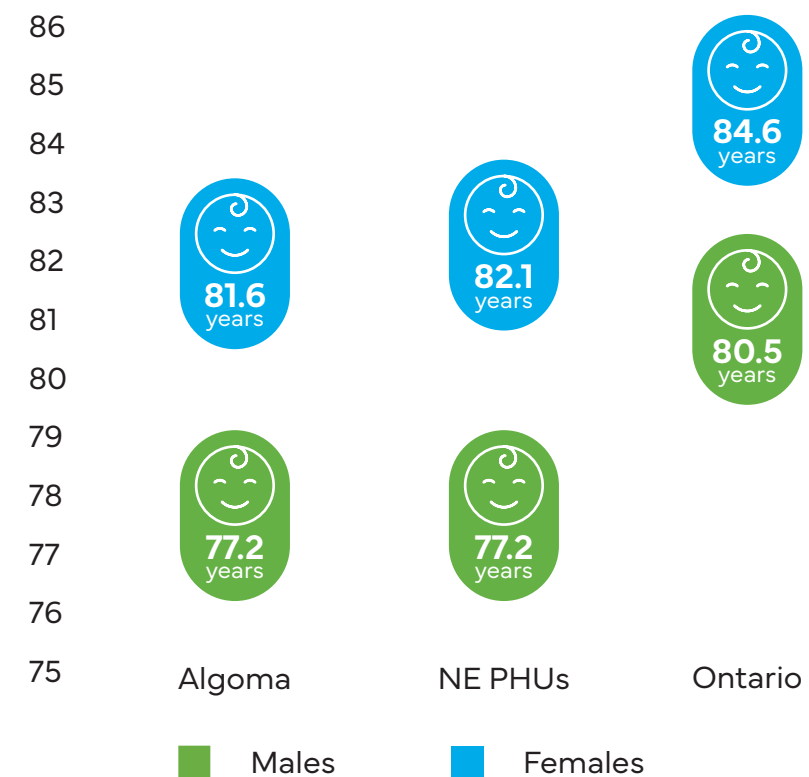


Life expectancy

At birth

- According to the data available from 2015 – 2017, life expectancy at birth has increased in Algoma.
- Until updated Algoma-specific data becomes available, it is useful to refer to provincial level data for 2018 – 2020. This most recent data showed a decrease in life expectancy for boys and girls to 80.2 years and 84.5 years respectively. This decrease is primarily attributed to deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic⁽⁵⁾. Note, the COVID-19 specific death rate during 2020 in Algoma was 0 while it was 66.7 per 100,000 people in Ontario.
- On average, a person born and living in Algoma lives for 3 years less than the provincial average life expectancy⁽⁵⁾.

Life expectancy at birth, by gender⁽⁵⁾



Life expectancy

At 65 years of age

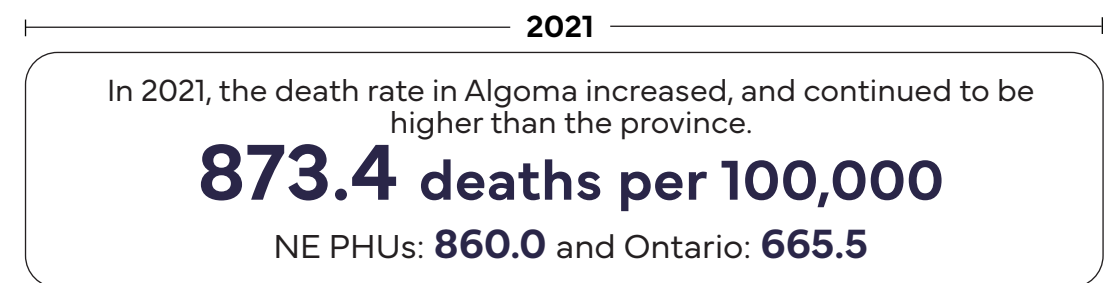
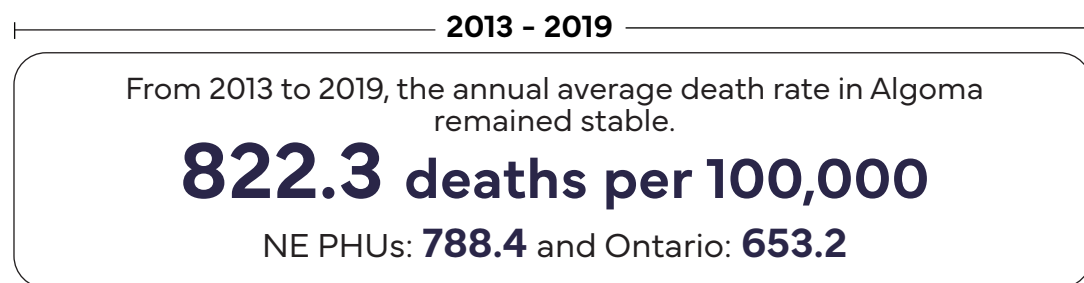
- A 65-year-old person living in Algoma today is expected to live another 18 - 21 years. That is approximately one year less than the provincial average life expectancy⁽⁵⁾.
- On average, females have a longer life expectancy than males in Algoma, the NE PHUs and Ontario⁽⁵⁾.

Number of years expected to live after 65 years of age⁽⁵⁾

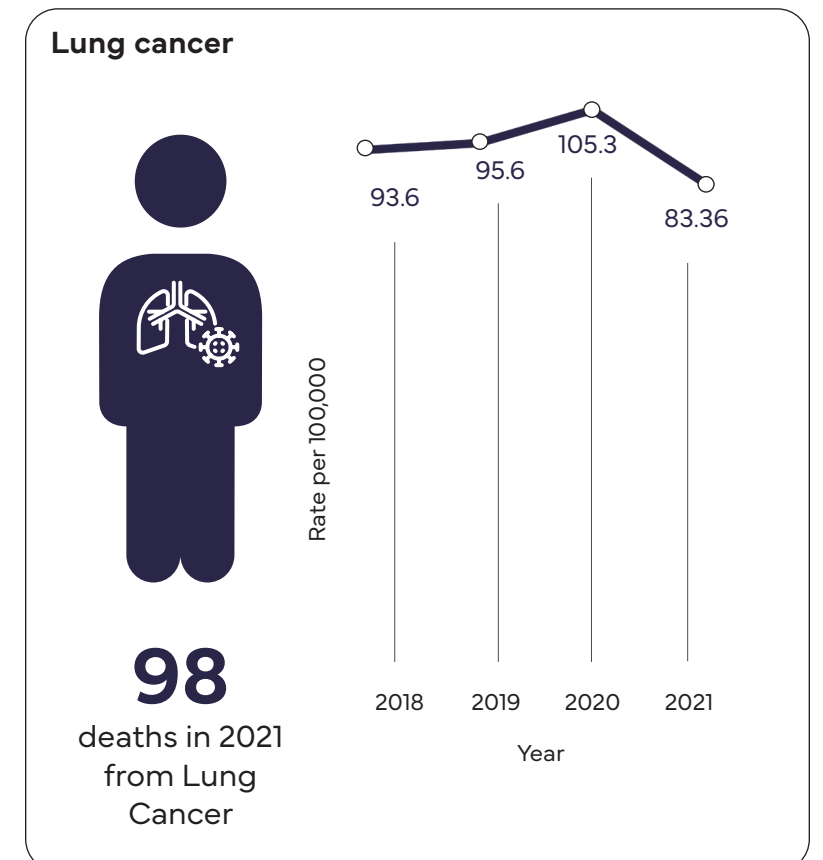
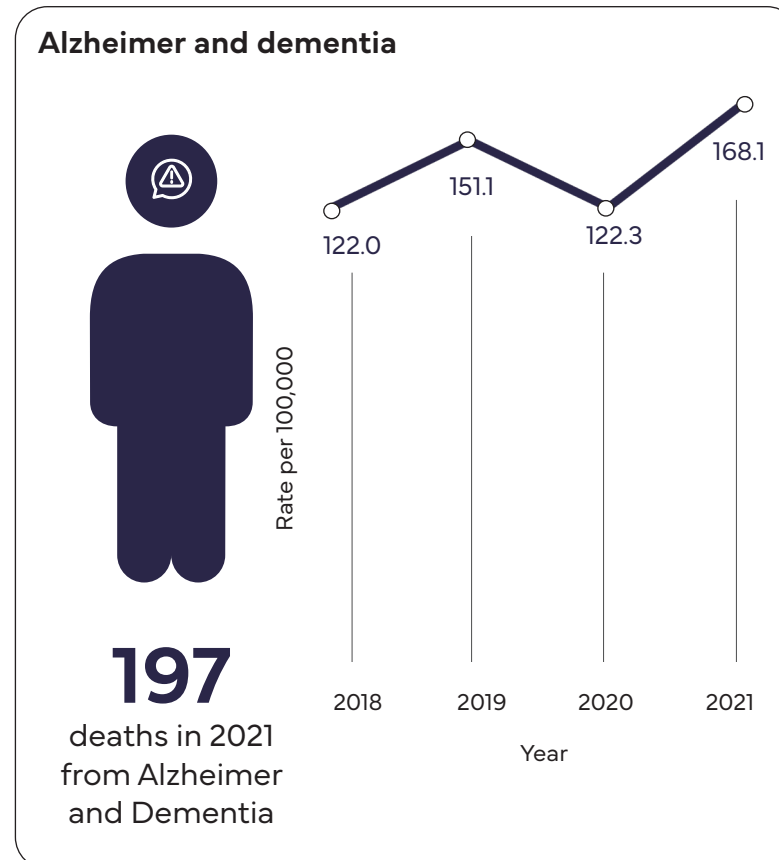
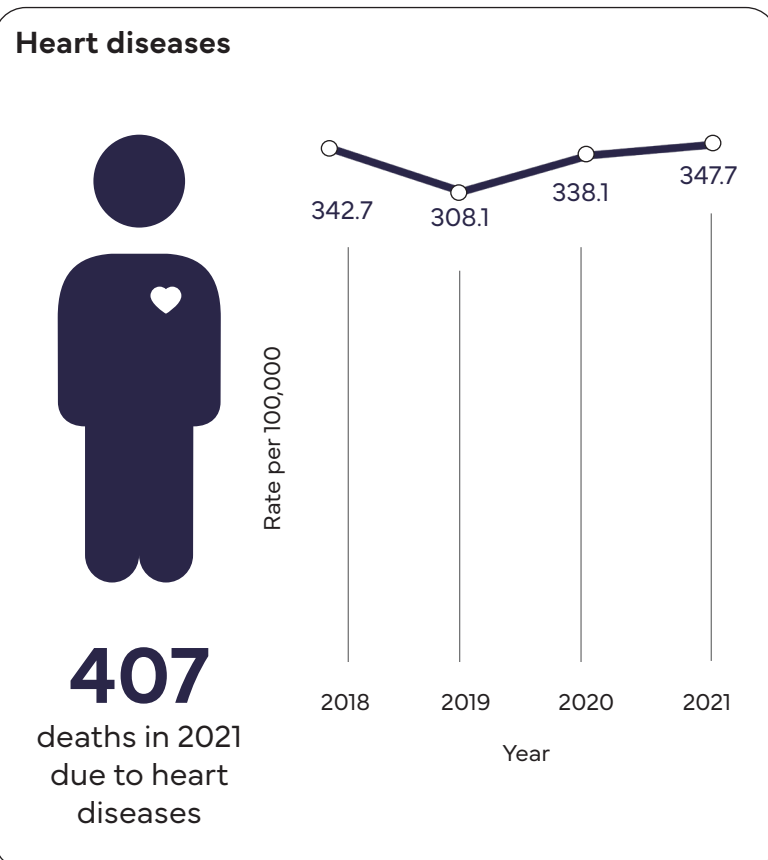
	Algoma	NE PHUs	Ontario
Male	18.2	18.2	19.8
Female	21.2	21.2	22.6

Mortality in Algoma

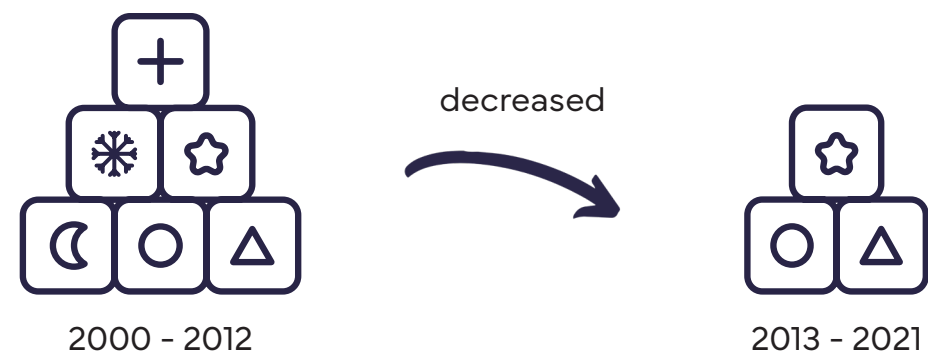
All-cause mortality⁽⁶⁾



Leading causes of mortality⁽⁶⁾



Infant mortality



Algoma's infant mortality rate has declined from **7.5** per 1,000 live births to **4.4** per 1,000 live births⁽⁶⁾. This is similar to NE PHUs and Ontario. None of the causes of death are significantly higher in Algoma.

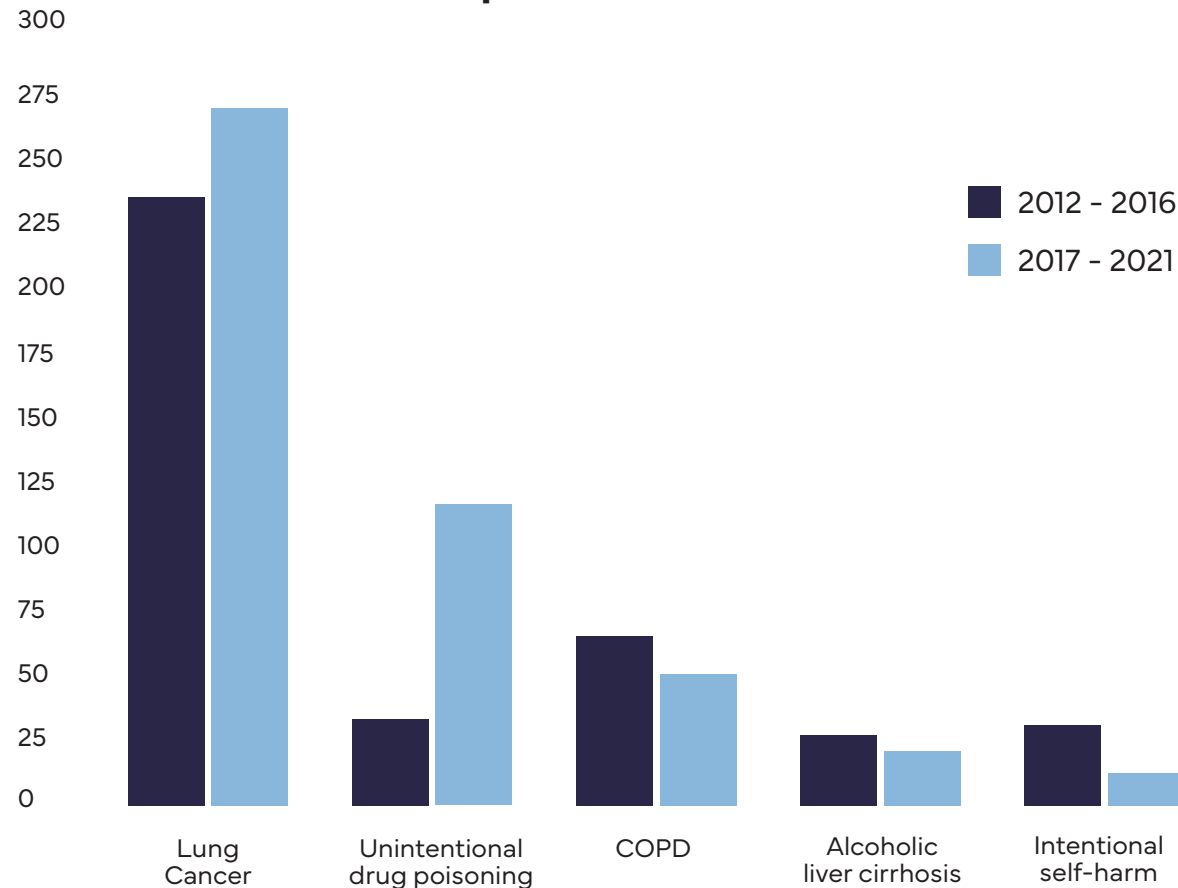
Premature mortalityⁱ

Between 2018 - 2020, the following percentages of deaths were premature^(6,7)

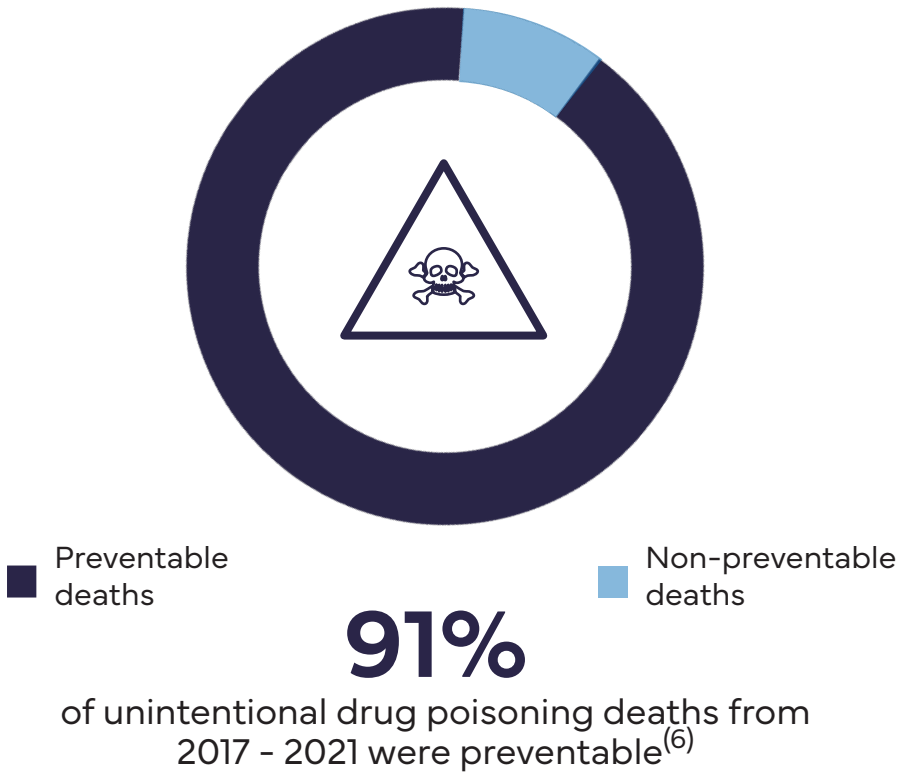
40% of Algoma
42.3% of NE PHUs
36.5% of Ontario

In Algoma **7 in 10** premature deaths can be potentially prevented through healthy behaviours and/or effective public health interventions^{ii (6,7)}

Death rates (per 100,000) of the top 5 leading causes of preventable deaths⁽⁶⁾



Deaths due to unintentional drug poisonings



ⁱⁱ When someone dies before the age of 75, it is considered a premature death.
ⁱⁱⁱ Mortality from preventable causes focuses on premature deaths from conditions that could potentially be avoided through primary prevention efforts, such as lifestyle modifications or population-level interventions (for example, vaccinations and injury prevention).

References

1. Statistics Canada Census Profile, 2021 Census of population [Date extracted: July 2023]. Available from: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>
2. About our Great Lakes: Lake by profile: Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory; n.d. Available from: <https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/education>
3. Population (estimates 2011-2021 and projections 2022 onwards). Ontario Ministry of Health. IntelliHealth Ontario. [Date extracted July, 2023].
4. Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0389-01 Life expectancy, at birth and at age 65, by sex, three-year average, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions and peer groups. Available from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1310038901>
5. Statistics Canada. The Daily: Deaths, 2020 [Internet]. 2022. Available from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220124/dq220124a-eng.htm>
6. Vital Statistics - Death [2013 - 2021]. Ontario Ministry of Health. IntelliHealth Ontario. [Date extracted July, 2023].
7. Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0753-01 Premature and potentially avoidable mortality, three-year period, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions (2018) and peer groups [Internet]. 2023. Available from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1310075301>