

NODUS Study

Northern Ontario Drug Use and Services Needs Assessment

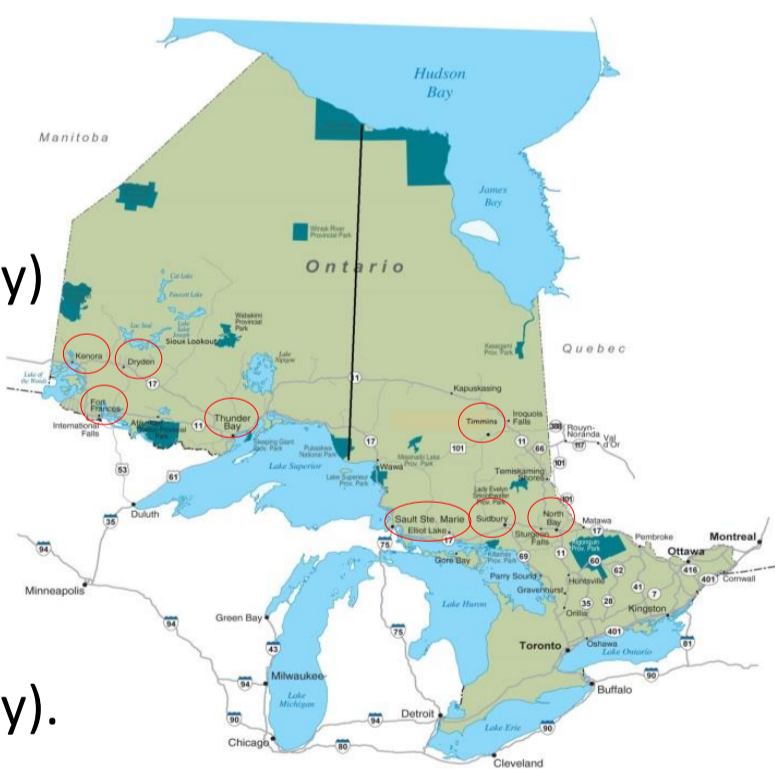
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Background

The increasing use of some illicit drugs among people living in Northern Ontario regions represents a public health issue. For example, up to 10 times more patients per 100,000 people are in methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) in North West region compared to central regions of Ontario, and about 1 in 5 are youth and young adults (15 to 24 years old)¹.

Objective and Aims

The objective of this study is to identify critical service needs for substance use problems for young people in Northern Ontario communities. We aim to recruit up to 250 youth (12-25 in each community) and up to 40 service providers (3-4 in each community).



Design and Methods

Study participants: youth and young adults between 14 and 25 years old who regularly use illicit drugs, and healthcare and service providers.

Design and Methods



The study procedures are conducted inside the CAMH mobile lab.

NODUS team (L to R): Thepikaa Varatharajan, Research Analyst; Cayley Russell, Research Analyst; Pamela Sabioni, Project Scientist (Study Lead).

Procedures involve a survey and a focus group discussion



about drug use patterns, service use and service needs. Interviews with healthcare and service providers will also be conducted.

Discussion

Our findings will help us identify the characteristics of young drug users in Northern Ontario, as well as provide us with information on what services and treatments are urgently missing to improve addictions and drug use problems in their communities. We will feed this information to our community partners, service providers, agencies and systems relevant to Northern Ontario communities.

¹ Kurdyak, P.; Fischer, B. Patterns of Methadone Maintenance Treatment Provision in Ontario: Policy Success or Pendulum Excess? *Canadian Family Physician*, 2017, In Press.