



FROM PAIN TO CRISIS: A TRANS-BORDER CONVERSATION ON THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

The United States and Canada are the two largest per capita-consuming nations of prescribed opioids. The over-prescription of these highly addictive medications has fuelled an unprecedented, iatrogenic epidemic of overdose-related mortality and morbidity in communities throughout both countries. This has created a public health problem requiring significant coordination between multiple stakeholders in deploying an effective response.

This collaborator session is jointly hosted by the American College of Preventive Medicine and the Public Health Physicians of Canada, and will bring together leading experts from both countries to compare and contrast the contexts, strategies, and outcomes from the field, through research and evaluation. The session will provide participants an opportunity for in-depth learning around the epidemic and a forum to discuss joint strategies going forward.

Learning objectives:

- Compare and contrast the differing approaches used in responding to the opioid epidemic in Canada and the United States, and situate these within the relevant issues and contexts that supported the creation of these response strategies.
- Describe the common elements that gave rise to the crisis on both sides of the border, and state and compare key goals envisioned by the Canadian and American responses.
- Identify potential areas for collaboration between Canadian and American stakeholders in responding to the opioid epidemic.

Presenters:

- Theresa Tam, Interim Chief Public Health Officer, Public Health Agency of Canada
- Bonnie Henry, Deputy Provincial Health Officer, Province of British Columbia
- Robert Carr, President, American College of Preventive Medicine

Session Chair:

- Lawrence Loh, Medical Officer of Health, Peel Public Health