

# Opioid Regulation: Past, Present and Future

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Category: Invited Presentation

## Abstract Body

Examining over a century of diacetylmorphine (heroin) and opioid regulation provides insight into current events. A historical approach helps to understand the origins of heroin and opioid regulation, and the current preventable toxic illegal drug overdose death crisis in Canada. Drug policy, although influenced by international concerns, is shaped by national and local history. Rooted in colonialism, white supremacy, and Christian perspectives, ideas about intoxication, addiction, sobriety, and morality, have shaped drug policies in Canada. In addition, drug laws influence other institutions, including, policing, health services, drug treatment, and child protection. In order to create a just future, flawed policies and practices that drive the toxic illegal drug overdose crisis must end.

## Key Words

- Caring in Crisis
- Future

## Learning Objective # 1

Origins of opioid regulation and the current toxic illegal drug overdose death crisis in Canada.

## Learning Objective # 2

Obstacles to drug reform and opportunities to create a just future.

## Reference # 1

Boyd, S. (2022). Heroin: An illustrated history. Winnipeg: Fernwood Press.

## Reference # 2

Boyd, S. (2017). Busted: An Illustrated History of Drug Prohibition in Canada. Winnipeg: Fernwood.

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