

Board Community Transition Committee Meeting – February 20, 2024

Toxic Drug Response (TDR) Update

- Report on toxic drug response provided.
- Fraser Health is responding across the continuum of prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.
- Population public health, toxic drug response and mental health substance use department activities represented.
- Fraser Health continues to have lowest rate of overdose deaths (BC Coroner report).
- Fraser Health rate of overdose deaths has decreased in the last two years (BC Coroner report).
- Majority of use is through inhalation (BC Coroner report).
- Nearly 50 per cent of tested substances contain benzodiazepines (BC Coroner report).
- Link to this report: [FH-Overdose-Public-Report_Jul-Dec2023.pdf \(fraserhealth.ca\)](https://www.fraserhealth.ca/files/2024/01/FH-Overdose-Public-Report_Jul-Dec2023.pdf)

Mental Health and Substance Use (MHSU) Update

The Mental Health and Substance Use (MHSU) update was provided with a focus on policing partnerships and the introduction of four additional Mobile Integrated Crisis Response (MICR) teams in the region.

Mobile Integrated Crisis Response (MICR) teams are a specialized mobile crisis response service that pair a police officer with a mental health professional to support individuals experiencing a mental health crisis in the community. These teams provide just-in-time mental health assessments, crisis intervention and transportation and/or connection to appropriate services. Mobile teams operate 12 hours per day (typically 10:00am to 10:00pm), seven days per week, and are accessed by calling either 911 or the local police non-emergency number.

As reported in September 2023, B.C.'s Safer Communities Action Plan included an investment of just over three million dollars to expand the crisis response team model across the province.

In partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Lower Mainland District and the Abbotsford Police Department (APD), the Mental Health and Substance Use (MHSU) program co-developed four additional Mobile Integrated Crisis Response (MICR) teams in the months following the provincial announcement of geographic investments. As a result, crisis response team services are now available in the following additional Fraser region communities:

- Abbotsford
- Burnaby
- Chilliwack
- Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam

The Abbotsford team one began service delivery on October 16, 2023 and the Burnaby, Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam and Chilliwack teams went live on November 6, 2023. The teams have responded to over 800 calls since their implementation.