

Toxic Drug Supply Emergency

Fraser Health Response Update

June 20, 2023

Welcome



Picture: Unceded and shared traditional territory of the Stó:lō, Kwikwetlem, Tsawwassen and Katzie First Nations

We would like to acknowledge that Fraser Health provides care on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Coast Salish and Nlaka'pamux Nations, and is home to six Métis Chartered Communities.

We acknowledge and honour the lives lost from toxic drug poisoning and the impact on our families, friends, and communities.

What is happening...

The facts about toxic drug poisoning

Over **10,000** people in B.C. have died from toxic drug poisonings since 2016.



More than **3,150** people in the Fraser Health region.

Source: BC Coroner's Service Illicit Drug Toxicity Report to Aug 2022

The contamination of the illicit drug supply is killing people.

In 2021, fentanyl or its analogues were present in **86%** of illicit drug toxicity deaths in BC.

Since 2012, the number of annual deaths in BC has increased steadily, reaching **2,267** in 2021.

Visit fraserhealth.ca/overdose

Source: BC Coroner's Service Illicit Drug Toxicity Report to Aug 2022



Fentanyl is present in most samples



Unintentional toxic drug deaths are the leading cause of unnatural death in BC.



Note: *Most recent data for drownings in BC was 2018; all other data is from 2021.

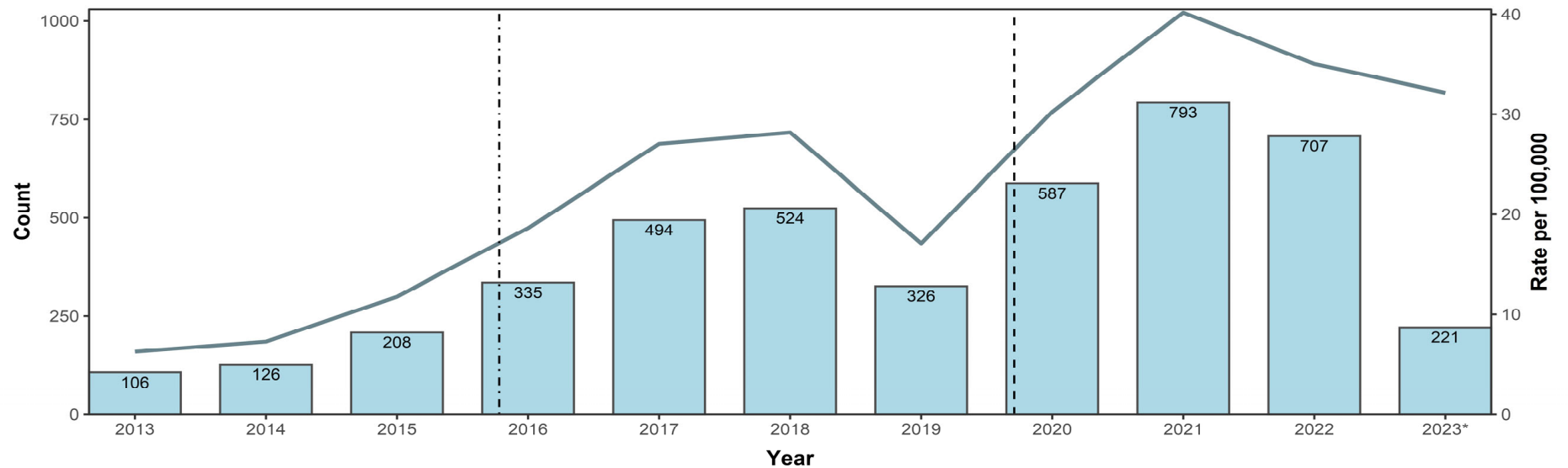
Sources: BC Coroner's Service, various reports. Statistics Canada, Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Canadian Forces Military Police.

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Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths in Fraser Health

8% rate decrease in 2023* relative to 2022



Toxic drug supply emergency declared on 14 April 2016 (two dash grey line)

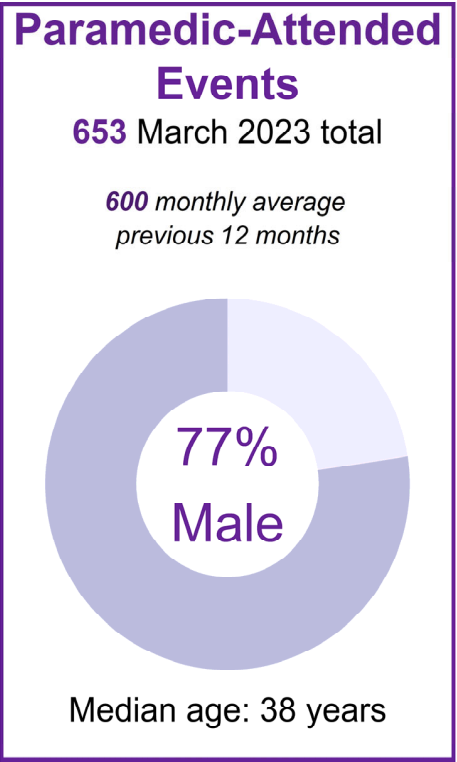
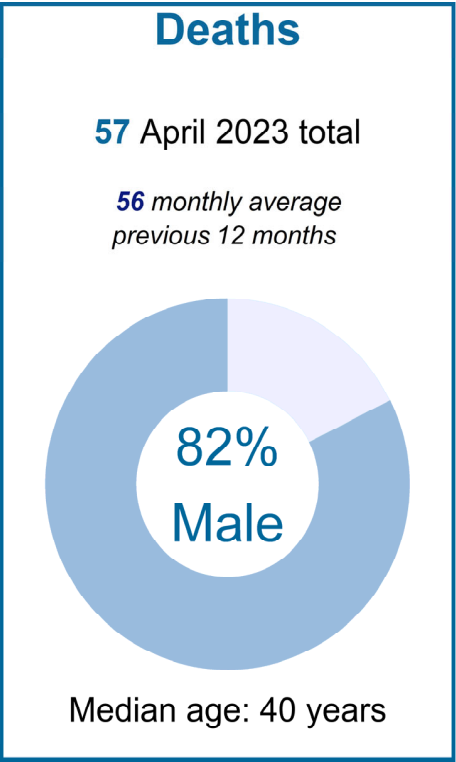
COVID-19 emergency declared on 17 March 2020 (short dash grey line)

Data source: BC Coroners Service. Preliminary data, numbers subject to change. Numbers include both open and closed cases.

Illicit drug toxicity deaths reported by BC Coroners Service include those involving street drugs (heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, etc.), medications that were not prescribed to the deceased but obtained on the street, from unknown means, and where the origin of drug is unknown.

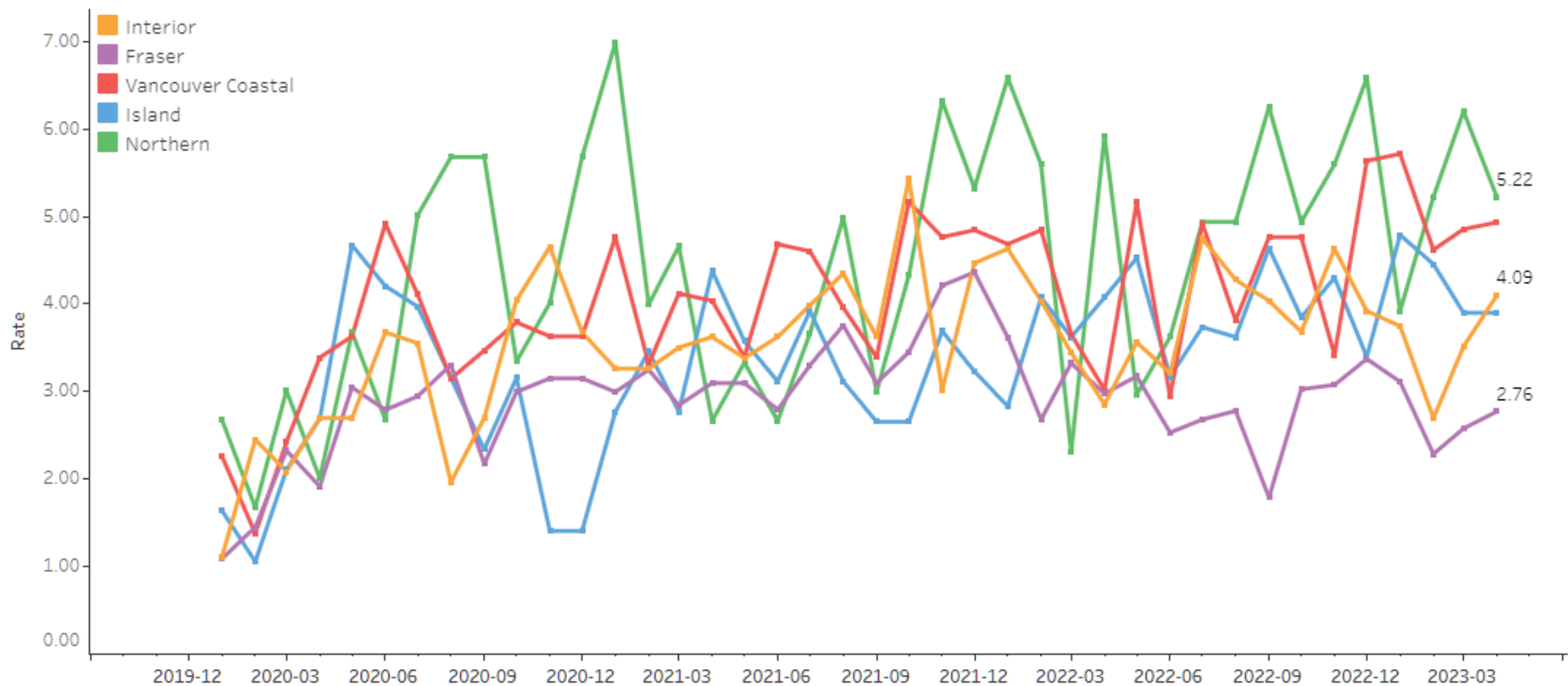
* To April 2023; rate annualized based on available months for 2023.

Toxic Drug Poisoning Events in Fraser Health April 2023



Unregulated Drug Deaths

Breakdown by Health Authority, Rate per 100,000 Population, All Sex, All Age Group



Note:

- The BCCS operates in a live database environment. Data may be based on preliminary circumstances and are subject to change as investigations are concluded.

Men account for **seven out of ten** toxic drug deaths in BC.



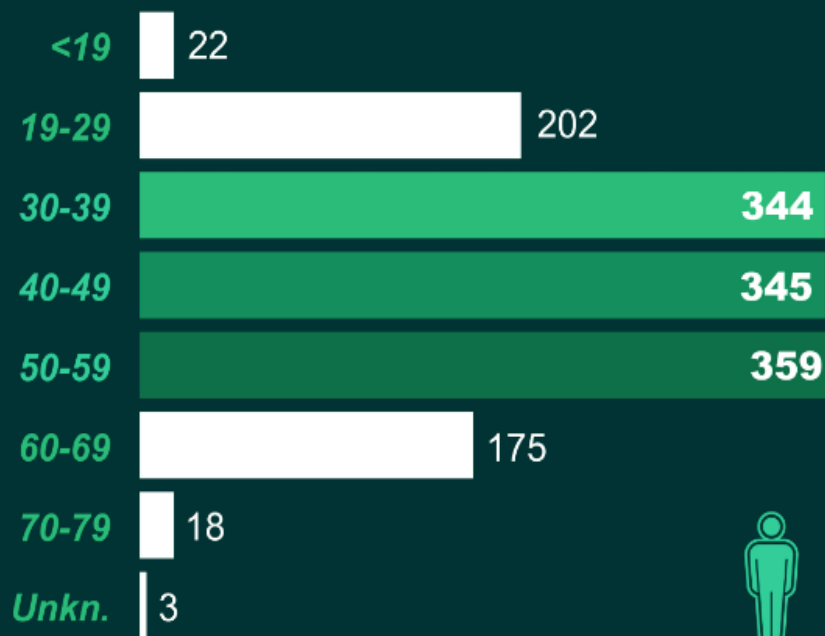
Source: BC Coroner's Service Illicit Drug Toxicity Report to Aug 2022



70 per cent of deaths
in the general
population are men

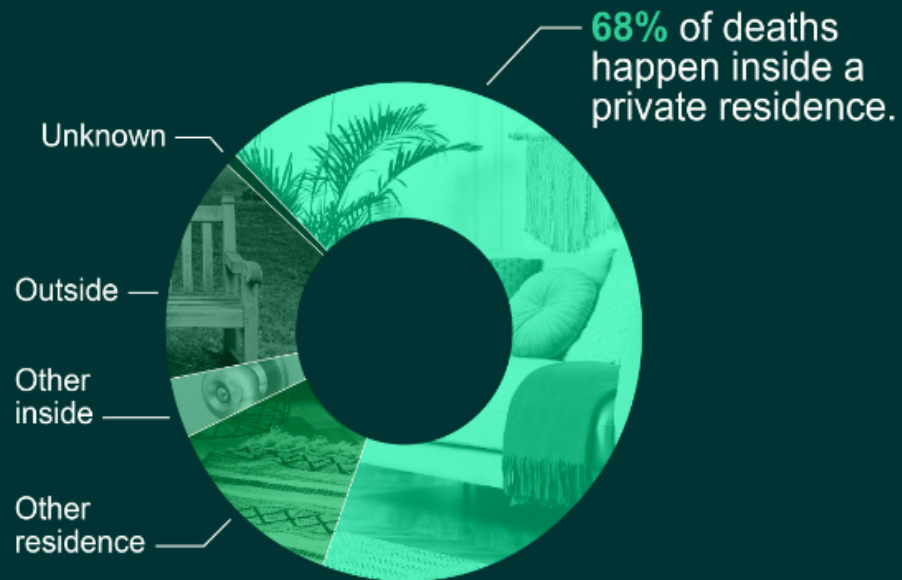
Over 70 per cent of deaths are between the ages of 30-59

Over 70% are between the ages of 30 and 59.



Source: BC Coroner's Service Illicit Drug Toxicity Report to Aug 2022

In the Fraser Health region,
more than **four out of five**
deaths happen inside.



Source: BC Coroner's Service Illicit Drug Toxicity Report to Aug 2022

Many people are
dying in private
residences

First Nations in BC and the Toxic Drug Crisis



RATE OF TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATH

5.3x

First Nations people died at 5.3 times the rate of other BC residents in 2022 (Jan-June). This number was 5.4 for the same time period in 2021.

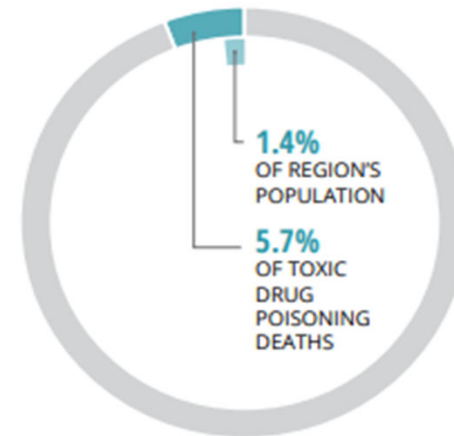
8.8x

First Nations women died at 8.8 times the rate of other female BC residents in 2022

4.4x

First Nations men died at 4.4 times the rate of other male BC residents in 2022

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED IN TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS



What are we doing....

Health System Response

Fraser Health Services that Support People who use Substances

Prevention (prevent, delay and reduce the harm of substance use)

Treatment (treat existing substance use disorder, reduce further harm)

Primordial

Primary

Secondary

Tertiary



POPULATION

Health Equity
- Addressing the social determinants of health

Healthy Environments
- Improving healthy public policy, collaborating with partners, etc.

Long-lasting Interventions
- Increasing resiliency and protective factors; promoting mental health

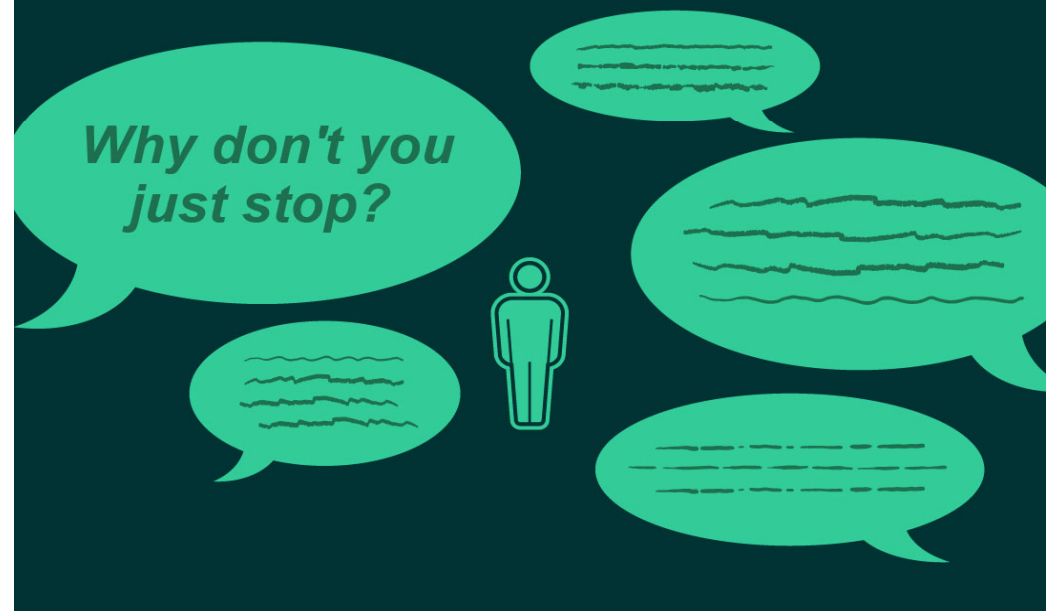
Early Identification and Brief Intervention

Clinical interventions (Opioid Agonist Therapy)

INDIVIDUAL

Stigma and
discrimination
prevents people
from accessing
services

People are reluctant to
seek support because
of **stigma**.



Public Health Programs

Health Promotion

H.I.P ANTI-OPPRESSION CURRICULUM

HIP Anti-Oppression Curriculum Lesson Plans K-4

Hope Inclusion Project: Equity K-4 Anti-Oppression Curriculum

ANTI-OPPRESSION CURRICULUM: RELATIONSHIP FOUNDATIONS



LAND - our interdependent relationship with the land and water, as stewards, caretakers and benefactors, practicing Indigenous wisdom for future benefit



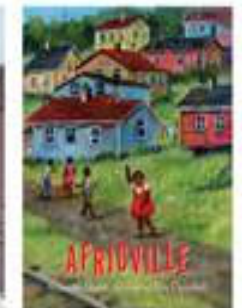
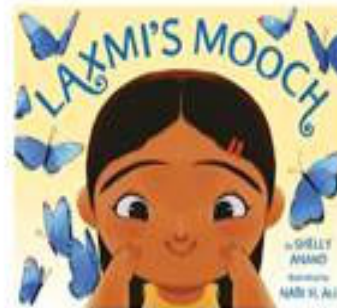
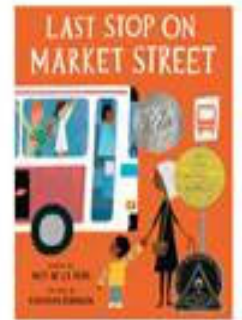
SELF- healthy relationships with personal identity, respect for boundaries with ourselves and others, valuing differences in ability and worldview



FAMILY - siblings, caregivers and ancestral lineage that have stood up to oppression so that we may have life, freedom of choice, safety in our daily existence



COMMUNITY - our responsibility to community, the benefit and learning we receive in right relationship with each other, building for future generations




THURSDAY, JULY 13


COMMUNITY ACTION IN MOTION

An evening of performance art...


BREAKING BARRIERS CELEBRATING RESILIENCY COMBATING STIGMA



*Featuring The Source Dance Company & Eli Rattlesnake alongside Studio One, Creative Outlet & Chilliwack Dance School
Dancing to raise awareness for Overdose Prevention in our communities*




5:30 Doors Open
Chilliwack Cultural Centre
9201 Corbould St.



6:30pm-8:30PM
Hub International Theatre

CHILLIWACK CULTURAL CENTRE



Centre Box Office
Monday to Friday 9am to 9pm
Saturday & Sunday 930am to 5pm

An event hosted by **Chilliwack Community Action Table (CAT)** on July 13th

- Public Health Networks (PHNs) supporting toxic drug response and the harm reduction coordinators are members of the CATs and are often involved in planning these type of events in communities across the region.

This event will:

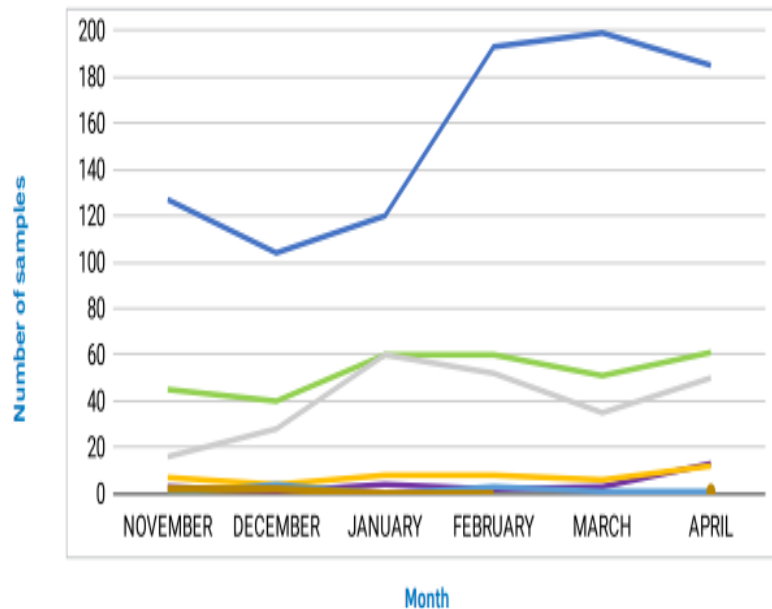
- Raise awareness about toxic drug supply crisis,
- Advocate for overdose prevention services in our community,
- Collectively grieve thousands of lost loved ones, and;
- Raise awareness to break down long-standing stigmas towards people who use drugs.

Toxic Drug Response and Priority Populations

Prevention of Harms related to Substance Use

Drug Checking Services

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in April

Opioid	185
Stimulant	61
Depressant	13
Psychedelic	12
Other	1
Polysubstance	1
Unknown	50

TOTAL: 323



Fourier-transform infrared (FTIR) spectrometers

Fourier-transform infrared (FTIR) spectrometers can identify up to six substances in a drug sample.

Overdose Outreach Teams (OOT)

We work in allyship with people who are at risk of illicit drug poisoning and are not accessing health supports to reduce harms, without necessarily having them stop using substances



Overdose Prevention Services (OPS)

What are OPS?

Overdose Prevention services provide a safe, clean space for a person to use substances in the presence of a health care professional and to potentially engage in other health and social services.



Connection to other health and social services

Access to sterile supplies and safe disposal

Education

Overdose recognition and response

Referrals offered

- Opioid agonist treatment
- Bed based treatment
- Primary care
- Counselling
- Overdose Outreach team
- Integrated Homelessness Action Response team
- Mental health and substance use services

Benefits



Reduced overdose deaths



Reduced discarded needles



Reduced public drug use



Health authority funded and supported

= Proactive Community risk mitigation



Increased access to services

= Improved health and social outcomes

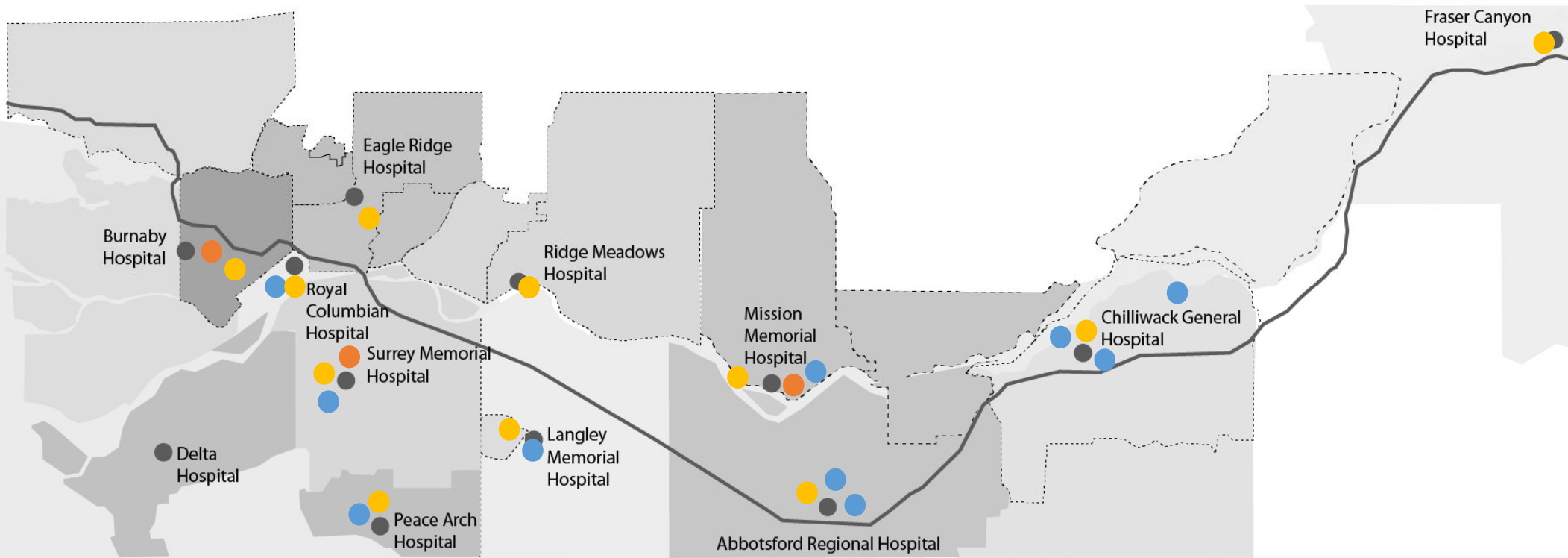
Overdose Prevention services save lives and improve community well-being.

For more information, please contact:

overdose@fraserhealth.ca



Service Locations



- Drug Checking
- Overdose Prevention Sites
- Overdose Outreach Teams

Substance Use Program and Addictions Medicine Services

Treatment and Recovery

Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT): First Line Treatment

Services

Rapid Access to Addiction Care (RAAC) Clinics

Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) Services

Injectable Opioid Agonist Treatment (iOAT)

Tablet injectable Opioid Agonist Treatment (TiOAT)

Fentanyl Patch Program

Addiction Medicine Consult Teams (hospital)

Intensive Case Management Teams

Connection to Care

Services

Rapid Access to Addiction Care Clinics

Referral Coordination Service

Substance Use Services

Virtual Health Addiction Clinic

Substance Use Services Access Team

What is working...
Population specific responses

Cheam Mobile Overdose Prevention



Support for those who use at home alone

Download the
Lifeguard app
to stay safer when
using alone.



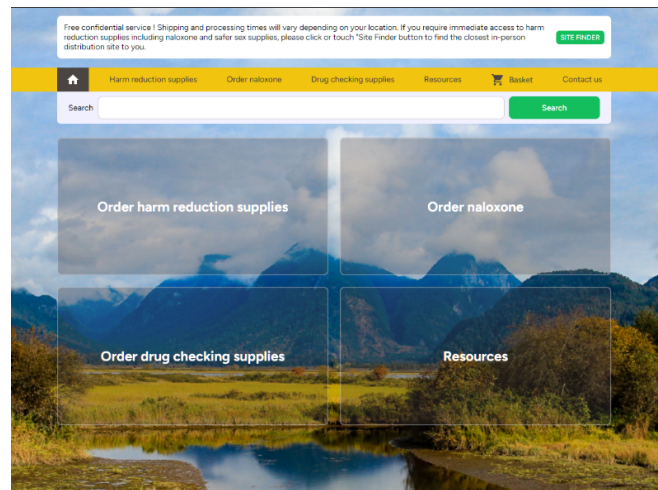
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National Overdose Response Service

YOUR 24/7*365 VIRTUAL SAFER CONSUMPTION HOTLINE, CANADA WIDE.

1-888-688-NORS(6677)



The toxic drug
crisis **affects us all.**

Visit fraserhealth.ca/overdose
to learn more.



Overdose alerts

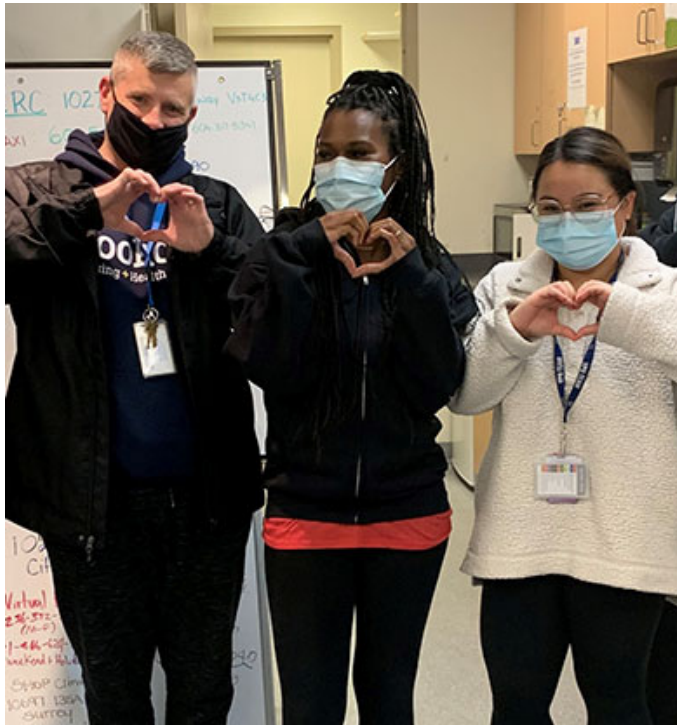
Sign up to receive overdose alerts via text to your cellphone by texting JOIN to ALERTS (253787)



Overdose Detection / Brave App



Integrated Homelessness Action teams (IHART)



- Regional network of multidisciplinary care providers to support the needs of people who are sheltered, unsheltered and living in encampments and select supportive housing environments.
 - Stabilize and treat chronic health conditions, including mental health and substance use disorders
 - Support transitions to shelter or housing in collaboration with BC Housing and other partners
 - Support people's stability in their new housing through continuity of care and quick response to escalating or destabilizing health concerns
 - Reduce risk of overdose and other life-threatening incidents

South Asian Supports

Talk to your child. (Punjabi) ਆਪਣੇ ਬੱਚੇ ...

From a regional public health authority of Canada

Watch on YouTube



What is happening in BC?

British Columbia is in the midst of a public health emergency due to toxic drugs. It is affecting everyone, regardless of their job, education, age, ethnicity and race. Tragically, 2,224 people across B.C. lost their lives due to overdose caused by toxic drugs in 2021. In the Fraser Health region, our families, friends, neighbours and even ourselves, can be affected by the toxic drug crisis. When someone is using substances (drugs) that are illicit, they cannot check for the drug's contents, dosage (amount) and potency (strength). They may not know what is in their substance (drug), which can sometimes lead to an accidental overdose.

Why should this matter to me?

We sometimes hide our struggles, especially when they might affect how other people think of us. Therefore, we might not know what someone else is going through. By educating ourselves and others, we are reducing stigma and creating a safe space for our loved ones and our community.

Updated July 2022 (English)

ফ্রাসার স্বাস্থ্যের মধ্যে রয়েছে। এটা কে প্রভাবিত করেছে। এটা কারণে বি সি জুড়ে 2,224 জন পরিবার, বন্ধু, বাচ্চা, এটা দ্বারা প্রভাবিত হতে পারি। বিষয়বস্তু, পরিমাণ এবং শক্তি তে পারে তারা হয়তো জানে তে পারে।

দের যখন ব্যাপারটা অন্যরা যে, আমরা জানতে পারিনা যে অন্যদেরকে শিক্ষিত সর এবং কমিউনিটির জন্য

Updated July 2022 (Bengali)



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Better health. Best in health care.



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