

# Provincial Overdose Emergency Breakdown of Suspected Overdose Events by Community, Age, and Sex

---

**Timeframe: January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017**

**Data Source: Fraser Health Emergency Departments**

This report provides a breakdown of suspected overdose events seen in Fraser Health emergency departments by community, age, and sex. This report will be updated twice a year; the proportions of males and females and different age groups experiencing suspected overdose events have remained relatively stable over the past year.

## Key Points

- This year, those dying from an overdose within Fraser Health are more likely to be older and male compared to those treated for suspected overdose events at emergency departments. Demographic breakdown in this report is limited to suspected overdose events treated at emergency departments; vast majority of these patients survive the event. Additional information on demographic differences is available in our [May report](#). Information on the age and sex characteristics of those dying from an illicit drug overdose is available in reports provided by the [BC Coroners Service](#).
- While there were differences by community, the majority of the events in each community were among males (Table 1, Figure 1).
- Patients aged 19-29 account for majority of the events within Fraser Health (Table 1, Figure 2). The situation differs in some cities.
  - In Delta and the City of Langley the highest number of events were among 30-39 year olds.
  - In Burnaby, Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Port Moody, and White Rock 19-29 year olds accounted for a higher proportion of events than Fraser Health overall.
  - In New Westminster the highest number of events were among those 50 years or older.

Please visit [fraserhealth.ca/overdose](http://fraserhealth.ca/overdose) to learn more about the Overdose Public Health Emergency and find out where to obtain naloxone.

## Fraser Health Emergency Department Data

Fraser Health Overdose Surveillance system is a dynamic syndromic surveillance system which captures suspected overdose events among those 13 years of age or older. These are suspected events and not confirmed cases. These numbers reported from this system may change as data entry is finalized.

The suspected overdose events include those associated with opioids, stimulants, hallucinogens, and unspecified substances. Events were identified based on physician's discharge diagnosis, patient's stated complaint, chief complaint code assigned at triage, and nursing notes associated with the chief complaint. Locations are assigned based on reported residential postal code.

**Table 1: Suspected overdose events seen in Fraser Health emergency departments by community of residence\*^, age, and sex – January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017.**

	Abbotsford n (%)	Agassiz- Harrison n (%)	Burnaby n (%)	Chilliwack n (%)	City of Langley n (%)	Coquitlam n (%)	Delta n (%)	Hope n (%)	Maple Ridge n (%)	Mission n (%)	New Westminster n (%)	Pitt Meadows n (%)	Port Coquitlam n (%)	Port Moody n (%)	Surrey n (%)	Township of Langley n (%)	White Rock n (%)	Other#	Fraser Health n (%)	
Sex																				
<b>Female</b>	72 (27)	s	39 (27)	63 (28)	17 (18)	31 (34)	23 (38)	6 (43)	39 (22)	26 (30)	28 (35)	12 (46)	17 (27)	8 (18)	280 (30)	26 (36)	12 (44)	69 (27)	<b>772 (29)</b>	
<b>Male</b>	197 (73)	s	104 (73)	160 (72)	80 (82)	60 (66)	38 (62)	8 (57)	138 (78)	62 (70)	53 (65)	14 (54)	45 (73)	37 (82)	645 (70)	46 (64)	15 (56)	184 (73)	<b>1,892 (71)</b>	
Age (years)																				
<b>13-18</b>	13 (5)	s	10 (7)	11 (5)	s	5 (5)	7 (11)	s	11 (6)	6 (7)	24 (29)~	s	5 (8)	s	51 (6)	30 (39)~	14 (6)	14 (6)	<b>148 (6)</b>	
<b>19-29</b>	78 (29)	s	68 (48)	71 (32)	29 (30)	40 (44)	16 (26)	s	73 (41)	25 (28)		12 (46)	21 (34)	21 (47)	299 (32)		109 (43)	109 (43)	<b>924 (35)</b>	
<b>30-39</b>	73 (27)	s	29 (20)	55 (25)	36 (37)	23 (25)	20 (33)	s	51 (29)	21 (24)	18 (22)	8 (31)	14 (23)	19 (42)	243 (26)	16 (22)	57 (23)	57 (23)	<b>695 (26)</b>	
<b>40-49</b>	57 (21)	s	18 (13)	42 (19)	13 (13)	13 (14)	9 (15)	s	22 (12)	18 (20)	13 (16)	s	13 (21)	s	199 (22)	12 (17)	35 (14)	35 (14)	<b>474 (18)</b>	
<b>50+</b>	48 (18)	s	18 (13)	44 (20)	s	10 (11)	9 (15)	s	20 (11)	18 (20)	26 (32)	s	9 (15)	s	133 (14)	16 (22)	38 (15)	38 (15)	<b>423 (16)</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>269 (100)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>143 (100)</b>	<b>223 (100)</b>	<b>97 (100)</b>	<b>91 (100)</b>	<b>61 (100)</b>	<b>14 (100)</b>	<b>177 (100)</b>	<b>88 (100)</b>	<b>81 (100)</b>	<b>26 (100)</b>	<b>62 (100)</b>	<b>45 (100)</b>	<b>925 (100)</b>	<b>72 (100)</b>	<b>27 (100)</b>	<b>253 (14)</b>	<b>2,664 (100)</b>	

s Numbers under 5 were suppressed

\* Community was assigned based on the residential address provided by the patients.

^ Patients who did not have a fixed address at time of the suspected overdose event where assigned to the community of the hospital at which they were treated.

# 'Other' category includes patients who were not residents of Fraser Health.

~ Combined due to small number of 13-18 year olds

**Figure 1. Number of suspected overdose events seen in emergency departments by sex. Fraser Health – January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017**

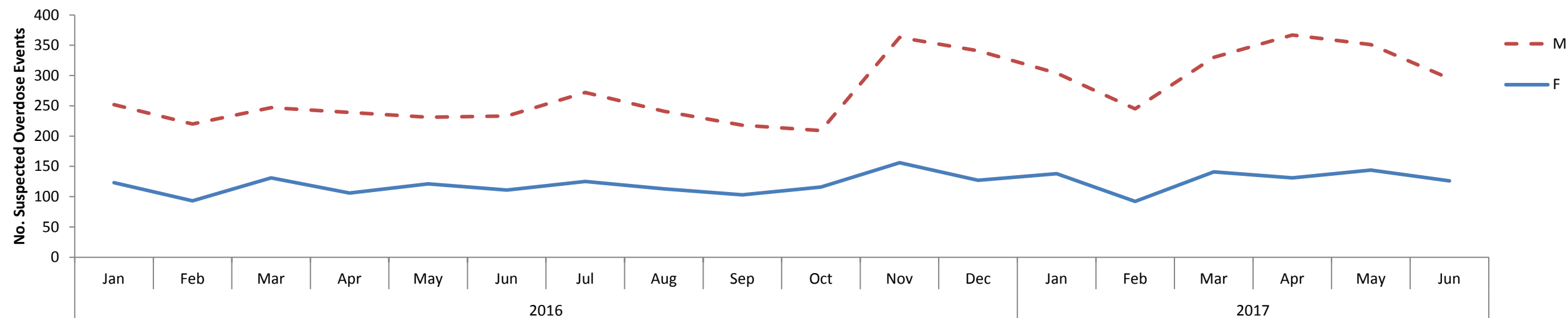


Figure 2. Number of suspected overdose events seen in emergency departments by age group (years). Fraser Health – January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

