

OVERDOSE RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT, AUGUST 2021

FATAL OVERDOSES

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 58 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in July 2021 and 52 in June 2021.
- Based on the first seven months of 2021, deaths have increased by 20% compared to 2020
- The largest increases have been in Chilliwack, New Westminster, and Burnaby (Table 1).

Table 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2020 to July 2021

Community**	Jan - Jul 2021	2020	% Change (2021* vs. 2020)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	47	66	22
Chilliwack	34	35	67
Fraser North			
Burnaby	41	57	23
Maple Ridge	25	37	16
New Westminster	28	35	37
Fraser South			
Langley (City & Township)	21	38	-5
Surrey	142	218	12
Other Communities	63	88	23
Fraser Health	401	574	20
BC	1,204	1,734	19

Data source: BC Coroners Service to July 31, 2021.

Preliminary data, numbers subject to change. Numbers include both open and closed cases.

Illicit drug toxicity deaths reported by BC Coroners Service include illicit drug overdoses involving street drugs (heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, etc.), medications that were not prescribed to the deceased, combinations of the above, with prescribed medications, and those overdoses where the origin of drug is not known.

**Community assigned based on location of overdose and if that is missing, location of death.

*Year to date.

OVERDOSES ATTENDED BY BC PARAMEDICS

- BC paramedics responded to 910 overdoses across Fraser Health in August 2021 and 1017 in July 2021.
- Based on the first eight months of 2021, the rate of overdose events have increased by 39% compared to 2020.
- Many communities are seeing increases in overdose events, especially Pitt Meadows and Agassiz / Harrison (Table 2).

Table 2: Suspected overdose events attended by BC paramedics within Fraser Health, January 2020 to August 2021

Community**	2021*			2020		% Rate change 2021* vs. 2020
	Aug (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Aug	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Apr	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	105 (90.0)	744	812	868	639	27
Agassiz / Harrison	13 (5.3)	51	787	37	385	105
Chilliwack	74 (55.8)	480	783	486	538	45
Hope	7 (<5)	44	820	37	461	78
Mission	20 (22.1)	185	670	216	528	27
Fraser North						
Burnaby	70 (50.4)	394	261	534	238	10
Coquitlam	58 (35.8)	323	357	329	247	45
Maple Ridge	88 (48.4)	430	794	376	473	68
New Westminster	51 (45.7)	390	800	376	523	53
Pitt Meadows	8 (<5)	39	313	20	110	185
Port Coquitlam	22 (20.3)	188	498	180	323	54
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	9 (<5)	30	129	40	117	10
Fraser South						
City of Langley	26 (23.3)	206	1,155	216	827	40
Delta	18 (14.3)	121	180	167	167	8
South Surrey / White Rock	7 (14.8)	122	187	137	142	31
Surrey	306 (238.5)	2,085	701	2,148	491	43
Township of Langley	28 (26.9)	228	289	275	238	21
Fraser Health	910 (703.8)	6,060	533	6,442	384	39

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to August 31, 2021. Restricted to those 13 years of age or older.

Preliminary data, numbers subject to change. Numbers for the most recent month are likely an underestimate and will increase as data entry is completed. Numbers may change with data quality and analysis refinements and are not directly comparable to numbers reported previously.

Suspected overdose events include those associated with opioids or other recreational drugs.

**Community assigned based on location where the paramedics attended to the suspected overdose event.

*Rate annualized based on available months for 2021.

~Average of past 12 months, including the most recent month.

Counts under five are reported as <5 as they are potentially identifiable.