

FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT – MAY 2021

FRASER HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY – MAY 2021

FATAL OVERDOSES

According to BC Coroners Service, there were 58 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in May 2021 and 57 in April 2021. Based on the first five months of 2021, illicit drug toxicity deaths have increased by 22% compared to 2020, with the largest increases in Chilliwack, Burnaby and Abbotsford (Table 1). These counts are subject to change as additional data are received.

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

Community**	Jan - May 2021	2020	% Change (2021* vs. 2020)
Abbotsford	34	66	24
Burnaby	31	58	28
Chilliwack	24	35	65
Langley (City & Township)	15	38	-5
Maple Ridge	19	37	23
New Westminster	18	35	23
Surrey	108	217	19
Other Communities	42	88	15
Fraser Health	291	574	22
BC	851	1,728	18

Data source: BC Coroners Service to May 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 AMBULANCE

BC Emergency Health Services responded to 747 overdoses across Fraser Health in April 2021, and 669 in March 2021. Based on the first four months of 2021, the rate of overdose events have increased by 20% compared to 2020. Many Fraser Health communities are seeing marked increases in overdose events, especially Pitt Meadows and Agassiz / Harrison (Table 2).

Table 2: Suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance Service within Fraser Health, January 2020 to April 2021

Community**	2021*			2020		Rate change 2021* vs. 2020
	Apr (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Apr	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Apr	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Abbotsford	98 (83.8)	338	738	868	639	15
Agassiz / Harrison	9 (<5)	27	834	37	385	117
Burnaby	45 (48.0)	181	240	534	238	1
Chilliwack	49 (48.7)	210	685	486	538	27
City of Langley	35 (22.3)	101	1,133	216	827	37
Coquitlam	45 (31.0)	132	292	329	247	18
Delta	21 (15.8)	67	199	167	167	19
Hope	7 (<5)	18	671	37	461	45
Maple Ridge	43 (37.2)	149	550	376	473	16
Mission	19 (20.7)	88	638	216	528	21
New Westminster	49 (39.3)	171	702	376	523	34
Pitt Meadows	5 (<5)	16	257	20	110	134
Port Coquitlam	24 (16.6)	70	371	180	323	15
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	13	112	40	117	-4
South Surrey / White Rock	13 (13.9)	66	202	137	142	42
Surrey	254 (210.8)	880	591	2,148	491	20
Township of Langley	27 (26.2)	103	261	275	238	10
Fraser Health	747 (629.1)	2,630	462	6,442	384	20

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to Apr 30, 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 entry of BC Ambulance Patient Care Form 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.