

# Provincial Overdose Emergency Monthly Situational Report – January 2018

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**This report covers the Fraser Health region. Availability of data varies by source.** All data are preliminary and subject to change as additional information is received.

**Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths:** There were fewer overdose deaths in December (n=27) compared to November (n=39). Overdose deaths in 2017 were 42% and 127% higher than in 2016 and 2015, respectively. In 2017, fentanyl was detected in 80% of illicit drug overdose deaths in Fraser Health. Fentanyl-detected illicit drug deaths were 27% higher in 2017 compared to 2016.

**Suspected Overdose Events treated in Emergency Departments:** There was a slight decrease in the number of suspected overdose events seen in Fraser Health Emergency Departments between December 2017 and January 2018 (342 vs. 315, respectively).

**Suspected Overdose Events attended by paramedics:** BC Ambulance responded to fewer suspected overdoses in December than in November (413 vs. 420, respectively). Across Fraser Health, 26% of people treated for overdose declined transport to additional health services.

**Take Home Naloxone:** 218 new sites have joined since April 2016, bringing the total number of Take Home Naloxone sites in Fraser Health to 312. There were 10,399 kits dispensed from January to September 2017.

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

## Actions in Fraser Health:

**The Opioid Overdose Emergency was the subject of this year's Chief Medical Health Officer's Report.**

- The report is available for download from: <http://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-info/health-topics/harm-reduction/overdose-prevention-and-response/monthly-data-reports/monthly-data-reports>

### Take Home Naloxone:

- Take Home Naloxone (THN) kits and training are now available **at no cost** to people at risk of overdose and those likely to witness overdose through select community pharmacies across the province. A list of pharmacies providing free Take Home Naloxone kits and training to eligible community members is now available on the Toward the Heart website: <http://towardtheheart.com/update/thn-in-pharmacies>.
- For a complete list of THN distribution and training sites across the Fraser Health region, visit [fraserhealth.ca/overdose](http://fraserhealth.ca/overdose).
- We encourage people who get a THN kit to complete the free online training module at <http://www.naloxonetraining.com/>

## Supervised Consumption Services and Overdose Prevention Sites:

- Smoke'n'Go smoking OPS tent has opened in collaboration with Lookout and a local peer organization. This observed smoking tent provides service daily from 1pm to 9pm.

## Mental Health & Substance Use Services:

- A new initiative has been launched to determine the model for pain management services for clients with pain who also struggle with problematic substance use.
- We continue to work on expanding access to publicly funded opioid agonist treatment (OAT) regionally.

## Education:

- Fraser Health's Overdose Response for Organizations course has been revamped to include a strong train-the-trainer model. This course will be delivered in a different Health Service Delivery Area each month to ensure interested sites across our region can participate.
- In January 2018 we held three training sessions with organizations that are current and potential sites for distribution of harm reduction supplies.

## Community-Based Response and Prevention:

- Fraser Health is supporting the development of Community Action Teams in seven communities: Abbotsford, Burnaby, Chilliwack, Langley, Maple Ridge, New Westminster, and Surrey.

## Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths – Fraser Health Region

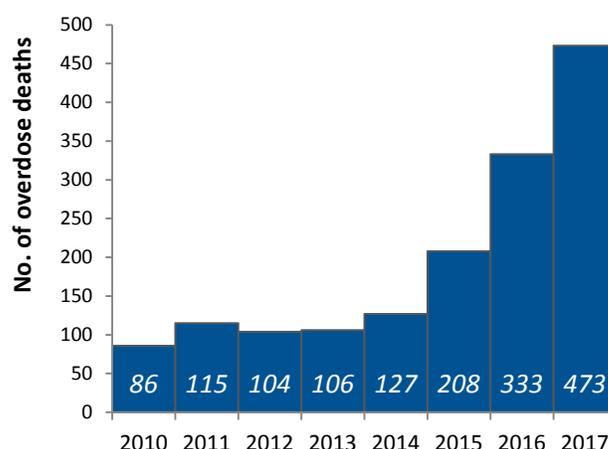
*Data Source: BC Coroner Service (additional details below). Preliminary numbers, subject to change.*

Overdose deaths within Fraser Health increased sharply in 2015 (Figure 1) and continue to be higher than historical levels. In Fraser Health, there were 27 overdose deaths in December 2017 (Appendix-Figure 2).

- From January to December 2017, the annualized rate, per 100,000, of overdose deaths was lower in Fraser Health (26.3) compared to B.C. (29.6).
- In Fraser Health, overdose deaths during 2017 were 42% and 127% higher, compared to 2016 and 2015, respectively.
- The highest number of deaths continues to be among 30-39 year olds. In 2017, males accounted for 84% of all overdose deaths.
- In 2017, according to the BC Coroners Service, 90% of overdose deaths in Fraser Health happened inside, with 62% in private residences; 10% occurred outside on sidewalks, streets, vehicles, parks, etc.

- Fentanyl was detected in 80% of overdose deaths in the region in 2017, compared to 63% during 2016.

**Figure 1. Number of illicit drug overdose deaths within Fraser Health.**



*Data Source: BC Coroner Service, 2017 data.*

## Emergency Department – Suspected Overdose Events

*Data Source: Fraser Health Emergency Departments (Additional details below). Preliminary numbers, subject to change.*

During January 2018, there was a slight decrease in the number of suspected overdose events seen at Fraser Health Emergency Departments (EDs). There were 315 suspected overdose events in January 2018 compared with 342 events in December 2017 (Appendix-Figure 3).

In January 2018:

- There were 315 suspected overdose events seen at Fraser Health EDs (Appendix-Table 2).
- The majority of overdose events were among males (72%), and the highest numbers of events were among those 19-29 years old (31%), followed by those 30-39 years old (28%), and 40-59 years old (26%). Males aged 19-59 accounted for 63% of all suspected overdose events.
- Opioids were associated with 67% of the suspected overdose events; this is likely an underestimate due to patients and clinicians being uncertain of the exact composition of the substances consumed.
- 10% of the patients with a suspected overdose were admitted to hospital.

## BC Ambulance – Suspected Overdose Events

*Data Source: Patient Care Reports, BC Ambulance, BC Emergency Health Services (Additional details below). Preliminary numbers, subject to change.*

*Preliminary data on suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance to the end of December 2017.*

In December 2017, paramedics attended 413 suspected overdose events within Fraser Health, compared to 420 events during November (Appendix – Figure 4). These numbers will likely increase as additional data are received.

In 2017, paramedics responded to 6,588 suspected overdose events within the Fraser Health region (Appendix – Table 3). The age and sex profile of suspected overdose events were similar to trends seen in Emergency Departments; the majority of the events were among males (70%) and those aged 19-39 years (52%).

From January to December 2017:

- 74% of suspected overdose events resulted in the patient being transported to a hospital.
- Paramedics administered naloxone during 1,829 (28%) overdose events; additional naloxone may have been given by other first responders and by community members before paramedics arrived at the scene.
- Home/residence (40%) and street/highway (33%) were the most common locations where paramedics attended suspected overdose events.

## Naloxone Distribution

*Data Source: BC Take Home Naloxone Program, BC Centre for Disease Control, data extracted February 15, 2018.*

Since the declaration of the overdose emergency in April 2016, Fraser Health has worked hard to expand the number of sites distributing Take Home Naloxone (THN) kits.

Between April 2016 and January 2018, 218 new sites were added, bringing the total number of sites to 312.

Furthermore, 158 community sites in the region have registered to receive naloxone boxes for in-facility overdose response.

Between January and September of 2017, there were 10,399 THN kits dispensed in Fraser Health. During 2016, 4,320 THN kits were dispensed within Fraser Health.

Naloxone is available in British Columbia without a prescription. Take Home Naloxone (THN) kits and training are available **at no cost** for community members at risk of overdose and those likely to witness an overdose. Eligible community members can access THN kits and training through approved THN distribution sites across the Fraser Health region. Visit [fraserhealth.ca/overdose](http://fraserhealth.ca/overdose) to find out where you can get a THN kit and training.

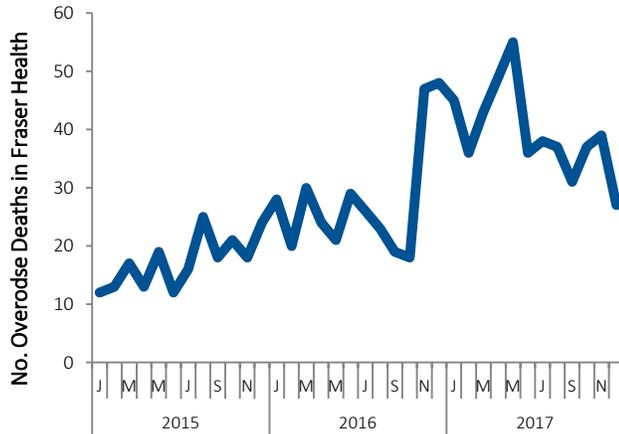
## Additional Information

For more information on the Overdose Public Health Emergency, what you can do and Fraser Health's response, go to <http://www.fraserhealth.ca/overdose>.

## Appendix: Data

### Overdose Deaths

**Figure 2. Monthly illicit drug overdose deaths within Fraser Health.**



Data Source: BC Coroner Service. Preliminary data, numbers subject to change.

**Table 1: Illicit drug overdose deaths within Fraser Health.**

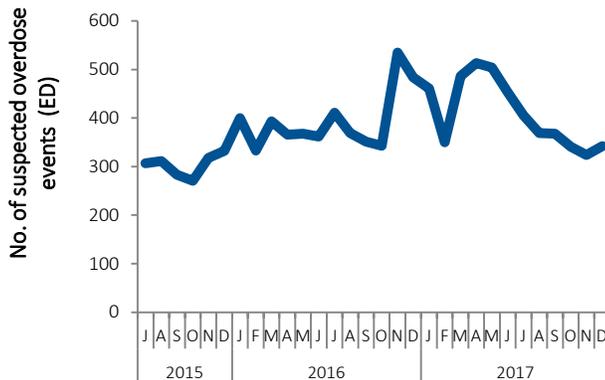
	No. Deaths 2017	No. deaths 2016	% Increase (2017 vs. 2016)
<b>BC</b>	<b>1,422</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Fraser Health<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>473</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>42</b>
Surrey	174	122	43
Maple Ridge	33	27	22
Abbotsford	49	39	26
Langley (City+ Township)	36	30	20
Burnaby	41	39	5
Chilliwack	24	12	100
Coquitlam	29	14	107
New Westminster	22	10	120
Other communities	65	40	63

<sup>^</sup> BC Coroner assigns location based on location of injury (i.e. overdose) and if that is missing, location of death.

Data source: BC Coroner Service. Preliminary data, numbers subject to change.

## Suspected Overdose Visits to Emergency Department

**Figure 3. No. of suspected overdose events seen at Fraser Health Emergency Departments.**



Data Source: Fraser Health Emergency Departments

**Table 2. Suspected overdose events presenting at Fraser Health Emergency Departments.**

Community <sup>^</sup> of residence	No. events Jan 2018 (Avg. past 12 months <sup>~</sup> )	No. events 2018 Jan (Rate per 100,000) <sup>*</sup>	No. events 2017 (Rate per 100,000)
Abbotsford	45 (38.5)	45 (452)	477 (399)
Agassiz-Harrison	0 (<5)	0 (0)	28 (341)
Burnaby	20 (25.9)	20 (114)	317 (150)
Chilliwack	23 (31.6)	23 (334)	394 (476)
City of Langley	8 (12.3)	8 (428)	162 (721)
Coquitlam	21 (15.2)	21 (210)	176 (146)
Delta	11 (10.3)	11 (149)	119 (134)
Hope	<5 (<5)	<5 (368)	22 (337)
Maple Ridge	16 (23.7)	16 (275)	305 (437)
Mission	7 (12.4)	7 (229)	149 (405)
New Westminister	10 (12.5)	10 (181)	161 (243)
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	<5 (152)	44 (278)
Port Coquitlam	8 (10.3)	8 (191)	128 (255)
Port Moody	<5 (5.7)	<5 (127)	70 (247)
Surrey	96 (137.0)	96 (263)	1,684 (384)
Township of Langley	10 (13.1)	10 (122)	159 (161)
White Rock	<5 (<5)	<5 (195)	59 (320)
<b>Non-Fraser Residents</b>	30 (36.7)	30 (n/a)	463 (n/a)
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>315 (397.6)</b>	<b>315 (248)</b>	<b>4,917 (322)</b>

<sup>^</sup> Community based on reported residential address. Homeless people assigned to the community where Emergency Department was located.

<sup>\*</sup> Rate annualized based on available months for 2018.

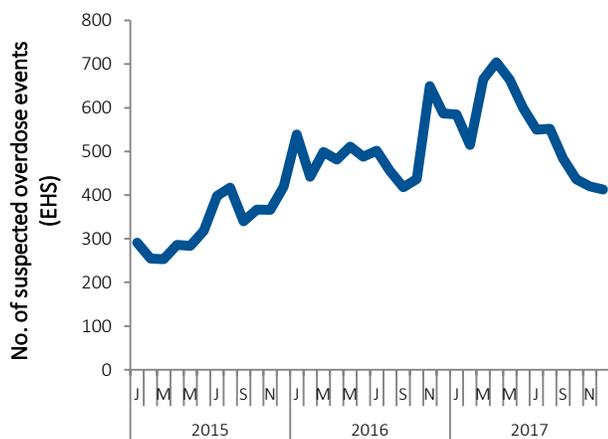
<sup>~</sup> Based on average of past 12 months, including the most recent month. Counts under five not reported as they are potentially identifiable.

Restricted to those 13 years of age or older. Population estimates for 2016 are used effective the September 2017 report; all rates have been adjusted accordingly.

## Suspected Overdose Events attended by BC Ambulance

Data on suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance are current to the end of December 2017.

**Figure 4. No. of suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance service within Fraser Health Region.**



Data Source: Patient Care Records data from BC Emergency Service. Preliminary data, numbers subject to change.

**Table 3: Suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance service within Fraser Health Region.**

Community of event <sup>^</sup>	No. events Dec 2017 (Avg. past 12 months <sup>~</sup> )	No. events Jan-Dec 2017 (Rate per 100,000)	No. events 2016 (Rate per 100,000)
Abbotsford	38 (101.5)	644 (539)	574 (480)
Agassiz-Harrison	<5 (6.0)	36 (438)	36 (438)
Burnaby	44 (87.3)	552 (261)	495 (234)
Chilliwack	34 (70.8)	471 (569)	379 (458)
City of Langley	12 (45.1)	285 (1,269)	256 (1,140)
Coquitlam	32 (51.3)	333 (277)	283 (235)
Delta	15 (29.7)	202 (228)	154 (174)
Hope	<5 (5.7)	38 (582)	30 (460)
Maple Ridge	18 (70.2)	405 (580)	437 (626)
Mission	14 (27.1)	201 (547)	124 (337)
New Westminister	23 (47.1)	293 (443)	272 (411)
Pitt Meadows	<5 (8.9)	56 (354)	51 (322)
Port Coquitlam	8 (27.2)	167 (332)	159 (317)
Port Moody	<5 (7.2)	48 (169)	38 (134)
Surrey	137 (420.3)	2,592 (592)	2,452 (560)
Township of Langley	24 (37.6)	222 (225)	229 (232)
White Rock	<5 (6.9)	43 (233)	40 (217)
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>413 (1,049.8)</b>	<b>6,588 (432)</b>	<b>6,009 (394)</b>

Please note: Numbers for the most recent month are likely an underestimate and will increase as entry of BC Ambulance Patient Care Forms is completed.

<sup>^</sup> Community based on location where the paramedics attended to the suspected overdose event

<sup>~</sup> based on average of past 12 months, including the most recent month

-- counts under 5 not reported as they are potentially identifiable

Restricted to those 13 years of age or older. Population estimates for 2016 are used effective the September 2017 report; all rates have been adjusted accordingly.

## Notes on Data Sources

Please note that numbers in this report are likely an underestimate. This is because first responders (fire, police or paramedics) are not called to all overdose events, not all events are seen at emergency departments and the algorithms used to detected events do not capture all overdoses.

### *BC Coroner Service*

Coroner numbers are preliminary and subject to change as investigations are finalized. Coroner assigns location to events based on location of overdose and location of death. The Coroner's fentanyl overdose report may be one month behind overdose deaths reports due to additional time needed for fentanyl testing. Currently, the BC Coroner service combines numbers for City of Langley and Township of Langley.

The coroner illicit drug category includes street drugs (heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, etc.), medications that may not have been prescribed to the deceased, combinations of the above with prescribed medications, and origin of drug not known. Additional information can be found in BC Coroner reports <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/death-investigation/statistical-reports>.

### *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 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.

### *BC Ambulance*

Fraser Health receives weekly data from BC Ambulance, BC Emergency Health Services (EHS) via the BC Centre for Disease Control. Data are based on Patient Care Forms completed by paramedics for each event they attend. The data on the most recent cases is delayed by a few weeks due to time needed for collection, transmission, and entry of the information. Patient Care Forms are completed for more than 90% of the events attended by paramedics. These are suspected overdose events and not confirmed cases. These numbers many change as data entry is finalized.

Suspected overdose events are identified based on naloxone administration, provisional impression of 911 dispatch, and provisional impression of the paramedics. We remove events suspected of not being overdose events and those associated primarily with alcohol. Locations are assigned based on latitude and longitude of the location where ambulance was dispatched. In addition to ambulance, other services (police, fire, community organizations, etc.) may also be present during an overdose response in the community.