

## Provincial Overdose Emergency Monthly Situational Report – March 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 more overdose deaths in February 2018 (n=39) compared to January (n=35). Year to date, there have been 13% fewer overdose deaths than in the first two months of 2017; however, the number of overdoses is still 54% higher than the first two months of 2016. Fentanyl was detected in 77% of illicit drug overdose deaths in Fraser Health. Fentanyl-detected illicit drug deaths in 2018 are 4% lower than in 2017.

**Suspected Overdose Events treated in Emergency Departments:** There was an increase in the number of suspected overdose events seen in Fraser Health Emergency Departments between February and March, 2018 (309 vs. 326, respectively).

**Suspected Overdose Events attended by paramedics:** BC Ambulance responded to fewer suspected overdoses in February 2018 compared to January (358 vs. 441, respectively). Across Fraser Health, 27% of people treated for overdose declined transport to additional health services.

**Take Home Naloxone:** 375 new sites have joined since April 2016, bringing the total number of Take Home Naloxone sites in Fraser Health to 401. There were 845 kits dispensed in January 2018.

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:

#### Take Home Naloxone:

- Surrey Fire Department and Fraser Health visited over 100 recovery homes in Surrey to investigate, educate, and provide resources on fire safety and harm reduction to these homes with the hopes of having impact on the surrounding communities. Fraser Health staff provided naloxone training and kits to staff and clients.

#### Mental Health & Substance Use Services:

- Renovations began at the future site of an iOAT clinic in North Surrey.

#### Education:

- *Overdose Response for Organizations* – a course with a strong train-the-trainer model – was held in Burnaby. Feedback was excellent and participants indicated that they felt they were leaving with the skills, competencies and confidence to provide on-going training to their staff in overdose prevention, recognition, and response.
- Training on harm reduction and overdose prevention, recognition, and response was provided to staff of Fraser Valley Aboriginal Child and Family Services.
- Fraser Health provided *Take Home Naloxone & Opportunities for Engagement* training to staff at the Jim Pattison Outpatient Care & Surgery Centre.
- Harm reduction training was also delivered to staff of several youth-serving agencies in Fraser East, including Child and Youth Mental Health services in Chilliwack.

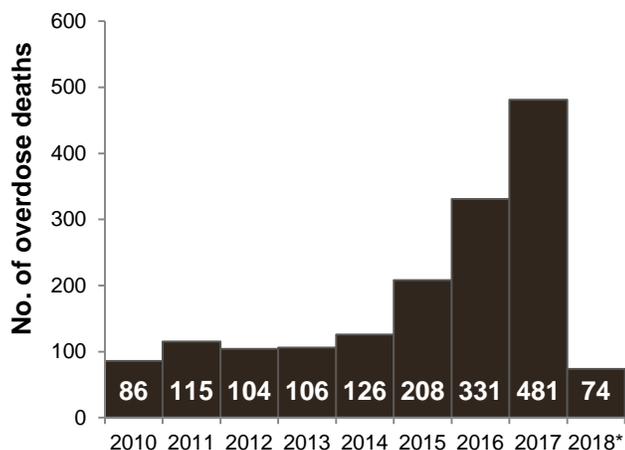
## Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths – Fraser Health Region

*Data Source: BC Coroner Service (additional details below). Preliminary data, 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 have been 74 overdose deaths in 2018 (Appendix – Figure 2).

- From January to February 2018, the annualized rate, per 100,000, of overdose deaths was lower in Fraser Health (24.1) compared to B.C. (28.1).
- Year to date, there have been 13% fewer overdose deaths than in the first two months of 2017; however, the number of overdoses is still 54% higher than the first two months of 2016.
- Fentanyl was detected in 77% of overdose deaths in the region in January and February 2018, compared to 80% in 2017 and 63% in 2016.

**Figure 1. Number of illicit drug overdose deaths within Fraser Health, 2010 to 2018.**



*Data Source: BC Coroner Service.*

## Emergency Department – Suspected Overdose Events

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

During March 2018, there was an increase in the number of suspected overdose events seen at Fraser Health Emergency Departments (EDs). There were 326 suspected overdose events in March compared with 309 events in February 2018 (Appendix – Figure 3).

From January to March 2018:

- There were 950 suspected overdose events seen at Fraser Health EDs (Appendix – Table 2).
- The majority of overdose events were among males (71%), and the highest numbers of events were among those 19-29 years old (33%), followed by those 30-39 years old (27%), and 40-59 years old (28%). Males aged 19-59 accounted for 64% of all suspected overdose events.
- Opioids were associated with 67% of 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 data, numbers subject to change.*

*Preliminary data on suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance to the end of February 2018.*

In February 2018, paramedics attended 358 suspected overdose events within Fraser Health, compared to 441 events during January (Appendix – Figure 4). These numbers will likely increase as additional data are received.

From January to February 2018, paramedics have responded to 799 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 (71%) and half were aged 19-39 years.

From January to February 2018:

- 73% of suspected overdose events resulted in the patient being transported to a hospital.
- Paramedics administered naloxone during 200 (25%) overdose events; additional naloxone may have been given by other first responders and by community members before paramedics arrived at the scene.
- Home/residence (45%) and street/highway (28%) 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 April 14, 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 March 2018, 375 new sites were added, bringing the total number of sites to 401.

Furthermore, 167 community sites in the region have registered to receive naloxone boxes for in-facility overdose response.

In January 2018, there were 845 THN kits dispensed in Fraser Health. During 2017, 14,410 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.

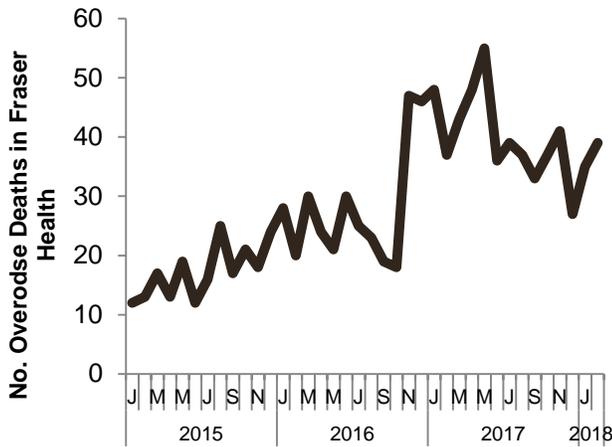
## Additional Information

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.**

	Deaths Jan-Feb 2018	Projected Deaths 2018*	Deaths 2017	% Change (2018* vs. 2017)
<b>BC</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>1,368</b>	<b>1,446</b>	<b>-5</b>
<b>Fraser Health^</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>-8</b>
Surrey	36	216	176	23
Maple Ridge	-	-	33	-
Abbotsford	-	-	49	-
Langley (City+ Township)	-	-	36	-
Burnaby	7	42	41	2
Chilliwack	-	-	23	-
Coquitlam	-	-	29	-
New Westminster	7	42	24	75
Other communities	24	144	70	106

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

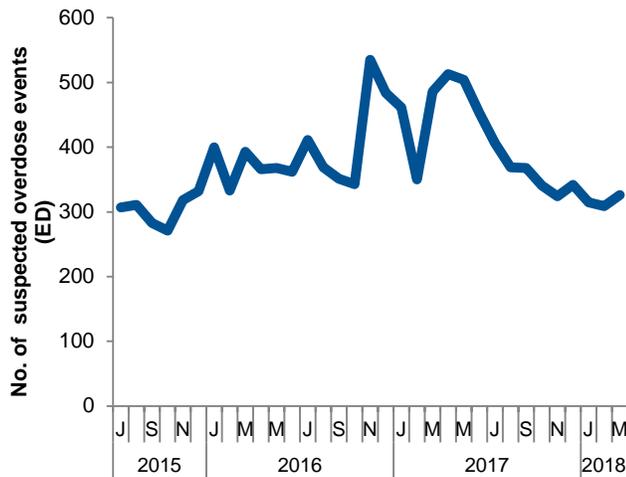
- Data not yet available

\* Projected based on available months in 2018.

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 Mar 2018 (Avg. past 12 months~)	No. events Jan-Mar 2018 (Rate per 100,000*)	No. events 2017 (Rate per 100,000)
Abbotsford	35 (35.8)	99 (331)	477 (399)
Agassiz-Harrison	<5 (<5)	<5 (195)	28 (341)
Burnaby	25 (25.3)	67 (127)	317 (150)
Chilliwack	27 (30.3)	70 (338)	394 (476)
City of Langley	8 (10.5)	24 (428)	162 (721)
Coquitlam	11 (14.3)	45 (150)	176 (146)
Delta	<5 (9.6)	23 (104)	119 (134)
Hope	<5 (<5)	7 (429)	22 (337)
Maple Ridge	20 (21.8)	47 (269)	305 (437)
Mission	9 (10.7)	23 (250)	149 (405)
New Westminster	13 (12.5)	36 (218)	161 (243)
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	6 (152)	44 (278)
Port Coquitlam	10 (10.9)	29 (231)	128 (255)
Port Moody	5 (5.1)	12 (169)	70 (247)
Surrey	105 (134.2)	334 (305)	1,684 (384)
Township of Langley	13 (13.3)	29 (118)	159 (161)
White Rock	<5 (<5)	9 (195)	59 (320)
<b>Non-Fraser Residents</b>	<b>30 (34.7)</b>	<b>86 (n/a)</b>	<b>463 (n/a)</b>
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>326 (380.8)</b>	<b>950 (249)</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.

\* Rate annualized based on available months for 2018.

~ Average of past 12 months, including the current month.

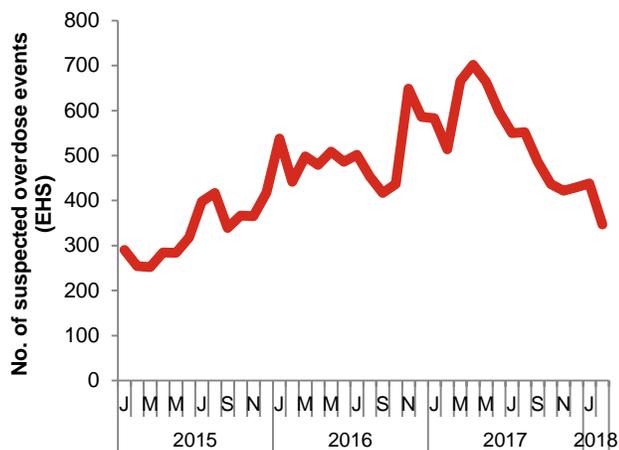
Counts under five reported as <5 as they are potentially identifiable.

Restricted to those 13 years of age or older. Population estimates for 2016 are used effective the September 2017 report.

## Suspected Overdose Events attended by BC Ambulance

Data on suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance are current to the end of February 2018.

**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 Feb 2018 (Avg. past 12 months~)	No. events 2018 YTD (Rate per 100,000*)	No. events 2017 (Rate per 100,000)
Abbotsford	46 (52.1)	97 (487)	645 (539)
Agassiz-Harrison	0 (<5)	<5 (73)	36 (438)
Burnaby	20 (43.1)	45 (128)	557 (264)
Chilliwack	32 (39.3)	70 (508)	475 (574)
City of Langley	13 (19.8)	21 (561)	285 (1,269)
Coquitlam	14 (28.2)	56 (280)	332 (276)
Delta	13 (18.0)	35 (237)	202 (228)
Hope	<5 (<5)	<5 (276)	38 (582)
Maple Ridge	6 (30.3)	31 (266)	407 (583)
Mission	14 (17.8)	28 (457)	202 (550)
New Westminster	13 (23.1)	28 (254)	297 (449)
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	<5 (114)	57 (360)
Port Coquitlam	<5 (13.1)	11 (131)	169 (336)
Port Moody	<5 (<5)	<5 (64)	48 (169)
Surrey	162 (206.6)	332 (455)	2,592 (592)
Township of Langley	11 (17.0)	25 (152)	223 (226)
White Rock	6 (<5)	10 (325)	43 (233)
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>358 (525.8)</b>	<b>799 (314)</b>	<b>6,608 (433)</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

~ Average of past 12 months, including the current month.

\* Rate annualized based on available months for 2018

Counts under 5 reported as <5 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.

## 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 detect 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 is 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 may 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.