

Fraser Health Overdose Emergency Monthly Situational Report – May 2018

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 April (n=46) compared to March (n=44). Overdose deaths in 2018 are 7% lower than the first four months of 2017 but remain higher than the first four months of 2016 (63%). Compared to 2017, we have seen increased fatality rates in Fraser South and among persons aged 19-29 years.

Suspected Overdose Events treated in Emergency Departments: There was a slight increase in the number of suspected overdose events seen in Fraser Health Emergency Departments between April (n=363) and May (n=372) of 2018.

Suspected Overdose Events attended by paramedics: BC Ambulance responded to fewer suspected overdoses in April compared to March of 2018 (292 vs. 354, respectively). Across Fraser Health, 27% of people treated for overdose declined transport to additional health services.

Take Home Naloxone: 380 new sites have joined since April 2016, bringing the total number of Take Home Naloxone sites in Fraser Health to 406. There were 4,819 kits dispensed from January to April 2018.

Please visit fraserhealth.ca/overdose to learn more about the Overdose Public Health Emergency and to find out where to obtain naloxone.

Actions in Fraser Health:

Overdose Prevention:

- In addition to fentanyl testing strips currently in place, drug checking at overdose prevention and supervised consumption sites has been enhanced with the addition of a Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) machine. This machine provides additional drug testing information and can identify a wide range of compounds within drugs that are tested.

Take Home Naloxone:

- Public Health Nurse outreach and naloxone distribution in non-profit buildings with increased overdose activity.

Education:

- Presentation to Come Share Seniors Society about naloxone and overdose crisis.
- Harm Reduction Education for the high risk youth team in Chilliwack.

Community-Based Response and Prevention:

- Opioid OD Community Dialogues were held in New Westminster, Cloverdale, and White Rock, and planning is underway for dialogues in Burnaby.
- Supported Substance Use Awareness Week activities in Surrey.

- Developed an OD prevention plan for people moving into new modular housing in Surrey.
- Two new Community Action Teams were established in Burnaby and New Westminster.

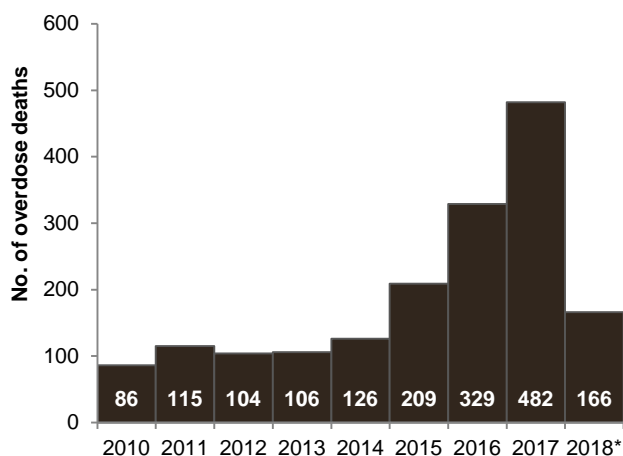
Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths – Fraser Health Region

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 were 46 overdose deaths in April 2018 (Appendix – Figure 2).

- From January to April 2018, the annualized rate, per 100,000, of overdose deaths was lower in Fraser Health (27.1) compared to B.C. (31.5).
- Year to date, there have been 7% fewer overdose deaths than in the first four months of 2017; however, the number of overdoses is 63% higher than the same time period in 2016.
- For January to April 2018, the highest rate of death was among persons 19-39 years of age. Males accounted for 82% of all overdose deaths.
- Compared to 2017, the rate of death for persons aged 19-29 years in Fraser Health has increased 54%.
- In 2018, according to the BC Coroners Service, 87% of overdose deaths in Fraser Health happened inside, with 73% in private residences; 9% occurred outside on sidewalks, streets, vehicles, parks, etc.

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



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 May 2018, there was an increase in the number of suspected overdose events seen at Fraser Health Emergency Departments (EDs). There were 372 suspected overdose events in May compared with 363 events in April 2018 (Appendix – Figure 3).

From January to May, 2018:

- There were 1,685 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 (32%), followed by those 30-39 years old (28%), and 40-59 years old (26%). Males aged 19-59 accounted for 64% of all suspected overdose events.
- Opioids were associated with 66% 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.
- 11% 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 April 2018.

In April 2018, paramedics attended 292 suspected overdose events within Fraser Health, compared to 354 events during March (Appendix – Figure 4). These numbers will likely increase as additional data are received.

From January to April 2018, paramedics have responded to 1,459 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 (53%).

From January to April 2018:

- 73% of suspected overdose events resulted in the patient being transported to a hospital.
- Paramedics administered naloxone during 367 (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 (43%) and street/highway (29%) 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 June 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 May 2018, 380 new sites were added, bringing the total number of sites to 406.

Furthermore, 172 community sites in the region have registered to receive naloxone boxes for in-facility overdose response.

Between January and April of 2018, there were 4,819 THN kits dispensed in Fraser Health. During 2017, 15,231 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 to find out where you can get a THN kit and training.

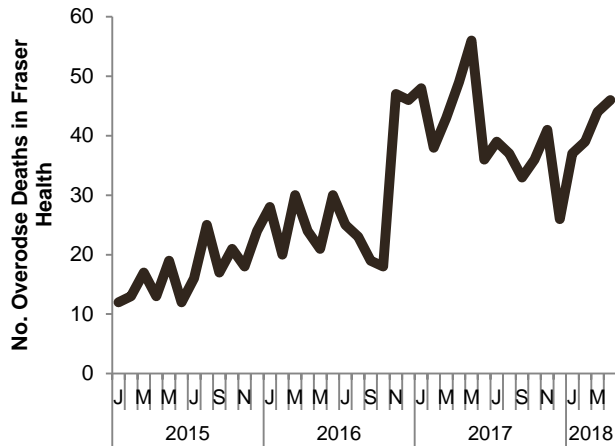
Additional Information

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-Apr 2018	Projected Deaths 2018*	Deaths 2017	% Change (2018* vs. 2017)
BC	511	1,533	1,449	6
Fraser Health[^]	166	498	482	3
Surrey	80	240	176	36
Maple Ridge	11	33	33	0
Abbotsford	8	24	50	-52
Langley (City+ Township)	14	42	36	17
Burnaby	11	33	44	-25
Chilliwack	7	21	23	-9
Coquitlam	8	24	29	-17
New Westminster	11	33	24	38
Other communities	16	48	67	-28

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

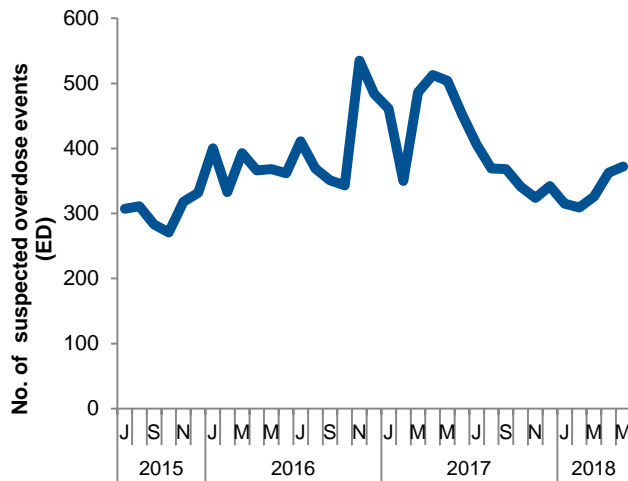
- Data not yet available

* 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 [^] of residence	No. events May 2018 (Avg. past 12 months~)	No. events Jan-May 2018 (Rate per 100,000*)	No. events 2017 (Rate per 100,000)
Abbotsford	39 (34.7)	166 (333)	477 (399)
Agassiz-Harrison	<5 (<5)	9 (263)	28 (341)
Burnaby	28 (25.8)	125 (142)	317 (150)
Chilliwack	18 (26.0)	111 (322)	394 (476)
City of Langley	7 (10.7)	40 (428)	162 (721)
Coquitlam	9 (13.6)	70 (140)	176 (146)
Delta	8 (9.3)	46 (125)	119 (134)
Hope	6 (<5)	14 (515)	22 (337)
Maple Ridge	23 (20.1)	94 (323)	305 (437)
Mission	16 (9.7)	47 (307)	149 (405)
New Westminster	11 (12.6)	61 (221)	161 (243)
Pitt Meadows	0 (<5)	7 (106)	44 (278)
Port Coquitlam	8 (10.5)	48 (229)	128 (255)
Port Moody	8 (<5)	26 (220)	70 (247)
Surrey	138 (122.3)	589 (323)	1,684 (384)
Township of Langley	15 (12.9)	56 (136)	159 (161)
White Rock	<5 (<5)	14 (182)	59 (320)
Non-Fraser Residents	34 (33.2)	162 (n/a)	463 (n/a)
Fraser Health	372 (357.3)	1,685 (265)	4,917 (322)

[^] 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.

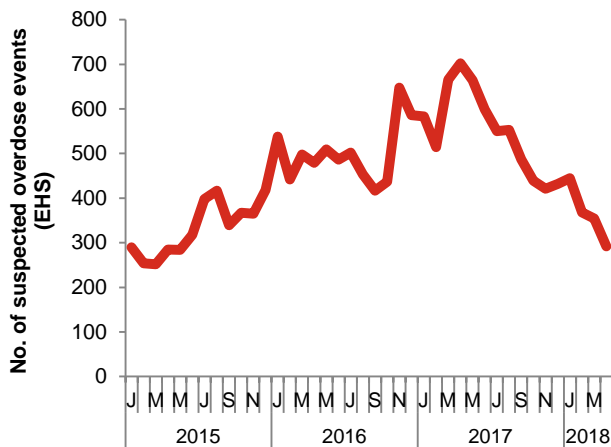
Counts under five reported as <5 as they are potentially identifiable.

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 April 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 [^]	No. events April 2018 (Avg. past 12 months~)	No. events 2018 YTD (Rate per 100,000*)	No. events 2017 (Rate per 100,000)
Abbotsford	33 (49.1)	189 (474)	645 (539)
Agassiz-Harrison	<5 (<5)	6 (219)	36 (438)
Burnaby	13 (36.7)	81 (115)	557 (264)
Chilliwack	36 (37.3)	144 (522)	475 (574)
City of Langley	11 (18.4)	50 (668)	285 (1,269)
Coquitlam	10 (23.7)	80 (200)	332 (276)
Delta	17 (18.1)	68 (230)	203 (229)
Hope	0 (<5)	5 (230)	38 (582)
Maple Ridge	11 (25.0)	62 (266)	407 (583)
Mission	15 (15.5)	52 (424)	202 (550)
New Westminster	9 (19.1)	45 (204)	297 (449)
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	8 (152)	57 (360)
Port Coquitlam	7 (11.3)	23 (137)	169 (336)
Port Moody	<5 (<5)	7 (74)	48 (169)
Surrey	104 (179.8)	566 (388)	2,593 (592)
Township of Langley	15 (16.3)	56 (170)	223 (226)
White Rock	<5 (<5)	17 (276)	43 (233)
Fraser Health	292 (467.0)	1,459 (287)	6,610 (433)

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.

[^] 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.