

# FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT – JANUARY 2020

## FRASER HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY – JANUARY 2020

### FATAL OVERDOSES

According to the BC Coroners Service, there were 15 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in December 2019, compared with 28 in November 2019. While most Fraser Health communities had fewer illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2019 than 2018, Abbotsford had more drug toxicity deaths in 2019 than in 2018 (see Table 1). These counts are subject to change as additional data are received.

**Table 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2018 to December 2019**

Community <sup>^</sup>	Jan-Dec 2019	2018	% change (2019 vs. 2018)
Abbotsford	46	41	12
Burnaby	31	48	-35
Chilliwack	21	37	-43
Langley (City & Township)	20	33	-39
Maple Ridge	13	29	-55
New Westminster	19	36	-47
Surrey	123	213	-42
Other communities	57	85	-33
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>-37</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>1,543</b>	<b>-36</b>

Data Source: BC Coroners Service Public Report to December 2019.

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.

<sup>^</sup>Community assigned based on location of overdose and if that is missing, location of death.

### OVERDOSES ATTENDED BY BC AMBULANCE

**NOTE:** Starting with the July 2019 report, Fraser Health's surveillance definition of suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance Service has been modified to include only probable opioid overdose events and suspected overdose events excluding medication overdoses.

In December 2019, there were 341 overdoses responded to by BC Ambulance Services across Fraser Health, compared to 308 in November 2019. The majority of overdoses year to date occurred among males (73%) and people aged 19 to 39 years (58%). 28% of persons declined transportation to medical services from BC Ambulance. Ambulance-attended overdoses, unlike drug toxicity deaths, did not decrease between 2018 and 2019 in most Fraser Health communities.

**Table 2: Suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance Service within Fraser Health, January 2018 to December 2019**

Community <sup>^</sup>	2019*			2018		Rate change 2019* vs. 2018
	Dec (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Abbotsford	52 (60.8)	730	611	387	324	89
Agassiz / Harrison	<5 (<5)	26	316	22	268	18
Burnaby	35 (37.9)	455	215	313	148	45
Chilliwack	22 (32.6)	391	472	244	295	60
City of Langley	8 (14.8)	178	793	126	561	41
Coquitlam	15 (22.0)	264	220	241	200	10
Delta	8 (10.2)	122	138	120	135	2
Hope	<5 (<5)	46	705	24	368	92
Maple Ridge	20 (26.0)	312	447	220	315	42
Mission	15 (14.7)	176	479	105	286	68
New Westminster	14 (19.4)	233	352	200	302	17
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	21	133	11	70	91
Port Coquitlam	6 (11.5)	138	275	93	185	48
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	44	155	33	116	33
South Surrey / White Rock	9 (9.4)	113	134	124	148	-9
Surrey	111 (145.1)	1,741	441	1,561	396	12
Township of Langley	16 (16.9)	203	206	126	128	61
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>341 (432.8)</b>	<b>5,193</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>3,950</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>31</b>

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services. 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.

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

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

\*Rate annualized based on available months for 2019.

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

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

## OVERDOSE PREVENTION & SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITES

Please see the Fraser Health website for a list of [overdose prevention sites](#) and [supervised consumption sites](#).

**Table 3: Visits and overdoses reversed at overdose prevention sites and supervised consumption sites in Fraser Health, July-September 2019 vs. October-December 2019**

	Visits for consumption		Overdose reversed <sup>^</sup>	
	Oct-Dec 2019	Jul-Sep 2019	Oct-Dec 2019	Jul-Sep 2019
Overdose prevention sites total	7,600	7,022	10	12
Supervised consumption sites total	12,297	11,773	153	114

^For overdose prevention sites, among visits to OPS table. For supervised consumption sites, among visits for consumption.

## DRUG CHECKING

To find a drug checking site near you, please click [here](#).

**Table 4: Drug checking volumes in Fraser Health, July-September 2019 vs. October-December 2019**

Tests performed		Fentanyl positive		% Fentanyl positive	
Oct-Dec 2019	Jul-Sep 2019	Oct-Dec 2019	Jul-Sep 2019	Oct-Dec 2019	Jul-Sep 2019
164	130	122	83	74	64

Data source: Agiloft and BC Centre for Substance Use.

**Table 5: Drug checking by substance in Fraser Health, July-September 2019 vs. October-December 2019**

Buy-as	Tests performed		Fentanyl positive		% Fentanyl positive	
	Oct-Dec 2019	Jul-Sep 2019	Oct-Dec 2019	Jul-Sep 2019	Oct-Dec 2019	Jul-Sep 2019
Opioid^	129	92	120	77	93	84
Stimulant	13	18	1	2	8	11
Psychedelic	9	8	0	0	0	0
Depressant	2	4	0	3	0	75
Other*	11	8	1	1	9	13
All substances	164	130	122	83	74	64

Data source: Agiloft and BC Centre for Substance Use.

^Opioid includes heroin, fentanyl, or 'down'.

\*Other includes substances mixtures. For example, heroin and methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin.