

FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT – APRIL 2021

FRASER HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY – APRIL 2021

FATAL OVERDOSES

According to BC Coroners Service, there were 57 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in April 2021 and 52 in March 2021. Based on the first four months of 2021, illicit drug toxicity deaths have increased by 21% compared to 2020, with the largest increases in Port Coquitlam, Chilliwack, and Burnaby (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 April 2021

Community**	Jan - Apr 2021	2020	% Change (2021* vs. 2020)
Abbotsford	26	66	18
Burnaby	27	58	40
Chilliwack	20	35	71
Langley (City & Township)	11	38	-13
Maple Ridge	13	37	5
New Westminster	15	35	29
Port Coquitlam	12	11	227
Surrey	85	217	18
Other Communities	22	77	-14
Fraser Health	231	574	21
BC	680	1,726	18

Data source: BC Coroners Service to April 30, 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 669 overdoses across Fraser Health in March 2021, and 604 in February 2021. Based on the first three months of 2021, the rate of overdose events have increased by 14% 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 March 2021

Community**	2021*			2020		Rate change 2021* vs. 2020
	Mar (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Mar	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Mar	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Abbotsford	94 (79.3)	240	698	863	636	10
Agassiz / Harrison	5 (<5)	18	741	40	416	78
Burnaby	45 (50.9)	136	240	562	250	-4
Chilliwack	66 (49.2)	161	700	500	554	26
City of Langley	29 (20.3)	66	987	208	796	24
Coquitlam	30 (29.5)	87	256	329	247	4
Delta	13 (17.1)	46	182	190	190	-4
Hope	<5 (<5)	11	547	54	673	-19
Maple Ridge	31 (33.8)	106	522	365	460	14
Mission	26 (20.6)	69	667	217	531	26
New Westminster	46 (36.2)	122	667	372	518	29
Pitt Meadows	5 (<5)	11	235	22	121	95
Port Coquitlam	19 (16.1)	46	325	180	323	0
Port Moody/ Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	9	103	49	143	-28
South Surrey / White Rock	18 (16.8)	53	216	172	179	21
Surrey	216 (197.8)	626	561	2,070	473	18
Township of Langley	22 (27.9)	76	257	303	262	-2
Fraser Health	669 (611.3)	1,883	441	6,496	387	14

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to March 31, 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.