

FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT – DECEMBER 2020

FRASER HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY – DECEMBER 2020

FATAL OVERDOSES

According to BC Coroners Service, there were 55 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in December 2020 and 58 in November 2020. The total number of drug toxicity deaths in 2020 (568 deaths) was the highest ever recorded in Fraser Health. All Fraser Health communities had marked increases in the number drug toxicity deaths compared to 2019 (Table 1).

Table 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2019 to December 2020

Community [^]	Jan-Dec 2020	2019	% change (2020 vs. 2019)
Abbotsford	65	45	44
Burnaby	56	31	81
Chilliwack	34	21	62
Coquitlam	28	11	155
Langley (City & Township)	39	22	77
Maple Ridge	35	13	169
New Westminster	35	20	75
Surrey	214	118	81
Other communities	62	47	32
Fraser Health	568	328	73
BC	1716	984	74

Data Source: BC Coroners Service Public Report to December 2020.

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.

OVERDOSES ATTENDED BY BC AMBULANCE

In November 2020, there were 549 overdoses responded to by BC Ambulance Services across Fraser Health, compared to 704 in October 2020. Almost all Fraser Health communities saw marked increases in overdoses, especially Delta, New Westminster, and Agassiz/Harrison (see Table 2).

Table 2: Suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance Service within Fraser Health, January 2019 to November 2020

Community ^A	2020*			2019		
	Nov (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Nov	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Oct	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	Rate change 2020* vs. 2019
Abbotsford	68 (70.8)	798	641	750	560	15
Agassiz / Harrison	<5 (<5)	37	420	27	283	48
Burnaby	50 (44.5)	501	243	463	208	17
Chilliwack	55 (39.8)	456	551	397	449	23
City of Langley	12 (16.7)	191	798	178	700	14
Coquitlam	29 (27.3)	313	256	267	204	25
Delta	10 (15.4)	177	193	120	121	59
Hope	<5 (<5)	51	693	46	575	21
Maple Ridge	37 (29.8)	338	464	317	409	14
Mission	18 (17.4)	194	518	183	455	14
New Westminster	32 (30.0)	346	525	240	340	55
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	20	120	22	124	-4
Port Coquitlam	15 (14.3)	165	323	141	258	25
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	45	143	45	134	7
South Surrey / White Rock	23 (14.1)	160	181	117	124	46
Surrey	167 (166.0)	1,882	470	1,769	414	13
Township of Langley	23 (23.9)	272	257	206	183	40
Fraser Health	549 (523.6)	5,946	387	5,288	321	20

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. 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.

^ACommunity assigned based on location where the paramedics attended to the suspected overdose event.

*Rate annualized based on available months for &#pccurrent_year.

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

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