

# FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT – FEBRUARY 2021

## FRASER HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 2021

### FATAL OVERDOSES

According to BC Coroners Service, there were 62 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in February 2021 (Table 1). This matches the highest monthly count in Fraser Health previously reported in August 2020 (62 deaths), and is a 121% increase from the number of deaths reported in February 2020 (28 deaths). Based on the first two months of 2021, the largest increases since 2020 are being seen in Burnaby, Maple Ridge, and Surrey.

**Table 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2020 to February 2021**

Community <sup>^</sup>	Jan-Feb 2021	2020	% change (2021* vs. 2020)
Abbotsford	13	66	18
Burnaby	16	58	66
Chilliwack	7	34	24
Langley (City & Township)	5	39	-23
Maple Ridge	8	36	33
New Westminster	7	35	20
Surrey	46	214	29
Other communities	14	89	-6
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>1,724</b>	<b>15</b>

Data Source: BC Coroners Service Public Report to February 28, 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.

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

\*Year to Date

## OVERDOSES ATTENDED BY BC AMBULANCE

In January 2021, BC Ambulance Services responded to 610 overdoses across Fraser Health, an 8% increase from the average number of overdoses in the previous 12 months. The highest increases were in Maple Ridge, Delta, and South Surrey / White Rock (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance Service within Fraser Health, January 2020 to January 2021**

Community <sup>^</sup>	2021*			2020		Rate change 2021* vs. 2020
	Jan (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan	Rate* per 100,000 Jan	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Abbotsford	74 (72.9)	74	646	863	636	2
Agassiz / Harrison	6 (<5)	6	741	40	416	78
Burnaby	38 (47.4)	38	201	562	250	-20
Chilliwack	42 (43.0)	42	548	500	554	-1
City of Langley	19 (18.3)	19	852	208	796	7
Coquitlam	32 (28.8)	32	283	329	247	15
Delta	21 (17.0)	21	250	190	190	31
Hope	5 (<5)	5	745	54	673	11
Maple Ridge	43 (31.4)	43	635	365	460	38
Mission	22 (19.4)	22	638	217	531	20
New Westminster	40 (32.6)	40	656	372	518	27
Pitt Meadows	5 (<5)	5	321	22	121	166
Port Coquitlam	13 (15.1)	13	276	180	323	-15
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	<5	69	49	143	-52
South Surrey / White Rock	19 (15.4)	19	232	172	179	30
Surrey	206 (181.3)	206	554	2,070	473	17
Township of Langley	23 (26.2)	23	233	303	262	-11
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>610 (563.3)</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>6,496</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>11</b>

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

<sup>^</sup>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.