

FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT – MARCH 2021

FRASER HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY – MARCH 2021

FATAL OVERDOSES

According to BC Coroners Service, there were 51 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in March 2021 and 62 in February 2021. Based on the first three months of 2021, illicit drug toxicity deaths have increased by 19% compared to 2020, with the largest increases in Chilliwack, Burnaby, and New Westminster (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 March 2021

Community [^]	Jan-Mar 2021	2020	% Change (2021* vs. 2020)
Abbotsford	21	66	27
Burnaby	20	58	38
Chilliwack	17	35	94
Langley (City & Township)	8	38	-16
Maple Ridge	12	36	33
New Westminster	12	35	37
Surrey	60	217	11
Other communities	21	88	-5
Fraser Health	171	573	19
BC	498	1,723	16

Data Source: BC Coroners Service Public Report to March 31, 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 604 overdoses across Fraser Health in February 2021, and 610 in January 2021. Based on the first two months of 2021, the rate of overdose events have increased by 10% compared to 2020. Many Fraser Health communities are seeing marked increases in overdose events, especially Agassiz / Harrison, Pitt Meadows, and Maple Ridge (Table 2).

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

Community [^]	2021*			2020		Rate change 2021* vs. 2020
	Feb (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Feb	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Feb	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Abbotsford	72 (74.6)	146	637	863	636	0
Agassiz / Harrison	7 (<5)	13	803	40	416	93
Bumaby	53 (49.6)	91	241	562	250	-4
Chilliwack	53 (45.5)	95	620	500	554	12
City of Langley	18 (19.0)	37	830	208	796	4
Coquitlam	25 (29.3)	57	252	329	247	2
Delta	12 (16.8)	33	196	190	190	3
Hope	<5 (<5)	9	671	54	673	0
Maple Ridge	32 (32.5)	75	554	365	460	21
Mission	21 (19.9)	43	623	217	531	17
New Westminster	36 (34.3)	76	624	372	518	20
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	6	192	22	121	59
Port Coquitlam	14 (15.6)	27	286	180	323	-12
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	5 (<5)	7	120	49	143	-16
South Surrey / White Rock	16 (15.8)	35	214	172	179	20
Surrey	204 (191.2)	410	551	2,070	473	16
Township of Langley	31 (27.6)	54	274	303	262	4
Fraser Health	604 (586.8)	1,214	427	6,496	387	10

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to February 28, 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.