

# FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT – NOVEMBER 2020

## FRASER HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2020

### FATAL OVERDOSES

According to BC Coroners Service, there were 57 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in November 2020. There has been an increase in drug toxicity deaths since May 2020, with August being the deadliest month on record with 62 deaths. Many Fraser Health communities are seeing marked increases in deaths, especially Maple Ridge, Coquitlam, and Chilliwack (see Table 1). These counts are subject to change as additional data are received.

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

Community <sup>^</sup>	Jan-Nov 2020	2019	% change (2020 vs. 2019)
Abbotsford	59	45	43
Burnaby	49	31	72
Chilliwack	34	21	77
Coquitlam	26	11	158
Langley (City & Township)	35	22	74
Maple Ridge	31	13	160
New Westminster	31	20	69
Surrey	189	118	75
Other communities	56	47	30
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>1,548</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>72</b>

Data Source: BC Coroners Service Public Report to November 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.

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

## OVERDOSES ATTENDED BY BC AMBULANCE

In October 2020, there were 704 overdoses responded to by BC Ambulance Services across Fraser Health, compared to 581 in September 2020. The majority of overdoses year to date occurred among men (82%). By age, the highest overdose rate was among people aged 40 to 49 years (53 overdoses per 100,000 population compared to 29 per 100,000 population for all ages).

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

Community <sup>^</sup>	2020*			2019		Rate change 2020* vs. 2019
	Oct (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Oct	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Oct	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Abbotsford	118 (68.1)	729	732	750	627	17
Agassiz / Harrison	0 (<5)	34	496	27	329	51
Burnaby	58 (42.8)	451	256	463	219	17
Chilliwack	45 (37.3)	401	581	396	479	22
City of Langley	34 (16.6)	179	957	178	793	21
Coquitlam	35 (26.2)	284	284	268	223	27
Delta	18 (15.1)	166	225	120	135	66
Hope	<5 (<5)	48	883	46	705	25
Maple Ridge	40 (28.7)	301	517	317	454	14
Mission	17 (16.8)	176	575	183	498	15
New Westminster	46 (28.3)	314	569	240	363	57
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	18	136	22	139	-2
Port Coquitlam	15 (13.5)	150	358	140	279	29
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	7 (<5)	43	182	45	159	15
South Surrey / White Rock	12 (12.8)	137	196	117	139	41
Surrey	236 (160.2)	1,714	521	1,768	448	16
Township of Langley	14 (19.0)	205	249	175	177	41
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>704 (502.8)</b>	<b>5,394</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>5,286</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>22</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. 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 &#pccurrent\_year.

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

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