

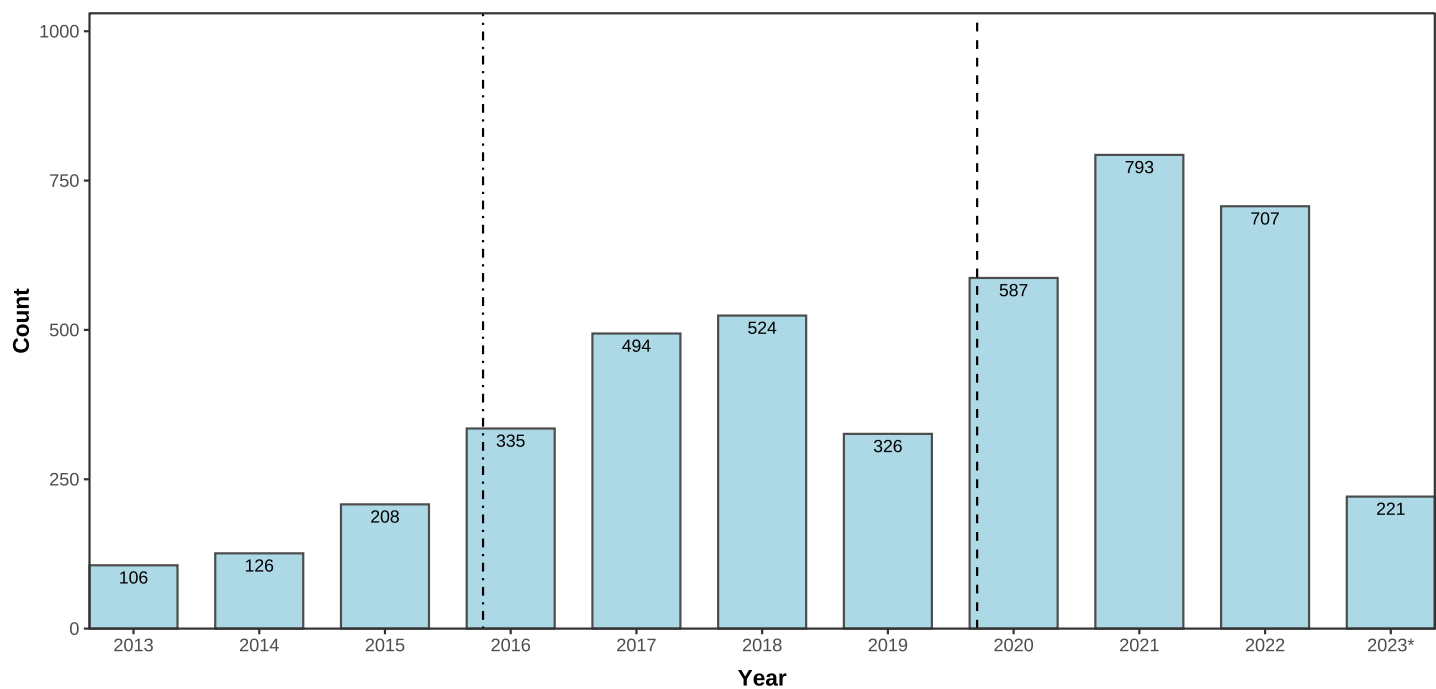
TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE

PUBLIC REPORT, APRIL 2023

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 57 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in April 2023.
- This is a 8% increase from the number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 53 deaths in March 2023.
- Compared to 2022, the greatest increases in (projected) drug toxicity deaths in 2023 have been seen in Chilliwack (+68%) and Langley (+21%) (Table 1).

Figure 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2013 to April 2023



Toxic drug supply emergency declared on 14 April 2016 (two dash grey line)

COVID-19 emergency declared on 17 March 2020 (short dash grey line)

Data source: BC Coroners Service. Preliminary data, numbers subject to change. Numbers include both open and closed cases.

Illicit drug toxicity deaths reported by BC Coroners Service include those involving street drugs (heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, etc.), medications that were not prescribed to the deceased but obtained on the street, from unknown means, and where the origin of drug is unknown.

* To April 2023.

Table 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2022 to April 2023

Community**	Jan-Apr 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	% Change (2023* vs. 2022)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	30	93	-3
Chilliwack	28	50	68
Fraser North			
Burnaby	9	69	-61
Coquitlam	8	33	-27
New Westminster	10	31	-3
Fraser South			
Langley	17	42	21
Surrey	71	240	-11
Other Communities	48	149	-3
Fraser Health	221	707	-6
BC	814	2,340	4

Data source: BC Coroners Service to Apr 30, 2023.

Preliminary data, numbers subject to change. Numbers include both open and closed cases.

Illicit drug toxicity deaths reported by BC Coroners Service include those involving street drugs (heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, etc.), medications that were not prescribed to the deceased, combinations of the above, with prescribed medications, and where the origin of drug is not known.

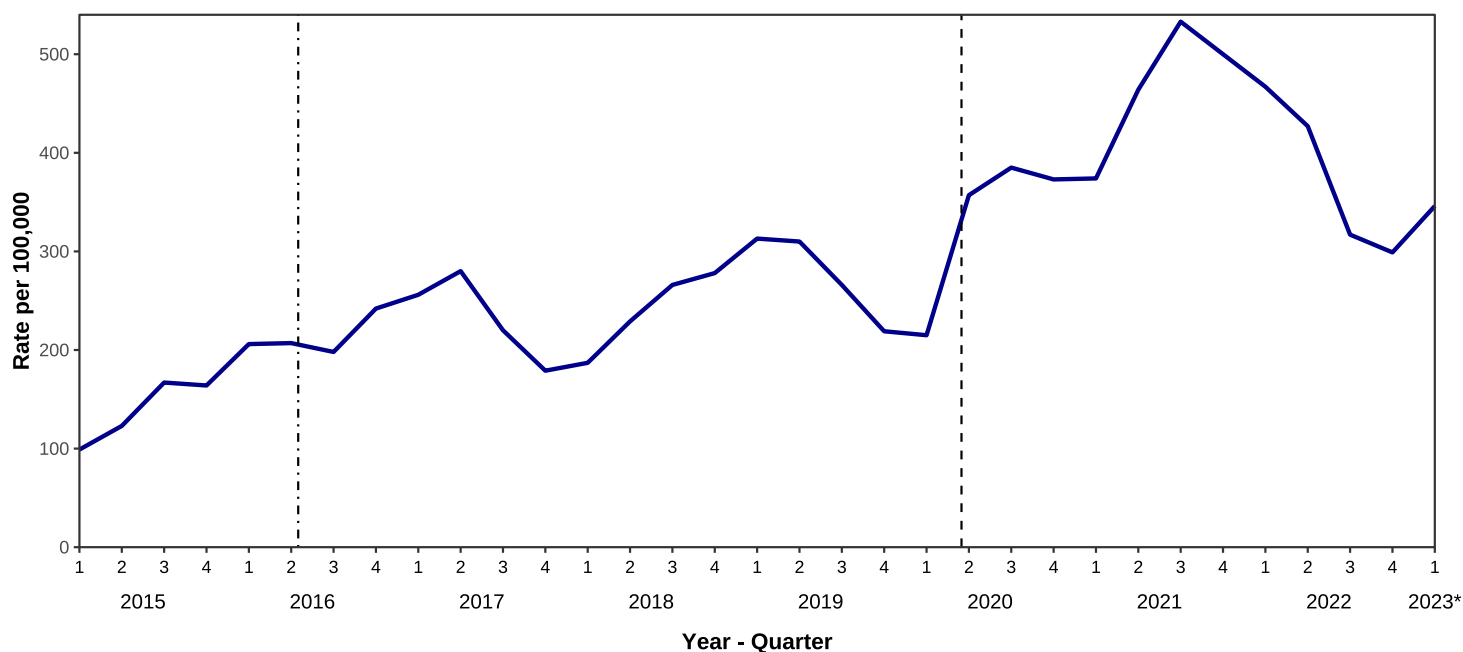
**Community assigned based on location of injury and if that is missing, location of death.

*Year to date; count annualized based on available months for 2023.

PARAMEDIC-ATTENDED TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

- Paramedics responded to 653 suspected toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in March 2023; this is a 9% increase compared to the average of the previous 12 months (Table 2).
- Compared to 2022, the greatest increases in the projected rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events in 2023 have occurred in Port Coquitlam (+50%), Chilliwack (+29%), and Port moody / Anmore / Belcarra (+23%) (Table 2).
- Compared to 2022, the largest decreases in the projected rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events in 2023 have occurred in Abbotsford (-36%), Pitt Meadows (-32%), and City of Langley (-28%) (Table 2).

Figure 2: Quarterly rate of suspected paramedic-attended drug poisoning events in Fraser Health, January 2015 to March 2023



Toxic drug supply emergency declared on 14 April 2016 (two dash grey line)

COVID-19 emergency declared on 17 March 2020 (short dash grey line)

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services. Preliminary data, numbers subject to change.

Suspected toxic drug poisoning events include those associated with opioids or other drugs.

* To March 2023; rates for incomplete quarters are projected based on available months for 2023.

Table 2: Suspected paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events within Fraser Health, January 2022 to March 2023

	2023*			2022		
Community**	Mar (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Mar	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Mar	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	% Rate change 2023* vs. 2022
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	101 (94.3)	216	586	1317	912	-36
Agassiz / Harrison^	5 (<5)	9	362	40	409	-12
Chilliwack	66 (49.8)	192	808	582	628	29
Hope^	9 (<5)	13	628	44	538	17
Mission	30 (29.1)	94	878	371	883	-1
Fraser North						
Burnaby	38 (45.2)	115	190	567	238	-20
Coquitlam	43 (30.3)	108	305	377	272	12
Maple Ridge	39 (37.1)	105	492	488	586	-16
New Westminster	41 (34.9)	121	621	426	558	11
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	8	175	46	257	-32
Port Coquitlam	20 (11.9)	51	354	134	237	50
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	7 (<5)	17	189	54	154	23
Fraser South						
City of Langley	20 (25.1)	59	915	326	1,277	-28
Delta	14 (13.1)	42	162	161	157	3
South Surrey / White Rock	15 (11.7)	36	135	145	142	-5
Surrey	186 (185.2)	540	454	2317	499	-9
Township of Langley	17 (18.3)	57	186	235	196	-5
Fraser Health	653 (600.2)	1783	397	7630	434	-9

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to Mar 31, 2023. 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 toxic drug poisoning events include those associated with opioids or other drugs.

**Community assigned based on location where the paramedics attended the event.

*Rate annualized based on available months for 2023.

~Average of past 12 months, does not include the most recent month.

^Rates may fluctuate due to small population size.

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