

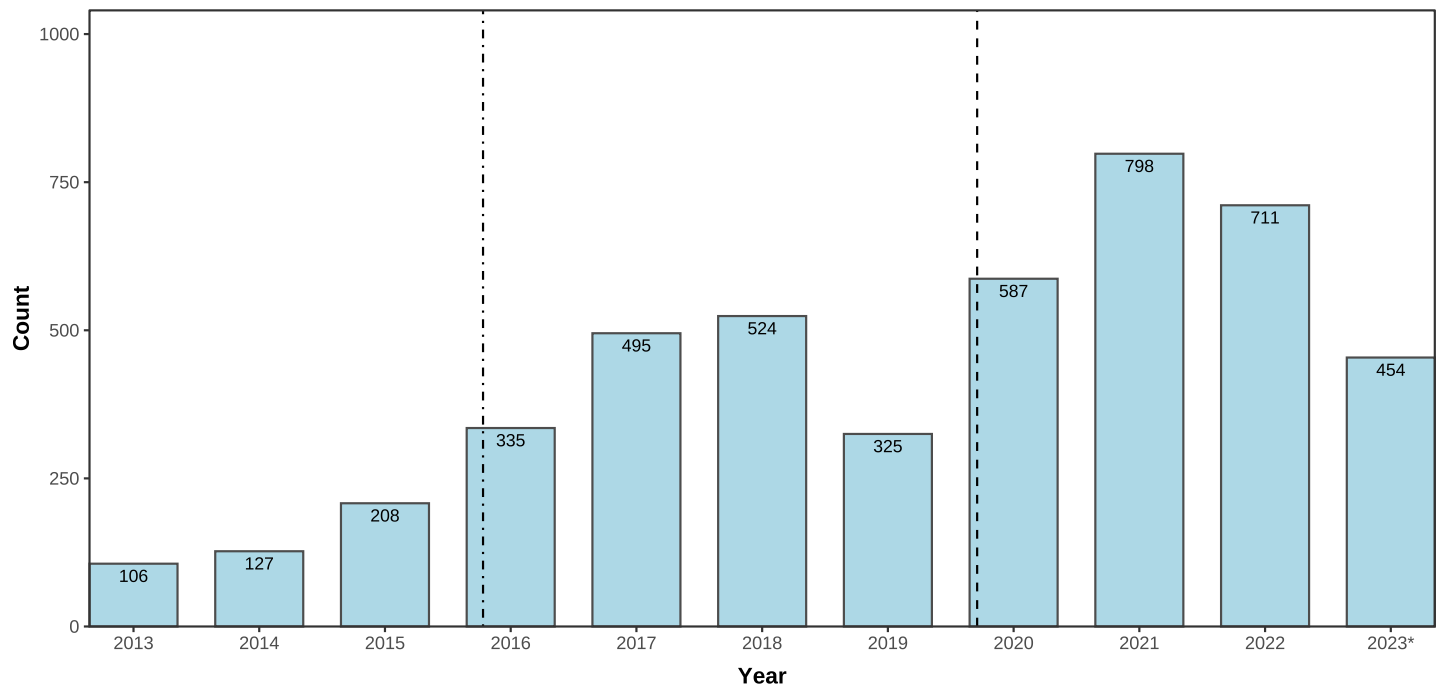
TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE

PUBLIC REPORT, AUGUST 2023

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 49 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in August 2023.
- This is a 14% decrease from the number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 57 deaths in July 2023.
- Compared to 2022, the greatest increases in (projected) drug toxicity deaths in 2023 have been seen in Chilliwack (+32%) and New Westminster (+22%) (Table 1).

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

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

Community**	Jan-Aug 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	% Change (2023* vs. 2022)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	61	91	1
Chilliwack	43	49	32
Fraser North			
Burnaby	25	69	-46
Coquitlam	16	34	-29
New Westminster	26	32	22
Fraser South			
Langley	31	44	6
Surrey	156	241	-3
Other Communities	96	151	-5
Fraser Health	454	711	-4
BC	1,645	2,383	4

Data source: BC Coroners Service to Aug 31, 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.

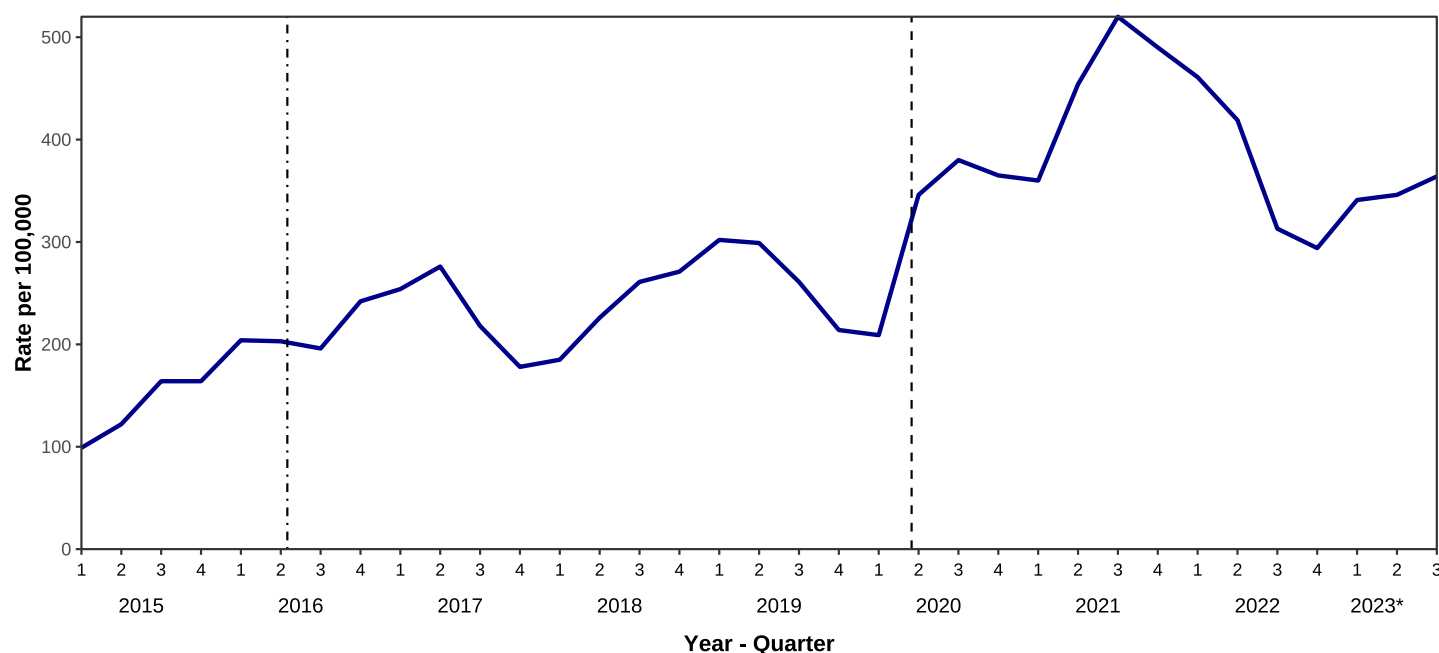
**Community assigned based on location of injury and if that is missing, location of death.

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

PARAMEDIC-ATTENDED TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

- Paramedics responded to 626 suspected toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in July 2023; this is a 14% 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 (+30%), Chilliwack (+26%), and Hope*** (+22%) (Table 2).
- Compared to 2022, the largest decreases in the projected rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events in 2023 have occurred in Pitt Meadows (-35%), City of Langley (-34%), and Abbotsford (-26%) (Table 2).

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

Community**	2023*			2022		
	Jul (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Jul	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Jul	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	% Rate change 2023* vs. 2022
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	81 (80.3)	570	662	1289	892	-26
Agassiz / Harrison***	<5 (<5)	27	465	39	399	17
Chilliwack	51 (54.2)	429	773	568	613	26
Hope***	<5 (<5)	31	642	43	526	22
Mission	23 (23.6)	166	664	365	869	-24
Fraser North						
Burnaby	57 (44)	314	222	556	233	-5
Coquitlam	33 (28.3)	204	247	373	269	-8
Maple Ridge	45 (34.7)	293	589	482	579	2
New Westminster	45 (34.6)	270	594	419	549	8
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	17	159	44	246	-35
Port Coquitlam	18 (12.2)	103	307	133	235	30
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	10 (<5)	34	162	54	154	5
Fraser South						
City of Langley	15 (19.7)	125	831	321	1,258	-34
Delta	10 (10.2)	75	124	156	152	-19
South Surrey / White Rock	13 (10.4)	72	116	144	141	-18
Surrey	199 (164.9)	1301	469	2289	493	-5
Township of Langley	19 (18.7)	141	197	233	194	2
Fraser Health	626 (550.7)	4172	398	7508	427	-7

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