

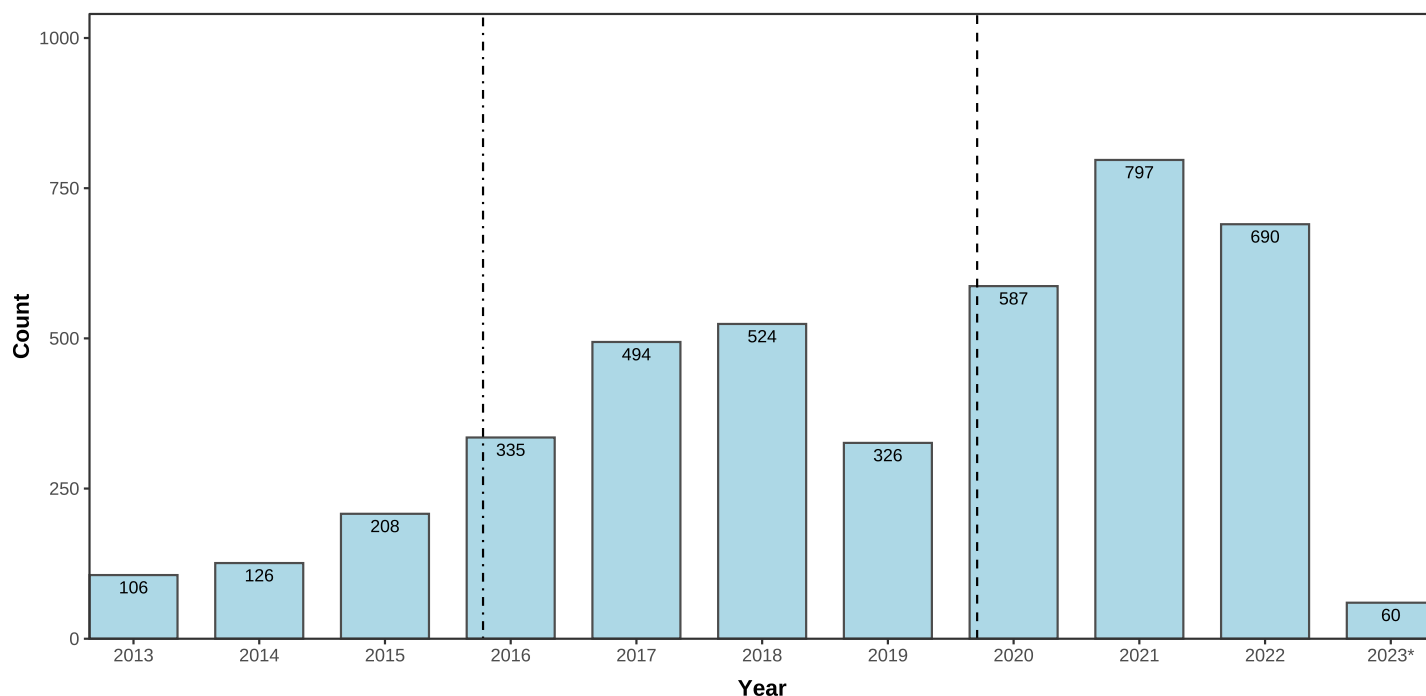
TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE

PUBLIC REPORT, JANUARY 2023

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 60 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in January 2023 (Figure 1).
- This is a 8% decrease from the number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 65 deaths in December 2022.
- Compared to 2022, the greatest increases in (projected) drug toxicity deaths in 2023 have been seen in Langley (+105%) and New Westminster (+60%) (Table 1).

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

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

Community**	Jan 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	% Change (2023* vs. 2022)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	6	88	-18
Chilliwack	6	49	47
Fraser North			
Burnaby	2	68	-65
Coquitlam	0	32	-100
New Westminster	4	30	60
Fraser South			
Langley	7	41	105
Surrey	24	236	22
Other Communities	11	146	-10
Fraser Health	60	690	4
BC	211	2,293	10

Data source: BC Coroners Service to Jan 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.

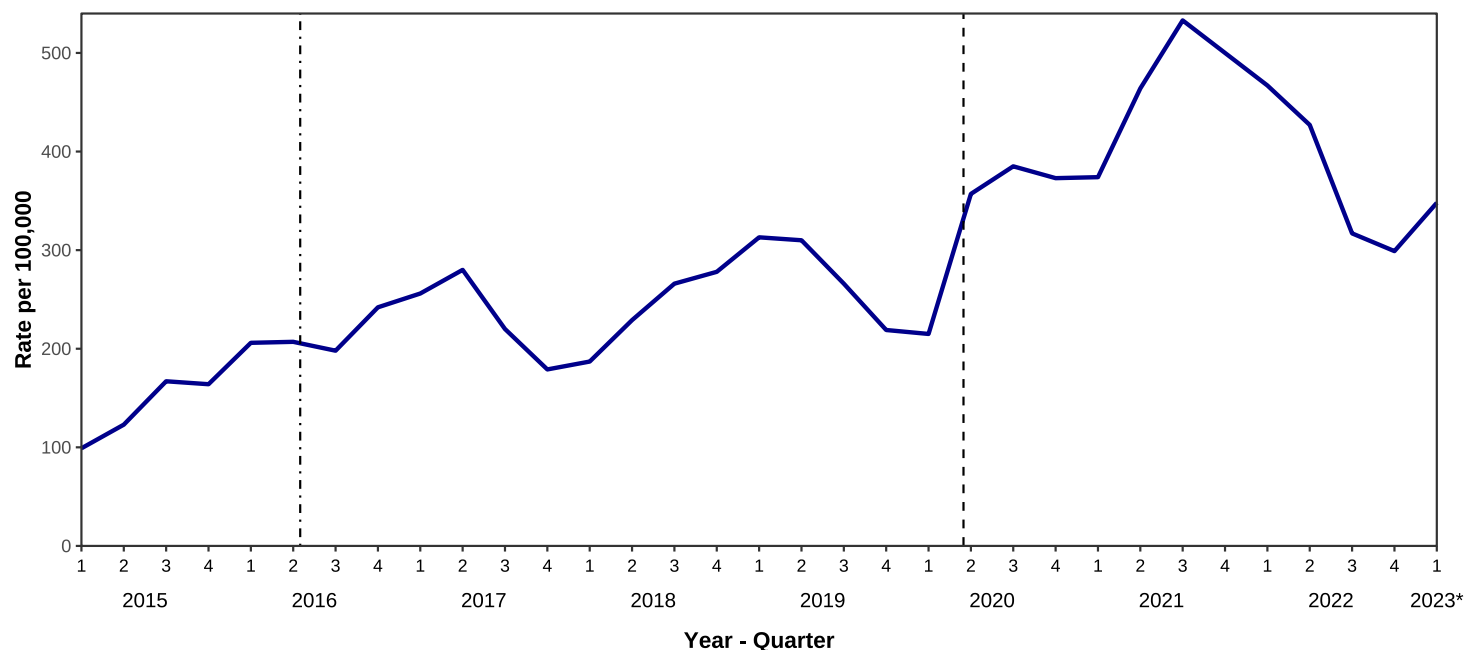
**Community assigned based on location of injury and if that is missing, location of death.

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

PARAMEDIC-ATTENDED TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

- BC paramedics responded to 598 toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in January 2023; this is a 6% decrease compared to the previous 12 months (Table 2).
- Compared to 2022, the greatest increases in the rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events have occurred in Port Coquitlam (+58%), Chilliwack (+35%), and Township of Langley (+35%) (Table 2).
- Compared to 2022, the largest decreases in the rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events have occurred in Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra (-78%), Hope^ (-73%), and Abbotsford (-46%) (Table 2).

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

	2023*			2022		
Community**	Jan (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan	Rate per 100,000 Jan	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	% Rate change 2023* vs. 2022
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	60 (109.8)	60	488	1317	912	-46
Agassiz / Harrison^	<5 (<5)	<5	241	40	409	-41
Chilliwack	67 (48.5)	67	845	582	628	35
Hope^	<5 (<5)	<5	145	44	538	-73
Mission	35 (30.9)	35	980	371	883	11
Fraser North						
Burnaby	44 (47.2)	44	218	567	238	-8
Coquitlam	39 (31.4)	39	330	377	272	22
Maple Ridge	30 (40.7)	30	422	488	586	-28
New Westminster	46 (35.5)	46	709	426	558	27
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	<5	197	46	257	-23
Port Coquitlam	18 (11.2)	18	375	134	237	58
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	<5	33	54	154	-78
Fraser South						
City of Langley	17 (27.2)	17	791	326	1,277	-38
Delta	15 (13.4)	15	173	161	157	10
South Surrey / White Rock	12 (12.1)	12	135	145	142	-5
Surrey	181 (193.1)	181	457	2317	499	-8
Township of Langley	27 (19.6)	27	264	235	196	35
Fraser Health	598 (635.8)	598	399	7630	434	-8

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