

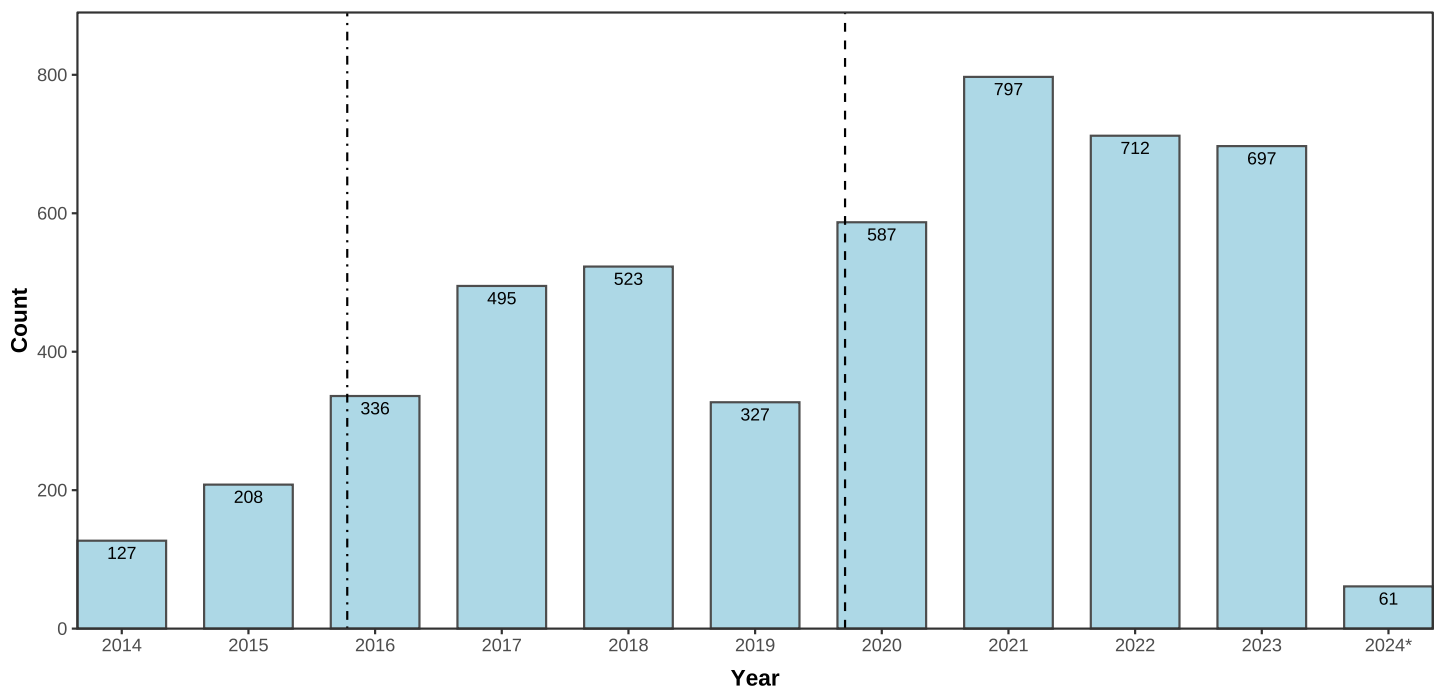
TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE

PUBLIC REPORT, JANUARY 2024

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 61 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in January 2024.
- This is a 11% increase from the number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 55 deaths in December 2023.
- Compared to 2023, the greatest increases in (projected) drug toxicity deaths in 2024 have been seen in Coquitlam (+92%), Langley (+79%), Burnaby (+44%), and Abbotsford (+19%) (Table 1).

Figure 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2013 to January 2024



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 2024.

Table 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2023 to January 2024

Community**	Jan 2024	Jan-Dec 2023	% Change (2024* vs. 2023)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	9	91	19
Chilliwack	3	59	-39
Fraser North			
Burnaby	6	50	44
Coquitlam	4	25	92
New Westminster	1	38	-68
Fraser South			
Langley	7	47	79
Surrey	19	234	-3
Other Fraser Health Communities	12	153	-6
Fraser Health	61	697	5
BC	198	2,539	-6

Data source: BC Coroners Service to Jan 31, 2024.

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.

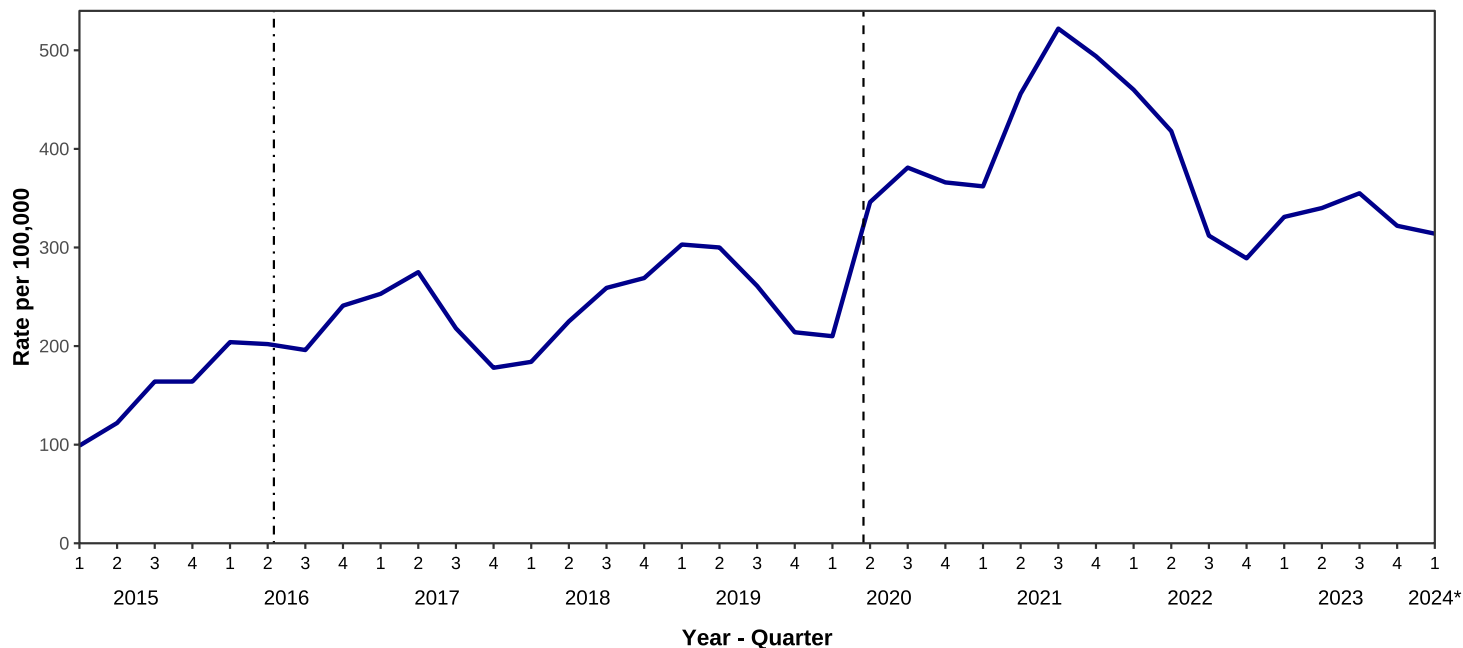
**Community assigned based on location of injury and if that is missing, location of death.

*Year to date; count annualized based on available months for 2024.

PARAMEDIC-ATTENDED TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

- Paramedics responded to 568 suspected toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in January 2024; this is a 4% decrease compared to the average of the previous 12 months (Table 2).
- Compared to 2023, the greatest increases in the projected rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events in 2024 have occurred in South Surrey / White Rock (+36%), Burnaby (+31%), and City of Langley (+17%) (Table 2).
- Compared to 2023, the largest decreases in the projected rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events in 2024 have occurred in Pitt Meadows (-100%), Delta (-59%), and Township of Langley (-49%) (Table 2).

Figure 2: Quarterly rate of suspected paramedic-attended drug poisoning events in Fraser Health, January 2015 to January 2024



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 2024; rates for incomplete quarters are projected based on available months for 2024.

Table 2: Suspected paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events within Fraser Health, January 2023 to January 2024

Community**	2024*			2023		
	Jan (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan	Rate per 100,000 Jan	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	% Rate change 2024* vs. 2023
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	75 (83.7)	75	576	1004	667	-14
Agassiz / Harrison***	<5 (<5)	<5	231	43	429	-46
Chilliwack	49 (61.1)	49	598	733	771	-22
Hope***	<5 (5)	<5	445	60	753	-41
Mission	19 (22.4)	19	524	269	635	-17
Fraser North						
Burnaby	60 (44.7)	60	280	536	215	31
Coquitlam	32 (27.5)	32	248	330	223	11
Maple Ridge	34 (39.5)	34	463	474	555	-17
New Westminster	24 (39.2)	24	352	471	594	-41
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	<5	0	36	196	-100
Port Coquitlam	7 (12.2)	7	140	147	251	-44
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	<5	93	51	137	-33
Fraser South						
City of Langley	21 (17.1)	21	875	205	745	17
Delta	5 (11.8)	5	56	142	136	-59
South Surrey / White Rock	15 (10.7)	15	169	128	125	36
Surrey	209 (185.5)	209	491	2226	455	8
Township of Langley	10 (19)	10	91	228	180	-49
Fraser Health	568 (590.2)	568	359	7083	386	-7

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to Jan 31, 2024. 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 2024.

~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.