

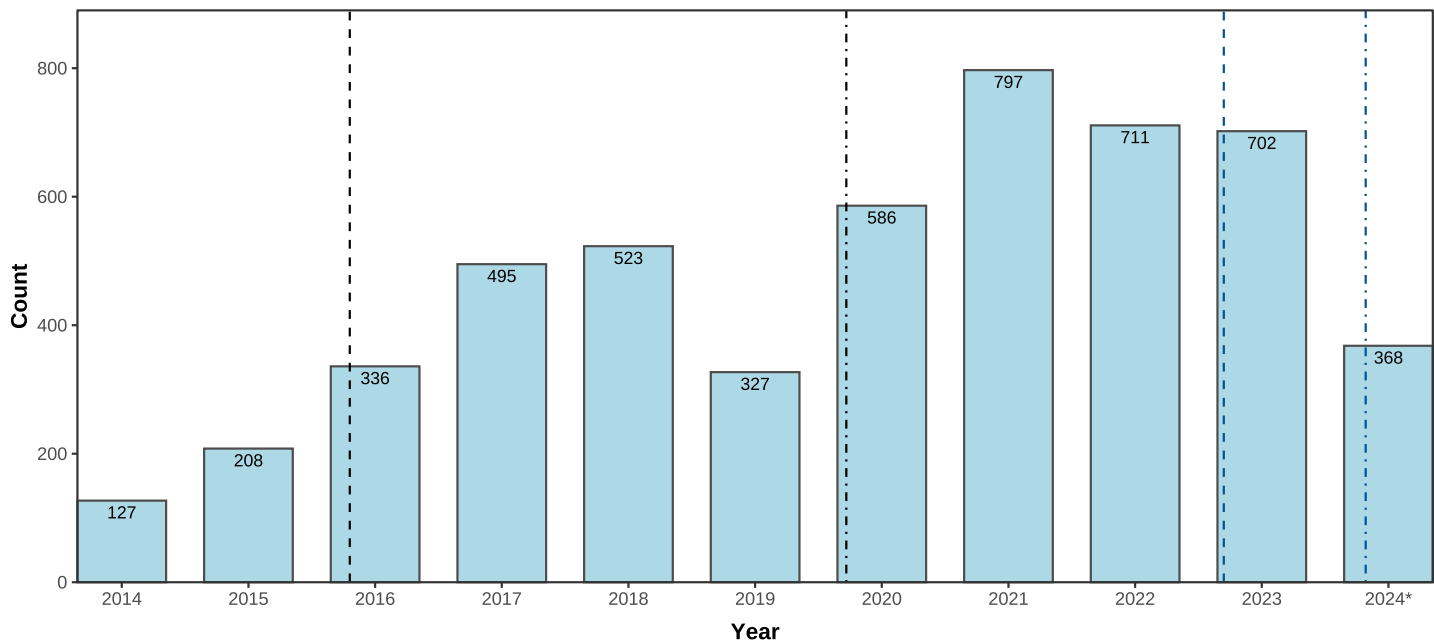
TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE

PUBLIC REPORT, JULY 2024

UNREGULATED DRUG DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 55 unregulated drug deaths in Fraser Health in July 2024.
- This is a 15% increase from the number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 48 deaths in June 2024.
- Compared to 2023, the greatest increase in (projected) drug toxicity deaths in 2024 has been seen in Abbotsford (+2%) (Table 1).

Figure 1: Unregulated drug deaths within Fraser Health, January 2013 to July 2024



Toxic drug supply emergency declared on April 14, 2016 (dash line).
 COVID-19 emergency declared on March 17, 2020 (two dash line).
 An exemption to the federal Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (i.e. decriminalization) was in effect on January 31, 2023 (dash blue line).
 Request to exempt public spaces from BC’s decriminalization policy was approved on May 7, 2024 (two dash blue line).
 Data source: BC Coroners Service. Preliminary data, numbers subject to change. Numbers include both open and closed cases.
 Unregulated drug 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 July 2024.

Table 1: Unregulated drug deaths within Fraser Health, January 2023 to July 2024

Community**	Jan-Jul 2024	Estimated Jan-Dec 2024	Jan-Dec 2023	% Change (2024* vs. 2023)
Fraser East				
Abbotsford	54	93	91	2
Chilliwack	15	26	59	-56
Fraser North				
Burnaby	30	51	51	0
Coquitlam	14	24	25	-4
New Westminster	17	29	39	-26
Fraser South				
Langley	26	45	46	-2
Surrey	130	223	236	-6
Other Fraser Health Communities	82	141	155	-9
Fraser Health	368	631	702	-10

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

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

Unregulated drug 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.

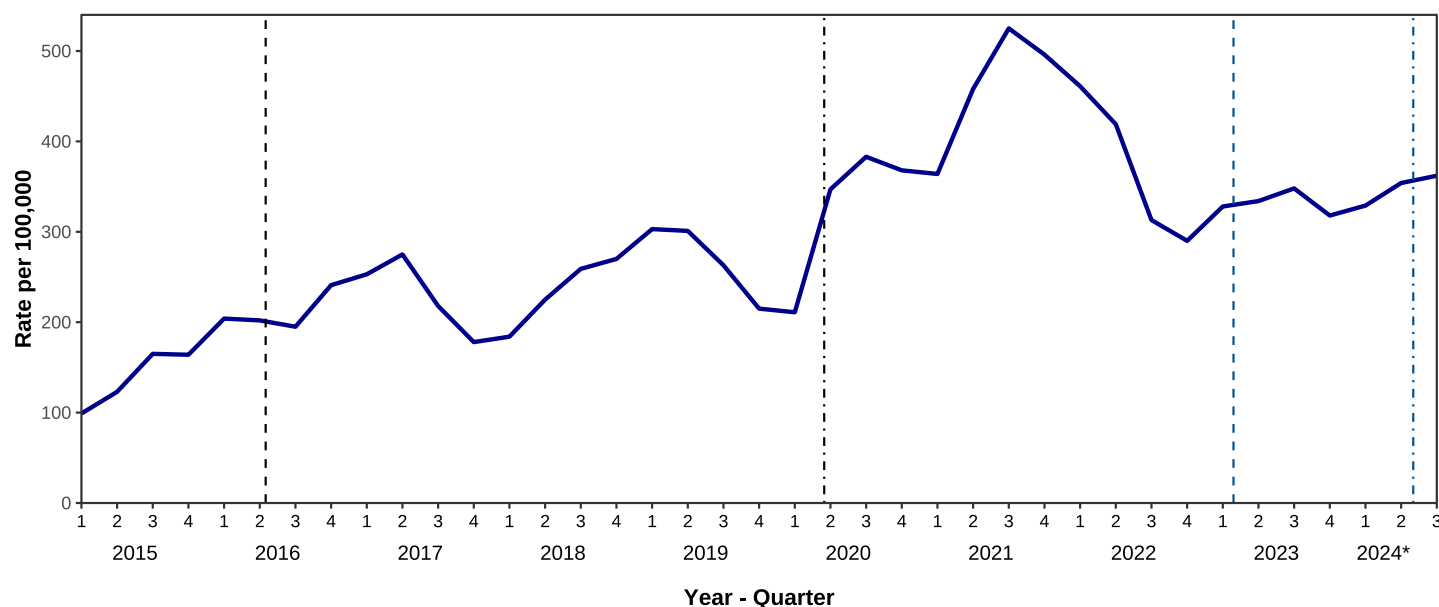
**Community assigned based on location of injury and if that is missing, location of death.

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

PARAMEDIC-ATTENDED TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

- Paramedics responded to 662 suspected toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in July 2024; this is a 9% increase 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 Port Coquitlam (+26%), Coquitlam (+24%), and City of Langley (+24%) (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 (-76%), Hope*** (-40%), and Delta (-37%) (Table 2).

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



Toxic drug supply emergency declared on April 14, 2016 (dash line).

COVID-19 emergency declared on March 17, 2020 (two dash line).

An exemption to the federal Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (i.e. decriminalization) was in effect on January 31, 2023 (dash blue line).

Request to exempt public spaces from BC's decriminalization policy was approved on May 7, 2024 (two dash blue 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 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 July 2024

Community**	2024*			2023		
	Jul (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Jul	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Jul	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	% Rate change 2024* vs. 2023
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	85 (89.9)	648	646	990	592	9
Agassiz / Harrison***	5 (<5)	24	355	46	408	-13
Chilliwack	64 (61.7)	461	666	715	624	7
Hope***	<5 (<5)	22	395	61	653	-40
Mission	33 (21.2)	162	532	266	523	2
Fraser North						
Burnaby	57 (46.6)	334	195	533	188	4
Coquitlam	35 (30.8)	247	244	329	197	24
Maple Ridge	47 (38.3)	281	454	472	461	-2
New Westminster	41 (35.4)	220	415	469	530	-22
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	5	40	35	165	-76
Port Coquitlam	17 (13)	110	276	147	219	26
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	27	108	48	117	-8
Fraser South						
City of Langley	26 (18.6)	154	752	204	607	24
Delta	13 (9.6)	53	71	139	113	-37
South Surrey / White Rock	16 (11.4)	84	110	129	103	7
Surrey	204 (196.8)	1452	432	2203	399	8
Township of Langley	16 (17.7)	123	130	223	144	-10
Fraser Health	662 (605.2)	4407	344	7009	332	4

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

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.