

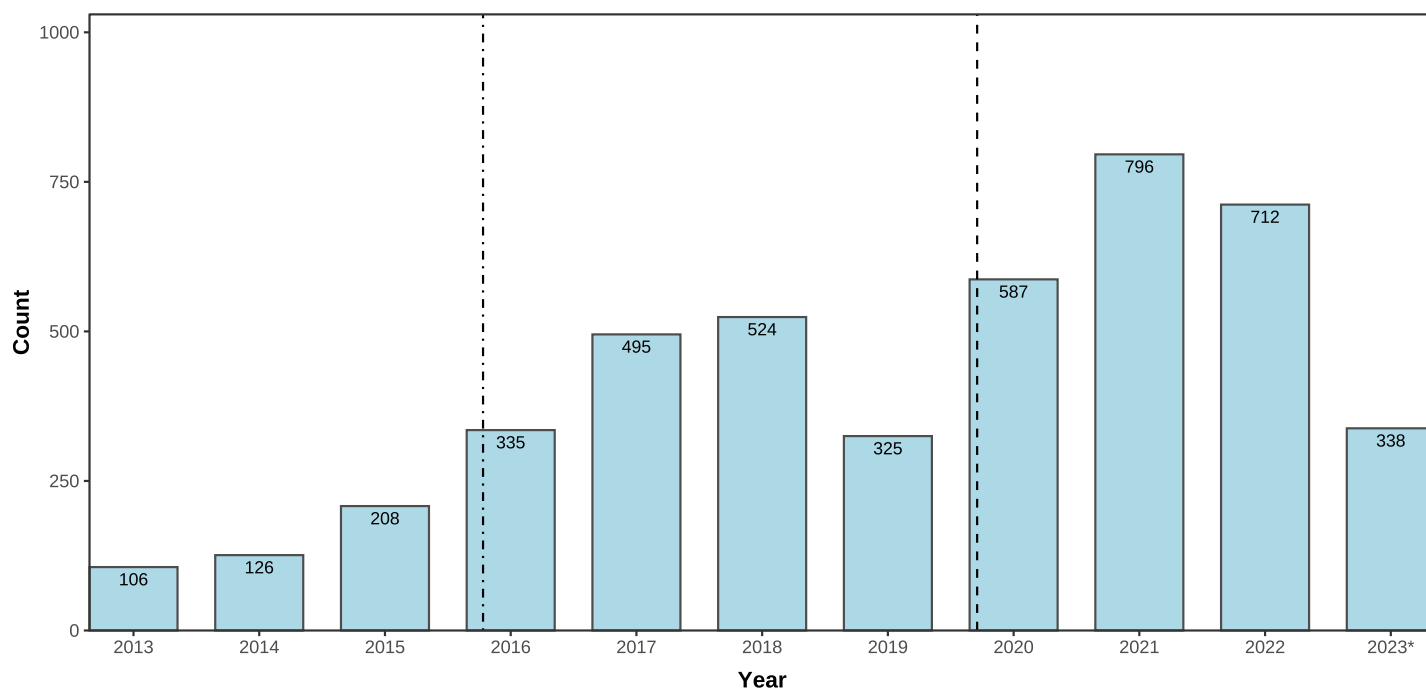
# TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE

## PUBLIC REPORT, JUNE 2023

### ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 51 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in June 2023.
- This is a 6% decrease from the number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 54 deaths in May 2023.
- Compared to 2022, the greatest increases in (projected) drug toxicity deaths in 2023 have been seen in Chilliwack (+40%) and Langley (+14%) (Table 1).

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

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

Community**	Jan-Jun 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	% Change (2023* vs. 2022)
<b>Fraser East</b>			
Abbotsford	44	91	-3
Chilliwack	35	50	40
<b>Fraser North</b>			
Burnaby	19	69	-45
Coquitlam	10	34	-41
New Westminster	16	32	0
<b>Fraser South</b>			
Langley	25	44	14
Surrey	116	243	-5
Other Communities	73	149	-2
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>-5</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>1,228</b>	<b>2,383</b>	<b>3</b>

Data source: BC Coroners Service to Jun 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.

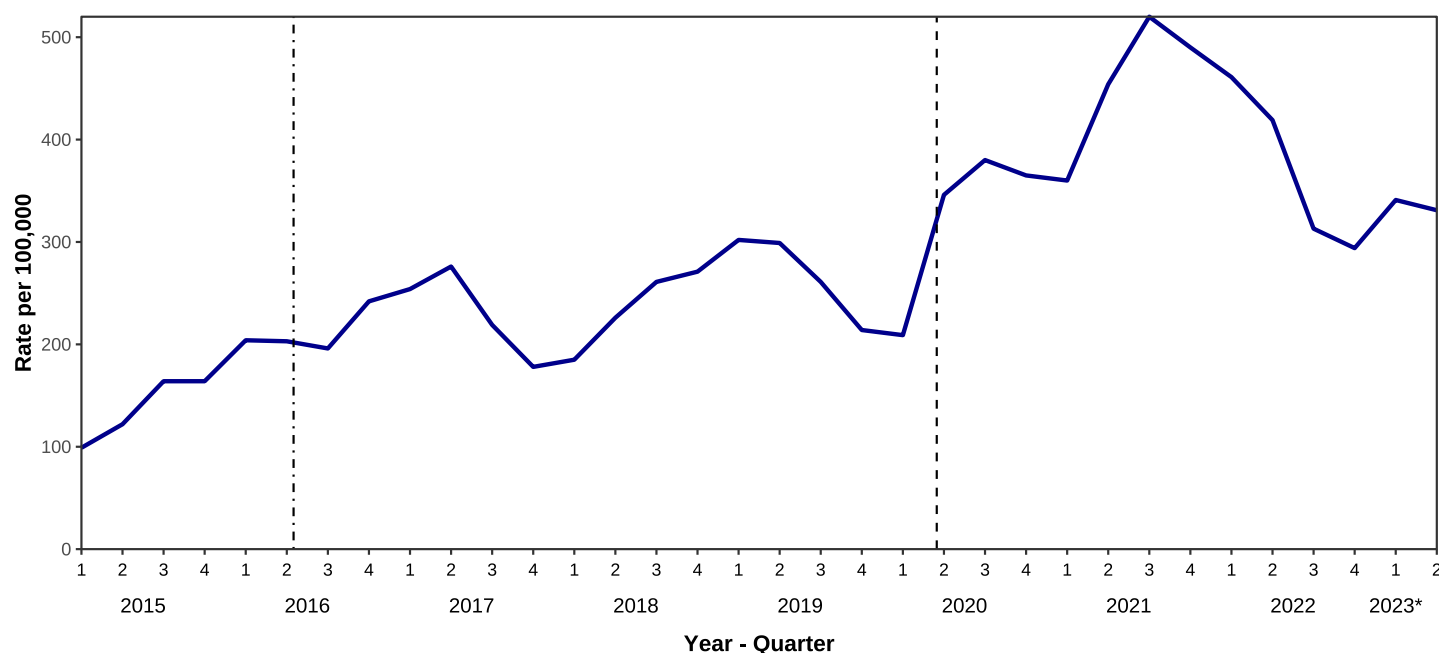
\*\*Community assigned based on location of injury and if that is missing, location of death.

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

## PARAMEDIC-ATTENDED TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

- Paramedics responded to 569 suspected toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in May 2023; this is a 2% 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 Chilliwack (+24%), Hope\*\*\* (+21%), and Port Coquitlam (+14%) (Table 2).
- Compared to 2022, the largest decreases in the projected rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events in 2023 have occurred in City of Langley (-32%), Abbotsford (-31%), and Pitt Meadows (-31%) (Table 2).

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

Community**	2023*			2022		
	May (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-May	Rate per 100,000 Jan-May	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	% Rate change 2023* vs. 2022
<b>Fraser East</b>						
Abbotsford	87 (80.7)	377	613	1289	892	-31
Agassiz / Harrison***	<5 (<5)	16	386	39	399	-3
Chilliwack	48 (51.6)	301	760	568	613	24
Hope***	<5 (<5)	22	638	43	526	21
Mission	18 (25.9)	130	728	365	869	-16
<b>Fraser North</b>						
Burnaby	50 (43.7)	212	210	556	233	-10
Coquitlam	20 (28.8)	152	257	373	269	-4
Maple Ridge	41 (33.9)	193	543	482	579	-6
New Westminster	37 (33.2)	187	576	419	549	5
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	13	170	44	246	-31
Port Coquitlam	7 (11.8)	64	267	133	235	14
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	23	153	54	154	0
<b>Fraser South</b>						
City of Langley	16 (22.5)	92	856	321	1,258	-32
Delta	8 (11.9)	57	132	156	152	-13
South Surrey / White Rock	7 (11)	49	110	144	141	-22
Surrey	201 (170.9)	909	459	2289	493	-7
Township of Langley	19 (18.9)	100	196	233	194	1
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>569 (559.8)</b>	<b>2897</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>7508</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>-9</b>

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