

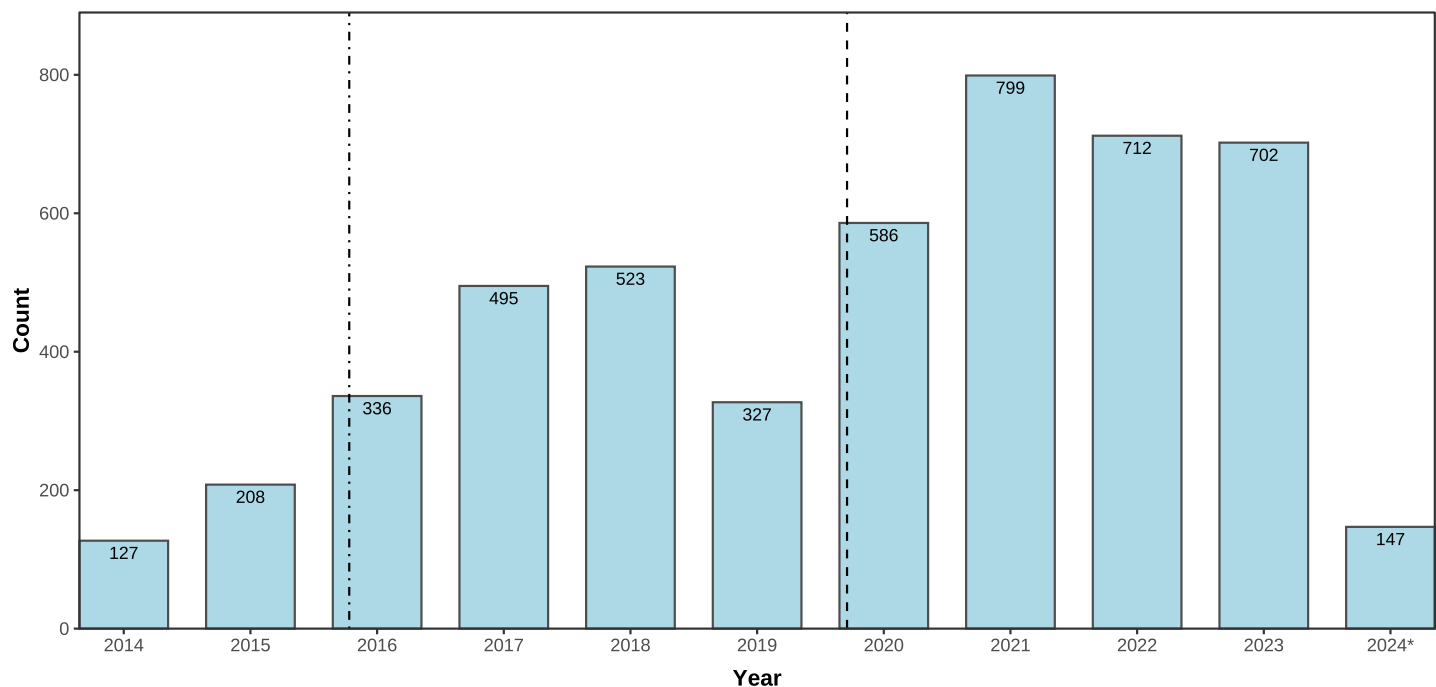
TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE

PUBLIC REPORT, MARCH 2024

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 47 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in March 2024.
- This is a 24% increase from the number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 38 deaths in February 2024.
- Compared to 2023, the greatest increases in (projected) drug toxicity deaths in 2024 have been seen in Coquitlam (+28%) and Abbotsford (+19%) (Table 1).

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

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

Community**	Jan-Mar 2024	Jan-Dec 2023	% Change (2024* vs. 2023)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	27	91	19
Chilliwack	5	58	-66
Fraser North			
Burnaby	12	51	-6
Coquitlam	8	25	28
New Westminster	6	38	-37
Fraser South			
Langley	13	47	11
Surrey	48	237	-19
Other Fraser Health Communities	28	155	-28
Fraser Health	147	702	-16

Data source: BC Coroners Service to Mar 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.

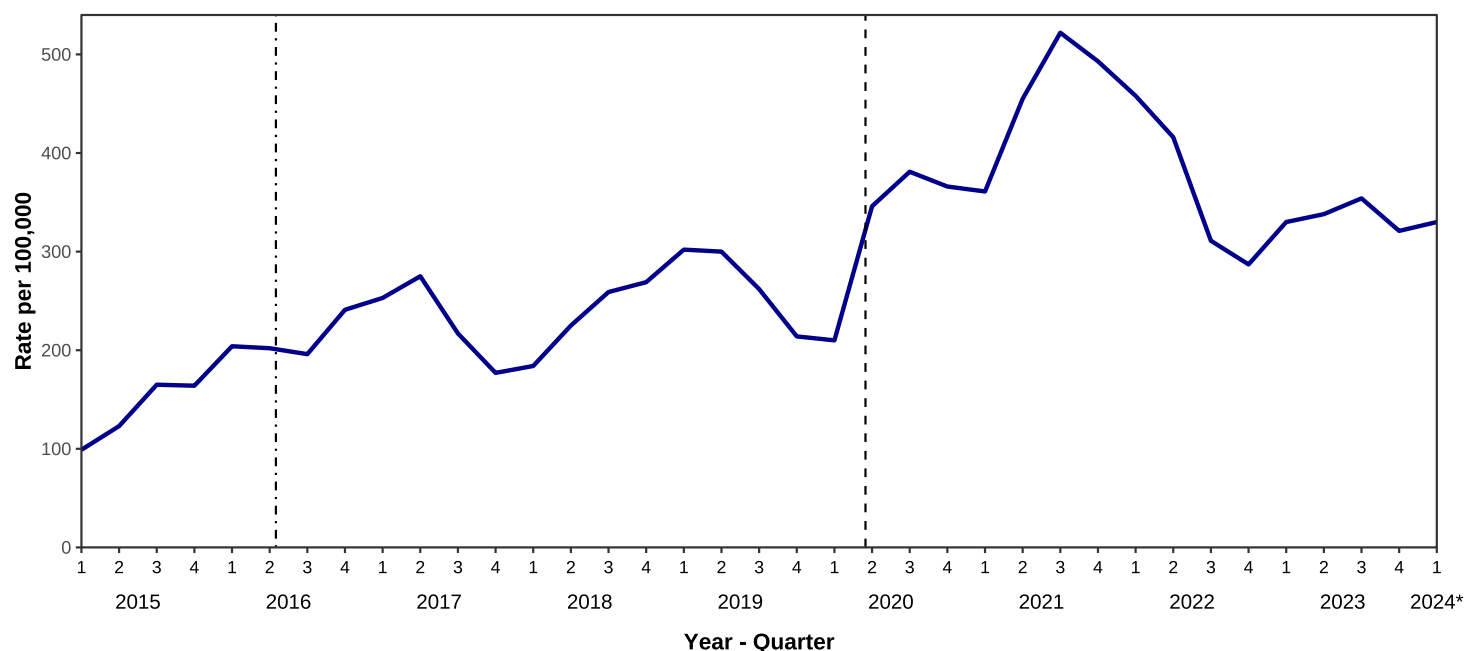
**Community assigned based on location of injury and if that is missing, location of death.

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

PARAMEDIC-ATTENDED TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

- Paramedics responded to 631 suspected toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in March 2024; this is a 6% 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 Moody / Anmore / Belcarra (+20%) (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 (-78%), Hope*** (-42%), New Westminster (-39%), Delta (-39%), and Agassiz / Harrison*** (-33%) (Table 2).

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

Community**	2024*			2023		
	Mar (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Mar	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Mar	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	% Rate change 2024* vs. 2023
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	115 (87.1)	266	586	1004	570	3
Agassiz / Harrison***	<5 (<5)	8	268	46	398	-33
Chilliwack	76 (60.6)	195	674	733	653	3
Hope***	6 (5)	9	395	61	681	-42
Mission	25 (20.9)	67	521	272	542	-4
Fraser North						
Burnaby	49 (46.6)	147	205	537	192	7
Coquitlam	34 (26.4)	89	203	330	196	4
Maple Ridge	37 (41.1)	121	470	475	475	-1
New Westminster	25 (36.7)	74	323	471	530	-39
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	<5	37	36	168	-78
Port Coquitlam	19 (11.2)	37	216	148	220	-2
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	7 (<5)	16	144	51	120	20
Fraser South						
City of Langley	13 (16.6)	44	527	205	642	-18
Delta	8 (10.7)	22	72	142	119	-39
South Surrey / White Rock	9 (11.2)	36	118	129	109	8
Surrey	187 (192.1)	617	419	2227	393	7
Township of Langley	18 (18.6)	53	137	229	153	-11
Fraser Health	631 (595.6)	1803	330	7096	336	-2

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