

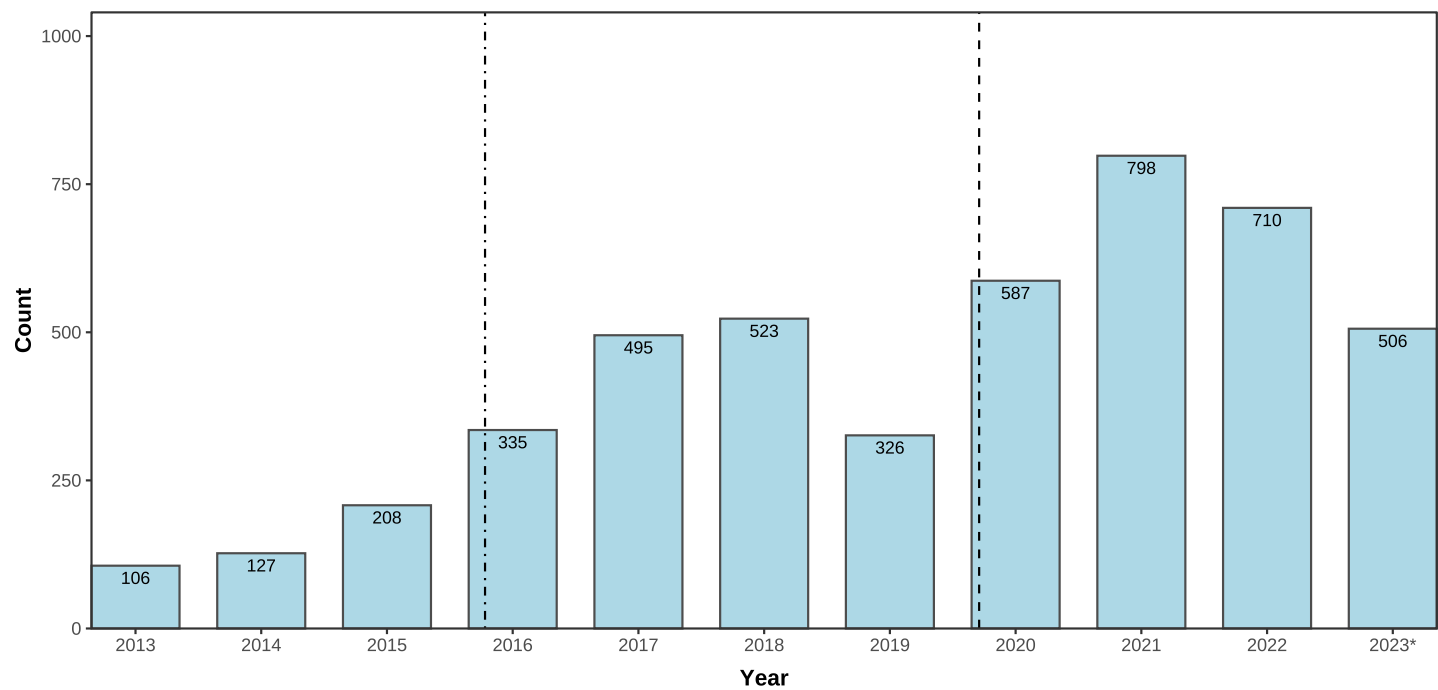
TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE

PUBLIC REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2023

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 49 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in September 2023.
- This is a 4% decrease from the number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 51 deaths in August 2023.
- Compared to 2022, the greatest increases in (projected) drug toxicity deaths in 2023 have been seen in Chilliwack (+22%) and New Westminster (+21%) (Table 1).

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

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

Community**	Jan-Sep 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	% Change (2023* vs. 2022)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	71	91	4
Chilliwack	45	49	22
Fraser North			
Burnaby	29	69	-44
Coquitlam	19	34	-25
New Westminster	29	32	21
Fraser South			
Langley	33	44	0
Surrey	171	240	-5
Other Communities	109	151	-4
Fraser Health	506	710	-5
BC	1,836	2,375	3

Data source: BC Coroners Service to Sep 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.

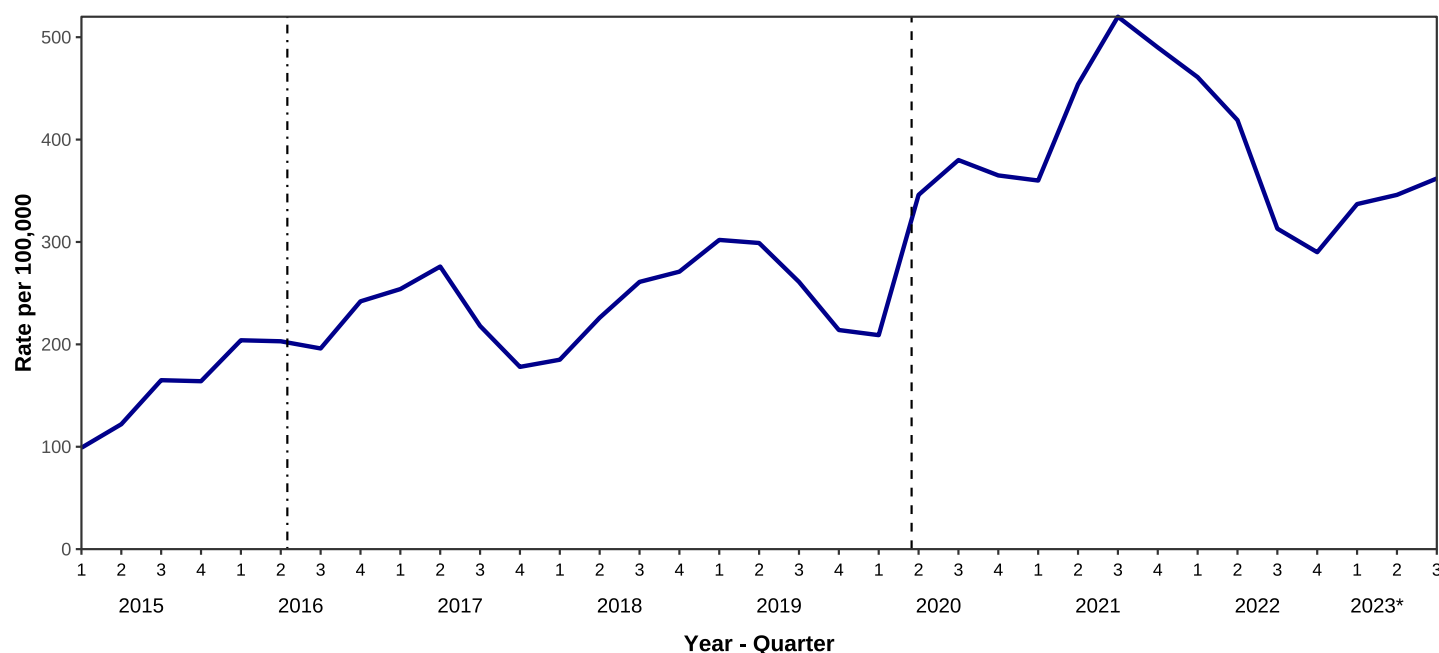
**Community assigned based on location of injury and if that is missing, location of death.

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

PARAMEDIC-ATTENDED TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

- Paramedics responded to 597 suspected toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in September 2023; this is a 6% 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 (+33%), Port Coquitlam (+25%), and Hope*** (+16%) (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 (-33%), Abbotsford (-27%), and Mission (-27%) (Table 2).

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

Community**	2023*			2022		
	Sep (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Sep	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Sep	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	% Rate change 2023* vs. 2022
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	70 (78.1)	713	644	1283	888	-27
Agassiz / Harrison***	<5 (<5)	33	442	39	399	11
Chilliwack	71 (58.1)	579	812	565	609	33
Hope***	<5 (<5)	38	612	43	526	16
Mission	17 (24)	205	638	365	869	-27
Fraser North						
Burnaby	39 (43.8)	401	220	552	232	-5
Coquitlam	31 (29.6)	272	256	373	269	-5
Maple Ridge	39 (35.7)	368	575	482	579	-1
New Westminster	43 (37.8)	364	623	418	548	14
Pitt Meadows	5 (<5)	27	197	44	246	-20
Port Coquitlam	13 (12.9)	127	294	133	235	25
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	45	167	54	154	8
Fraser South						
City of Langley	14 (18.5)	162	838	321	1,258	-33
Delta	15 (10.4)	106	136	156	152	-11
South Surrey / White Rock	10 (10.8)	95	119	144	141	-16
Surrey	201 (167.6)	1671	469	2285	492	-5
Township of Langley	21 (19.4)	184	200	232	193	3
Fraser Health	597 (562.2)	5390	400	7489	426	-6

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to Sep 30, 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.