

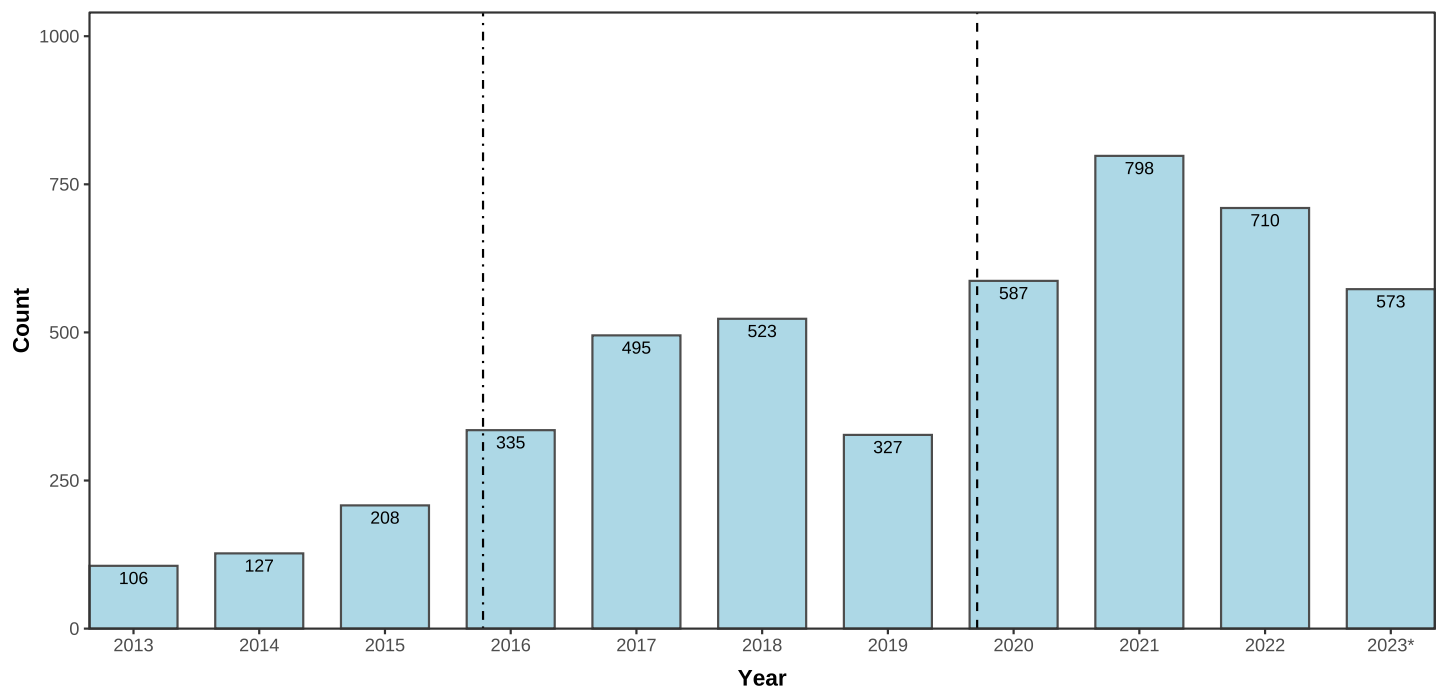
TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE

PUBLIC REPORT, OCTOBER 2023

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 63 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in October 2023.
- This is a 26% increase from the number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 50 deaths in September 2023.
- Compared to 2022, the greatest increases in (projected) drug toxicity deaths in 2023 have been seen in New Westminster (+27%) and Chilliwack (+20%) (Table 1).

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

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

Community**	Jan-Oct 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	% Change (2023* vs. 2022)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	78	91	3
Chilliwack	49	49	20
Fraser North			
Burnaby	41	69	-29
Coquitlam	20	34	-29
New Westminster	34	32	27
Fraser South			
Langley	36	44	-2
Surrey	192	240	-4
Other Communities	123	151	-2
Fraser Health	573	710	-3
BC	2,039	2,377	3

Data source: BC Coroners Service to Oct 31, 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.

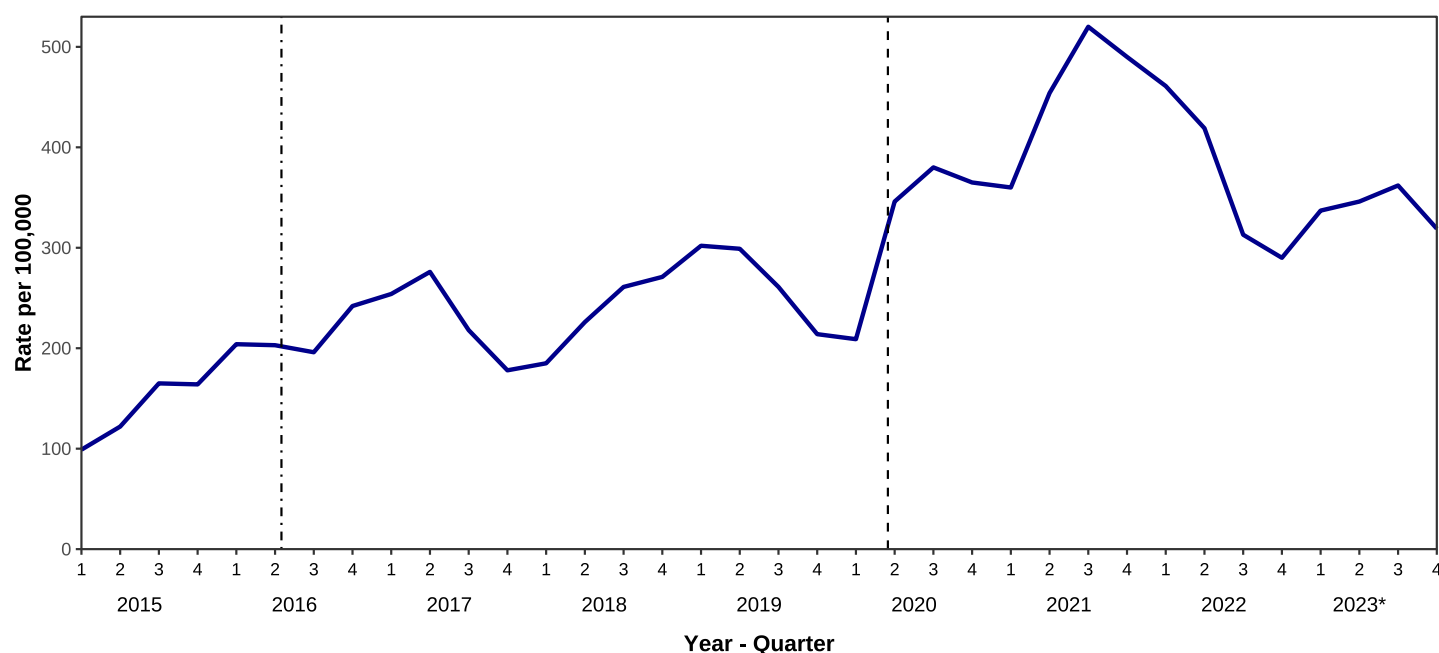
**Community assigned based on location of injury and if that is missing, location of death.

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

PARAMEDIC-ATTENDED TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

- Paramedics responded to 548 suspected toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in October 2023; this is a 4% decrease 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 (+31%), Hope*** (+24%), and Port Coquitlam (+20%) (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 (-36%), Abbotsford (-28%), and Mission (-25%) (Table 2).

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

Community**	2023*			2022		
	Oct (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Oct	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Oct	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	% Rate change 2023* vs. 2022
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	74 (76.5)	787	640	1283	888	-28
Agassiz / Harrison***	6 (<5)	39	471	39	399	18
Chilliwack	54 (60.7)	633	799	565	609	31
Hope***	7 (<5)	45	653	43	526	24
Mission	28 (23.6)	233	653	365	869	-25
Fraser North						
Burnaby	42 (44.2)	443	219	552	232	-5
Coquitlam	18 (29.3)	290	246	373	269	-9
Maple Ridge	32 (36.8)	400	562	482	579	-3
New Westminster	40 (39.1)	404	622	418	548	14
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	31	203	44	246	-17
Port Coquitlam	8 (13.1)	135	281	133	235	20
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	45	150	54	154	-3
Fraser South						
City of Langley	11 (18)	173	805	321	1,258	-36
Delta	15 (11.2)	121	140	156	152	-8
South Surrey / White Rock	6 (10.7)	101	114	144	141	-19
Surrey	185 (172.5)	1856	469	2285	492	-5
Township of Langley	18 (19.7)	202	198	232	193	2
Fraser Health	548 (571.1)	5938	396	7489	426	-7

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