

TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT, JULY 2022

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 50 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in July 2022.
- This is a 4% increase from the number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 48 deaths in June 2022.
- Compared to 2021, the greatest increases in drug toxicity deaths in 2022 have been seen in Delta (+63%) and Abbotsford (+10%).

Table 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2021 to July 2022

Community**	Jan-Jul 2022	2021	% Change (2022* vs. 2021)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	56	87	10
Chilliwack	22	57	-34
Fraser North			
Burnaby	38	78	-16
Maple Ridge	25	45	-5
Fraser South			
Surrey	136	283	-18
Delta	20	21	63
Langley	30	58	-11
Other Communities	77	152	-13
Fraser Health	404	781	-11
BC	1,297	2,269	-2

Data source: BC Coroners Service to Jul 31, 2022.

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.

PARAMEDIC-ATTENDED TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

- BC paramedics responded to 595 toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in July 2022; this is a 26% decrease compared to the previous 12 months (Table 2).
- Compared to 2021, the greatest increases in paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events have occurred in Mission (+35%), Abbotsford (+28%), Port Moody/ Anmore/ Belcarra (+17%), and City of Langley (+14%).
- In 2022, the largest decreases in the rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events have occurred in Agassiz/Harrison (-53%), Port Coquitlam (-47%), and Hope (-42%) compared to 2021

Table 2: Suspected paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events within Fraser Health, January 2021 to July 2022

Community**	2022*			2021		Rate change 2022* vs. 2021
	Jul (Av g. past 12 months-)	Jan-Jul	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Jul	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	94 (126.5)	924	1,123	1,224	881	28
Agassiz / Harrison^	<5 (5.5)	22	389	79	826	-53
Chilliwack	45 (59.8)	345	637	752	827	-23
Hope^	<5 (6.3)	27	583	80	1,007	-42
Mission	19 (33.2)	248	1,023	311	759	35
Fraser North						
Burnaby	49 (50.1)	339	250	580	252	-1
Coquitlam	33 (38.3)	239	298	473	350	-15
Maple Ridge	38 (63.5)	357	773	683	871	-11
New Westminster	35 (44.0)	267	601	562	751	-20
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	27	265	49	284	-7
Port Coquitlam	11 (17.3)	84	257	270	489	-47
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	6 (5.0)	34	173	49	148	17
Fraser South						
City of Langley	34 (32.2)	233	1,585	341	1,387	14
Delta	13 (17.3)	114	190	197	196	-3
South Surrey / White Rock	16 (13.3)	95	166	177	184	-10
Surrey	175 (259.1)	1,602	600	3,061	683	-12
Township of Langley	17 (24.6)	148	213	334	287	-26
Fraser Health	595 (799.9)	5,105	506	9,222	543	-7

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to Jul 31, 2022. 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 2022.

-Average of past 12 months, including the most recent month.

^Rates may fluctuate due to small population size.

Counts under five are reported as <5 as they are potentially identifiable.