

# TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT, OCTOBER 2022

## ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 55 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in October 2022.
- This is more than the number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 35 deaths in September 2022.
- Compared to 2021, the greatest increase in drug toxicity deaths in 2022 has been seen in Abbotsford (+3%).

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

Community**	Jan-Oct 2022	2021	% Change (2022* vs. 2021)
<b>Fraser East</b>			
Abbotsford	75	87	3
Chilliwack	31	57	-35
<b>Fraser North</b>			
Burnaby	54	78	-17
Maple Ridge	29	45	-23
<b>Fraser South</b>			
Surrey	188	283	-20
Coquitlam	24	31	-7
Langley	37	58	-23
Other Communities	109	142	-8
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>-16</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>1,827</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>-3</b>

Data source: BC Coroners Service to Oct 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 488 toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in October 2022; this is a 46% 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 (+14%), Abbotsford (+13%), and Port Moody/ Anmore/ Belcarra (+5%).
- In 2022, the largest decreases in the rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events have occurred in Port Coquitlam (-50%), Agassiz/Harrison (-48%), and Hope (-47%) compared to 2021.

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

Community**	2022*			2021		Rate change 2022* vs. 2021
	Oct (Av g. past 12 months~)	Jan-Oct	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Oct	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
<b>Fraser East</b>						
Abbotsford	77 (124.0)	1,176	977	1,224	868	13
Agassiz / Harrison^	<5 (<5)	35	430	79	825	-48
Chilliwack	34 (53.2)	456	590	752	834	-29
Hope^	<5 (5.0)	36	529	80	995	-47
Mission	11 (33.1)	302	863	311	757	14
<b>Fraser North</b>						
Burnaby	49 (48.4)	479	241	580	248	-3
Coquitlam	34 (33.8)	331	286	473	349	-18
Maple Ridge	28 (51.2)	442	637	683	843	-24
New Westminster	36 (37.3)	352	553	562	754	-27
Pitt Meadows	5 (<5)	36	241	49	281	-14
Port Coquitlam	11 (13.6)	115	244	270	487	-50
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	44	150	49	144	5
<b>Fraser South</b>						
City of Langley	24 (31.5)	295	1,387	341	1,354	2
Delta	11 (15.6)	142	166	197	195	-15
South Surrey / White Rock	9 (12.3)	120	141	177	183	-23
Surrey	138 (221.3)	2,044	528	3,061	676	-22
Township of Langley	12 (21.2)	192	192	334	285	-33
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>488 (714.2)</b>	<b>6,597</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>9,222</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>-16</b>

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