

TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT, APRIL 2022

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 54 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in April 2022.
- This is a 11% decrease from the number of deaths reported in the same month last year, with 61 deaths in April 2021.
- Compared with 2021, the greatest increases in drug toxicity deaths in 2022 have occurred in Abbotsford (+12%) and Mission (+183%).

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

Community**	Jan-Apr 2022	2021	% Change (2022* vs. 2021)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	32	86	12
Chilliwack	14	55	-24
Fraser North			
Burnaby	24	77	-6
Maple Ridge	15	45	0
Fraser South			
Langley (City & Township)	15	56	-20
Surrey	77	282	-18
Mission	17	18	183
Other Communities	42	149	-15
Fraser Health	236	768	-8
BC	722	2,236	-3

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, 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.

PARAMEDIC-ATTENDED TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

- BC paramedics responded to 806 toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in April 2022; this is a 1% decrease compared to the previous 12 months (Table 2).
- Compared with 2021, the greatest increases in paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events have occurred in Mission (+63%), Abbotsford (+50%) and Pitt Meadows (+24%).
- In 2022, the largest decreases in the rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events have occurred in Agassiz/Harrison (-67%), Port Coquitlam (-46%), Hope (-32%), Township of Langley (-23%), and Chilliwack (-20%) compared to 2021.

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

Community**	2022*			2021		Rate change 2022* vs. 2021
	Apr (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Apr	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Apr	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	168 (120.4)	623	1,325	1,227	883	50
Agassiz / Harrison^	<5 (5.7)	9	278	80	836	-67
Chilliwack	46 (63.1)	205	662	755	830	-20
Hope^	<5 (6.9)	18	680	80	1,007	-32
Mission	35 (31.0)	170	1,227	309	754	63
Fraser North						
Burnaby	44 (51.0)	200	258	587	255	1
Coquitlam	36 (42.8)	162	353	475	351	1
Maple Ridge	77 (60.9)	231	875	684	872	0
New Westminster	53 (47.0)	173	681	562	751	-9
Pitt Meadows	6 (<5)	21	361	50	290	24
Port Coquitlam	14 (21.5)	50	268	271	491	-46
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	5 (<5)	18	160	50	151	6
Fraser South						
City of Langley	26 (31.5)	131	1,559	341	1,387	12
Delta	8 (17.3)	64	187	199	198	-6
South Surrey / White Rock	12 (13.8)	54	165	177	184	-10
Surrey	255 (262.3)	956	626	3,071	686	-9
Township of Langley	14 (28.0)	88	222	337	290	-23
Fraser Health	806 (812.2)	3,173	551	9,255	545	1

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