

# TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT, MAY 2022

## ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 58 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in May 2022.
- This is a 4% increase from the number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 55 deaths in April 2022.
- Compared to 2021, the greatest increases in drug toxicity deaths in 2022 have been seen in Delta (+83%) and Mission (+153%).

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

Community**	Jan-May 2022	2021	% Change (2022* vs. 2021)
<b>Fraser East</b>			
Abbotsford	41	87	13
Chilliwack	15	57	-37
Mission	19	18	153
<b>Fraser North</b>			
Burnaby	32	77	0
Maple Ridge	16	45	-15
<b>Fraser South</b>			
Surrey	99	283	-16
Delta	16	21	83
Langley	22	57	-7
Other Communities	42	134	-25
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>-7</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>2,265</b>	<b>0</b>

Data source: BC Coroners Service to May 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 739 toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in May 2022; this is a 10% 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 (+57%), Abbotsford (+42%), and City of Langley (+19%).
- In 2022, the largest decreases in the rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events have occurred in Agassiz/Harrison (-64%), Port Coquitlam (-48%), and Hope (-43%) compared to 2021

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

Community**	2022*			2021		Rate change 2022* vs. 2021
	May (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-May	Rate per 100,000 Jan-May	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
<b>Fraser East</b>						
Abbotsford	113 (127.0)	736	1,253	1,227	883	42
Agassiz / Harrison^	<5 (5.2)	12	297	80	836	-64
Chilliwack	41 (62.9)	246	636	755	830	-23
Hope^	<5 (6.7)	19	574	80	1,007	-43
Mission	35 (32.6)	205	1,184	309	754	57
<b>Fraser North</b>						
Burnaby	52 (51.2)	252	260	587	255	2
Coquitlam	23 (42.1)	185	323	475	351	-8
Maple Ridge	56 (64.0)	287	870	684	872	0
New Westminster	25 (47.4)	198	624	562	751	-17
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	22	303	50	290	4
Port Coquitlam	10 (21.0)	60	257	271	491	-48
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	6 (<5)	24	171	50	151	13
<b>Fraser South</b>						
City of Langley	42 (31.0)	173	1,648	341	1,387	19
Delta	21 (16.3)	85	199	199	198	0
South Surrey / White Rock	11 (13.8)	65	159	177	184	-14
Surrey	282 (263.5)	1,238	649	3,071	686	-5
Township of Langley	17 (26.9)	105	212	337	290	-27
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>739 (820.9)</b>	<b>3,912</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>9,255</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>0</b>

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