

TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT, FEBRUARY 2022

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 50 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in February 2022 and 71 in January 2022.
- This is a 23% decrease from the number of deaths reported in the same month last year, with 65 deaths in February 2021.
- Based on the first two months of 2022, illicit drug toxicity deaths have decreased by 6% compared to 2021. Of note, increases have still be seen in Delta, Abbotsford, and Burnaby (Table 1). These counts are subject to change as additional data are received.

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

Community**	Jan-Feb 2022	2021	% Change (2022* vs. 2021)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	19	86	33
Chilliwack	8	55	-13
Fraser North			
Burnaby	15	78	15
Maple Ridge	8	45	7
Fraser South			
Langley (City & Township)	9	56	-4
Surrey	30	282	-36
Delta	8	20	140
Other Communities	24	147	-2
Fraser Health	121	769	-6
BC	382	2,232	3

Data source: BC Coroners Service to February 28, 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

- In February 2022, BC paramedics responded to 750 toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health, a 4% decrease compared to the past 12 months (an average of 784 drug poisoning events per month).
- Based on the first two months of 2022, the rate of overdose events is similar to 2021. While some communities are experiencing decreases in drug poisoning events, large increases are still being observed in Mission and Abbotsford (Table 2).

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

Community**	2022*			2021		% Rate change 2022* vs. 2021
	Feb (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Feb	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Feb	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	167 (107.0)	300	1,277	1,227	883	45
Agassiz / Harrison	0 (6.5)	5	309	80	836	-63
Chilliwack	46 (64.5)	110	711	755	830	-14
Hope	<5 (7.1)	13	982	80	1,007	-2
Mission	45 (27.1)	85	1,227	309	754	63
Fraser North						
Burnaby	44 (50.6)	103	265	587	255	4
Coquitlam	24 (41.0)	79	345	475	351	-2
Maple Ridge	45 (58.3)	110	834	684	872	-4
New Westminster	36 (47.6)	86	677	562	751	-10
Pitt Meadows	6 (<5)	10	344	50	290	18
Port Coquitlam	11 (22.2)	23	246	271	491	-50
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	9	160	50	151	6
Fraser South						
City of Langley	36 (29.1)	64	1,524	341	1,387	10
Delta	18 (15.9)	32	187	199	198	-6
South Surrey / White Rock	9 (14.5)	26	159	177	184	-14
Surrey	233 (255.8)	453	593	3,071	686	-13
Township of Langley	23 (28.4)	55	277	337	290	-4
Fraser Health	750 (784.0)	1,563	542	9,255	545	0

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to February 28, 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.

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