

TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT, JANUARY 2022

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 70 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in January 2022 (Table 1).
- This is a 21% increase from the number of deaths reported in the same month last year, with 58 deaths in January 2021.

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

Community**	Jan 2022	2021	Annualized % Change (2022* vs. 2021)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	7	86	-2
Chilliwack	5	55	9
Fraser North			
Burnaby	8	79	22
Maple Ridge	3	45	-20
New Westminster	5	42	43
Fraser South			
Langley (City & Township)	5	56	7
Surrey	22	282	-6
Other Communities	15	123	46
Fraser Health	70	768	9
BC	207	2,232	11

Data source: BC Coroners Service to January 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 813 toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in January 2022 and 863 in December 2021.
- Counts in January 2022 increased by 5% compared to the previous 12 months (Table 2).

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

Community**	2022*			2021		% Rate change 2022* vs. 2021
	Jan (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan	Rate per 100,000 Jan	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	133 (102.3)	133	1,132	1,227	883	28
Agassiz / Harrison^	5 (6.7)	5	618	80	836	-26
Chilliwack	64 (62.9)	64	827	755	830	0
Hope^	10 (6.7)	10	1,511	80	1,007	50
Mission	40 (25.8)	40	1,155	309	754	53
Fraser North						
Burnaby	59 (48.9)	59	304	587	255	19
Coquitlam	55 (39.6)	55	480	475	351	37
Maple Ridge	65 (57.0)	65	985	684	872	13
New Westminster	50 (46.8)	50	787	562	751	5
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	<5	275	50	290	-5
Port Coquitlam	12 (22.6)	12	257	271	491	-48
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	5 (<5)	5	178	50	151	18
Fraser South						
City of Langley	28 (28.4)	28	1,333	341	1,387	-4
Delta	14 (16.6)	14	164	199	198	-17
South Surrey / White Rock	17 (14.8)	17	208	177	184	13
Surrey	220 (255.9)	220	576	3,071	686	-16
Township of Langley	32 (28.1)	32	322	337	290	11
Fraser Health	813 (771.3)	813	564	9,255	545	4

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

^Rates may fluctuate due to small population size.