

TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT, MARCH 2022

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 61 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in March 2022 and 50 in February 2022.
- This is a 7% increase from the number of deaths reported in the same month last year, with 57 deaths in March 2021.
- Based on the first three months of 2022, illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health are projected to decrease by 5% compared to 2021. Trends vary by community as increases were reported in Mission and Abbotsford (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 March 2022

Community**	Jan-Mar 2022	2021	% Change (2022* vs. 2021)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	26	86	21
Chilliwack	12	54	-11
Fraser North			
Burnaby	19	78	-3
Maple Ridge	11	45	-2
New Westminster	9	43	-16
Fraser South			
Langley (City & Township)	13	56	-7
Surrey	56	283	-21
Mission	13	18	189
Other Communities	23	107	-14
Fraser Health	182	770	-5
BC	548	2,236	-2

Data source: BC Coroners Service to March 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.