

# OVERDOSE RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT, OCT 2021

## FATAL OVERDOSES

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 64 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in October 2021 and 54 in September 2021
- Based on the first ten months of 2021, illicit drug toxicity deaths have increased by 23% compared to 2020, with the largest increases in Chilliwack, Burnaby and Langley (Table 1). These counts are subject to change as additional data are received.

**Table 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2020 to October 2021**

Community**	Jan-Oct 2021	2020	% Change (2021* vs. 2020)
<b>Fraser East</b>			
Abbotsford	68	66	24
Chilliwack	46	37	49
<b>Fraser North</b>			
Burnaby	61	57	28
Maple Ridge	35	39	8
New Westminster	34	37	10
<b>Fraser South</b>			
Langley (City & Township)	40	38	26
Surrey	221	223	19
Other Communities	97	90	29
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>1,782</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>21</b>

Data source: BC Coroners Service to October 31, 2021.

Preliminary data, numbers subject to change. Numbers include both open and closed cases.

Illicit drug toxicity deaths reported by BC Coroners Service include illicit drug overdoses involving street drugs (heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, etc.), medications that were not prescribed to the deceased, combinations of the above, with prescribed medications, and those overdoses where the origin of drug is not known.

\*\*Community assigned based on location of overdose and if that is missing, location of death.

\*Year to date.

## OVERDOSES ATTENDED BY BC PARAMEDICS

- In October 2021, 754 overdoses were attended by paramedics in Fraser Health, a 5% increase compared to the past 12 months (an average of 720 overdoses per month).
- Based on the first ten months of 2021, the rate of overdose events have increased by 38% compared to 2020. Many communities are seeing increases in overdose events, especially Pitt Meadows, Hope, and Agassiz / Harrison (Table 2).

**Table 2: Suspected overdose events attended by BC paramedics within Fraser Health, January 2020 to Oct 2021**

Community**	2021*			2020		% Rate change 2021* vs. 2020
	Oct (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Oct	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Oct	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
<b>Fraser East</b>						
Abbotsford	105 (89.8)	944	815	868	631	29
Agassiz / Harrison	7 (5.8)	63	790	37	390	103
Chilliwack	71 (59.0)	609	804	486	543	48
Hope	12 (5.8)	64	966	37	466	107
Mission	19 (22.1)	224	656	216	533	23
<b>Fraser North</b>						
Burnaby	43 (48.8)	475	248	534	234	6
Coquitlam	39 (37.5)	405	359	329	247	45
Maple Ridge	42 (49.2)	525	803	376	483	66
New Westminster	48 (44.8)	480	770	376	510	51
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	44	306	20	117	161
Port Coquitlam	23 (22.1)	235	511	180	328	56
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	6 (<5)	42	152	40	122	25
<b>Fraser South</b>						
City of Langley	37 (25.0)	271	1,322	216	889	49
Delta	16 (15.3)	159	190	167	169	12
South Surrey / White Rock	9 (15.3)	149	186	137	145	28
Surrey	248 (243.3)	2,564	687	2,148	489	41
Township of Langley	25 (28.3)	286	295	275	241	22
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>754 (720.0)</b>	<b>7,539</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>6,442</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>38</b>

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to October 31, 2021. 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 overdose events include those associated with opioids or other recreational drugs.

\*\*Community assigned based on location where the paramedics attended to the suspected overdose event.

\*Rate annualized based on available months for 2021.

~Average of past 12 months, including the most recent month.

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