

FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE EMERGENCY PUBLIC REPORT – OCTOBER 2019

FATAL OVERDOSES

According to the BC Coroners Service, there were 23 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in October 2019, compared with 18 in September 2019. While most Fraser Health communities are projected to have fewer illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2019 than 2018, Abbotsford is the only publicly reported communities projected to have more deaths in 2019 than in 2018 (see Table 1a). These projections are subject to change as additional data are received.

Table 1a: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2018 to October 2019

Community [^]	Jan-Oct	Projected 2019*	2018	% change (2019* vs. 2018)
Abbotsford	39	47	41	14
Burnaby	25	30	48	-38
Chilliwack	19	23	37	-38
Langley (City & Township)	16	19	33	-42
Maple Ridge	12	14	29	-50
New Westminster	17	20	35	-42
Surrey	105	126	214	-41
Other communities	39	47	65	-28
Fraser Health	280	336	522	-36
BC	823	988	1,542	-36

Data Source: BC Coroners Service Public Report to October 2019.

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.

*Projected based on available months for 2019.

OVERDOSES ATTENDED BY BC AMBULANCE

NOTE: Starting with the July 2019 report, Fraser Health's surveillance definition of suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance Service has been modified to include only probable opioid overdose events and suspected overdose events excluding medication overdoses. All data below have been restated using this revised definition.

In August 2019, there were 472 overdoses responded to by BC Ambulance Services across Fraser Health, compared to 423 in July 2019. The majority of overdoses year to date occurred among males (73%) and people aged 19 to 39 years (56%). 28% of persons declined transportation to medical services from BC Ambulance.

Table 2: Suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance Service within Fraser Health, January 2018 to August 2019

Community^	2019*			2018		Rate change 2019* vs. 2018
	Aug (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Aug	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Aug	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Abbotsford	41 (59.4)	561	704	387	324	117
Agassiz / Harrison	<5 (<5)	19	347	22	268	30
Burnaby	24 (33.4)	313	222	313	148	50
Chilliwack	35 (31.3)	288	522	244	295	77
City of Langley	13 (15.9)	134	895	126	561	60
Coquitlam	43 (23.1)	208	260	241	200	29
Delta	19 (10.6)	86	146	120	135	8
Hope	8 (<5)	40	920	24	368	150
Maple Ridge	29 (24.0)	210	451	220	315	43
Mission	10 (14.3)	122	498	105	286	74
New Westminster	16 (18.6)	170	385	200	302	28
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	15	142	11	70	105
Port Coquitlam	18 (11.7)	111	331	93	185	79
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	5 (<5)	30	159	33	116	36
South Surrey / White Rock	12 (9.8)	76	136	124	148	-8
Surrey	172 (145.3)	1,230	468	1,561	396	18
Township of Langley	22 (15.3)	147	223	126	128	75
Fraser Health	472 (423.6)	3,760	369	3,950	259	43

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

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 2019.

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

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- For more information on Fraser Health's response to the overdose public health emergency, go to <http://www.fraserhealth.ca/overdose>.
- For information on the provincial response to the public health emergency, go to <http://www.bccdc.ca/our-services/programs/overdose-response>
- To access reports from the BC Coroners Service on illicit drug fatalities, click [here](#).