

FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT

August – October, 2020

<http://www.fraserhealth.ca/overdose>



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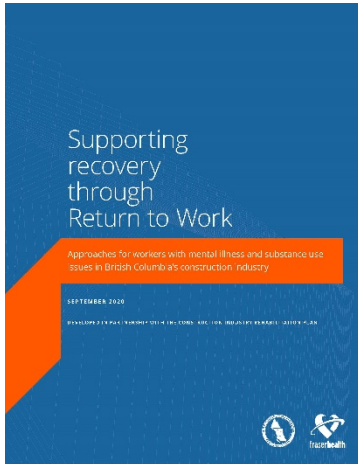
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New and Noteworthy

SUPPORTING RECOVERY THROUGH RETURN TO WORK



Most overdose deaths are occurring in private residences, primarily among men 19 to 59 years of age. The majority of those employed at the time of their death due to overdose worked in the trades and transport sectors, which includes construction.

Fraser Health consulted with more than 60 industry stakeholders across Canada, such as construction employers, workers, unions, and industry associations, to learn what the challenges may be to return to work while managing a substance use disorder. The media release can be found [here](#). You can find the full report [here](#).

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL SERVICES



Services provided by Elders, Cultural Advisors, and Community Service Providers include the sharing of knowledge and cultural protocol around ceremony and cultural practices for stronger client interactions and supporting cultural events. Furthermore, they provide a link between Indigenous community members inclusive of First Nation, Métis and Inuit.

Cultural Services can be accessed by contacting the Aboriginal Health Liaison toll-free line at **1-866-766-6960** For more details, visit [here](#).

Program Updates

FRASER HEALTH OPIOID STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Fraser Health Opioid Stewardship program continues its Case Review and Feedback program which provides surveillance of opioid prescribing focused at Royal Columbian Hospital and Surrey Memorial Hospital. From July 2019-2020, a total of 4487 patients were screened and 1305 patients received 3026 interventions aimed at optimizing and ensuring the safe prescribing of opioids.

The team has seen increased engagement via referrals from the Addictions and Psychiatry teams in addition to the strong relationships already built with Medicine and Surgery teams. In collaboration with the Opioid Stewardship Advisory Committee and patient advisors the Opioid Stewardship program is in the process of introducing an inpatient Opioid Agreement to help inform patients about benefits and risks of chronic opioid therapy and clarify expectations from the prescriber and patient.

In addition, a patient education handout for post-operative pain management has been prepared to accompany the new Opioid Discharge tool for post-operative pain management. Finally, the team is pleased to announce the recent release of the FH Opioid Stewardship Program Annual Report 2019-2020.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

- Opened a new Rapid Access to Addictions Care hub at RCH Wellness Centre. This hub provides rapid access to outpatient medical management for substance use disorders, as well as longitudinal OAT.
- Received funding to hire three Risk Mitigation nurses. These nurses will be located at each of the three new Rapid Access to Addictions Care (RAAC) hubs (in Fraser East, Fraser South, Fraser North). The nurses and physicians at the RAAC will provide both in person and virtual addictions consults and prescribing including traditional oral OAT, tiOAT, iOAT and/or pharmaceutical alternatives. These nurses will also conduct outreach when possible and appropriate to Emergency response Centres, Isolation Centres and Shelters.
- Emergency Network and MHSU program have partnered with the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) to undertake a formal evaluation of a trauma and resiliency training program (TRIP) for an initial target of 100 FH Emergency Department (ED) staff members. During November and December, 109 staff have completed parts one and two, and an additional 55 have registered for the two part course in January 2021 being the total to 164 ED staff. The goal is to understand its potential effectiveness in reducing opioid related stigmatizing behaviours and improve compassion satisfaction and resiliency among health care providers. A comprehensive evaluation report will be submitted for late January 2021. Emergency Network Physicians and Clinical Nurse Educators are developing plans to continuously develop trauma and resiliency informed practices introduced in these virtual workshops.

EMERGENCY NETWORK

- Approximately 157 ED Nurses and Physicians will have taken the 2-part Trauma & Resiliency Informed Practice in Emergency workshop which has a focus on compassion, reducing stigmatizing attitudes, and creating resiliency, teamwork and satisfaction among health care providers and patients. Emergency Network and MHSU leads are conducting a formal evaluation of this in partnership with the Mental Health Commission of Canada. It has been received extremely well by staff and we are planning on integrating TRIP into standard staff orientation, procedures and policies moving forward.
- A 2-part Harm Reduction in Emergency course is being created and will be rolled out in February and March for all ED staff, with staff wages funded by the LOUD initiative. This will align with Fraser Health's new Harm Reduction Policy.
- Substance Use Service Access Team (SUSAT) referrals from FH ED's are remaining consistently higher than in the first half of 2020 and 2019 with 910 referrals made in October.
- Continued spread and education for ED staff around Safer Injection Kits, Take Home Naloxone and buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) through ongoing safety huddles, in-services and education sessions.
- Seven Fraser Health Emergency Department teams are participating in the provincial Learning About Opioid Use Disorder (LOUD) in ED project. The aim is to improve care to people who present to ED who have opioid use disorder and increase the accessibility of buprenorphine-naloxone through Emergency Departments.

Fraser Health Surveillance Summary

October 2020

FATAL OVERDOSES

The highest numbers of illicit drug toxicity deaths ever recorded in Fraser Health occurred in May to August 2020, ranging from 55 to 60 deaths per month (reported by BC Coroners Service). For the other six months of 2020, there was an average of 36 illicit drug toxicity deaths per month. Compared with 2019, deaths have increased by the largest margin in Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, and New Westminster (Table 1). These counts are subject to change as additional data are received.

Table 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2019 to October 2020

Community [^]	Jan-Oct 2020	2019	% change (2020 vs. 2019)
Abbotsford	47	45	25
Burnaby	39	31	51
Chilliwack	29	21	66
Coquitlam	25	11	173
Langley (City & Township)	32	22	75
Maple Ridge	27	13	149
New Westminster	30	19	89
Surrey	167	118	70
Other communities	51	47	30
Fraser Health	447	327	64
BC	1386	982	69

Data Source: BC Coroners Service Public Report to October 2020.

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.

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.

In September 2020, there were 581 overdoses responded to by BC Ambulance Services across Fraser Health, compared to 612 in August 2020. The majority of overdoses in 2020 occurred among men (81%). By age, the highest overdose rate was among people aged 40 to 49 years (52 overdoses per 100,000 population compared to 28 per 100,000 population for all ages).

Table 2: Suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance Service within Fraser Health, January 2019 to September 2020

Community [^]	2020*			2019		
	Sep (Avg. past 12 months [~])	Jan-Sep	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Sep	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	Rate change 2020* vs. 2019
Abbotsford	85 (62.4)	612	682	750	627	9
Agassiz/Harrison	7 (<5)	34	552	27	329	68
Burnaby	42 (40.8)	393	248	464	220	13
Chilliwack	46 (35.9)	356	574	397	480	20
City of Langley	10 (14.4)	145	861	178	793	9
Coquitlam	26 (24.0)	249	276	267	222	24
Delta	9 (14.9)	149	224	120	135	66
Hope	<5 (<5)	45	920	46	705	30
Maple Ridge	46 (27.6)	260	497	317	454	9
Mission	22 (16.8)	159	577	183	498	16
New Westminster	54 (25.8)	268	540	239	361	50
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	16	135	22	139	-3
Port Coquitlam	11 (12.9)	135	358	140	279	29
Port Moody/Anmore/ Belcarra	<5 (<5)	36	169	45	159	7
South Surrey/White Rock	8 (12.8)	125	198	117	139	42
Surrey	186 (154.1)	1,478	500	1,767	448	12
Township of Langley	18 (18.6)	191	258	174	176	46
Fraser Health	581 (477.9)	4,691	410	5,284	346	18

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. 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 2020.

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

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

OVERDOSE PREVENTION & SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITES

Please see the Fraser Health website for a list of [overdose prevention sites](#) and [supervised consumption sites](#).

Table 3: Visits and overdoses reversed at overdose prevention sites and supervised consumption sites in Fraser Health, April-June 2020 and July-September 2020

	Visits for consumption		Overdoses reversed [^]	
	Jul-Sep 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Apr-Jun 2020
Overdose prevention sites total	7,370	5,276	8	10
Supervised consumption sites total	6,914	7,369	43	61

[^]Among visits for consumption.

DRUG CHECKING

To find a drug checking site near you, please click [here](#).

Table 4: Drug checking volumes in Fraser Health, April-June 2020 and July-September 2020

Tests performed		Fentanyl positive		% Fentanyl positive	
Jul-Sep 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Apr-Jun 2020
49	0	33	0	67	0

Data source: Agiloft and BC Centre for Substance Use.

Table 5: Drug checking by substance in Fraser Health, April-June 2020 and July-September 2020

Buy-as	Tests performed		Fentanyl positive		% Fentanyl positive	
	Jul-Sep 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Apr-Jun 2020
Opioid [^]	30	0	29	0	97	0
Psychedelic	11	0	2	0	18	0
Depressant	2	0	0	0	0	0
Other [*]	1	0	0	0	0	0
All substances	49	0	33	0	67	0

Data source: Agiloft and BC Centre for Substance Use.

[^]Opioid includes heroin, fentanyl, or 'down'.

^{*}Other includes substance mixtures. For example, heroin and methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin.

OPIOID AGONIST THERAPY

Table 6: Opioid Agonist Therapy, August – October, 2020

Clinics	Metadone [^]	Suboxone [^]	Kadian [^]
Abbotsford	16	15	1
Burnaby	9	7	4
Chilliwack	20	14	3
Creekside Detox	4	34	7
Creekside RAAC	247	204	70
Langley	21	38	12
Maple Ridge	12	19	2
Maxine Wright	1	3	0
MHSU UCRC	10	2	1
Mission	9	5	3
Port Moody	13	13	6
Quibble Creek	32	6	8
RCH OAT Clinic	8	4	2
Roshni Clinic	12	3	1
SHOP Clinic	3	1	9
Surrey ICM Team	16	6	2
Total Starts	495	414	154

[^]Numbers may also include restarts