

OVERDOSE RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2021

FATAL OVERDOSES

- According to BC Coroners Service, August 2021 was the deadliest month on record with 69 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health. There were 54 deaths in September 2021.
- Based on the first nine months of 2021, deaths have increased by 21% compared to 2020.
- The largest increases have been in Chilliwack, Burnaby, and New Westminster (Table 1).

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

Community**	Jan - Sep 2021	2020	% Change (2021* vs. 2020)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	60	66	21
Chilliwack	39	35	49
Fraser North			
Burnaby	58	57	36
Maple Ridge	31	37	12
New Westminster	33	35	26
Fraser South			
Langley (City & Township)	33	38	16
Surrey	188	218	15
Other Communities	81	88	23
Fraser Health	523	574	21
BC	1,534	1,736	18

Data source: BC Coroners Service to September 30, 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

- BC paramedics responded to 725 overdoses across Fraser Health in September 2021.
- Based on the first nine months of 2021, the rate of overdose events have increased by 38% compared to 2020, with increases across all communities (Table 2).

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

Community**	2021*			2020		% Rate change 2021* vs. 2020
	Sep (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Sep	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Sep	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	95 (90.8)	839	805	868	631	28
Agassiz / Harrison	5 (5.2)	56	780	37	390	100
Chilliwack	58 (56.8)	538	789	486	543	45
Hope	8 (5.1)	52	872	37	466	87
Mission	20 (21.9)	205	667	216	533	25
Fraser North						
Burnaby	38 (50.1)	432	250	534	234	7
Coquitlam	43 (37.2)	366	361	329	247	46
Maple Ridge	53 (49.0)	483	821	376	483	70
New Westminster	42 (44.7)	432	770	376	510	51
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	40	310	20	117	164
Port Coquitlam	24 (21.4)	212	512	180	328	56
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	6 (<5)	36	145	40	122	19
Fraser South						
City of Langley	28 (24.8)	234	1,269	216	889	43
Delta	22 (15.4)	143	190	167	169	12
South Surrey / White Rock	18 (15.6)	140	195	137	145	34
Surrey	231 (242.3)	2,316	690	2,148	489	41
Township of Langley	33 (27.8)	261	299	275	241	24
Fraser Health	725 (715.8)	6,785	533	6,442	385	38

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to September 30, 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 data entry 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.