

# Provincial Overdose Emergency Monthly Situational Report – September 2016

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## Summary

**Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths:** Number of illicit drug overdose deaths continues to be well above historical levels. In Fraser Health region, there were 16 deaths in September, with 195 deaths from January to September 2016.

**Overdose Visits to Emergency Departments:** Emergency departments continue to treat a large number of patients presenting with suspected overdose. There were 305 visits in September 2016, with 2,990 visits from January to September 2016.

**Take Home Naloxone (THN):** There are 51 THN sites in Fraser Health, with 29 new sites since April 2016. A total of 2,261 THN kits were dispensed from January to September 2016. Please visit [fraserhealth.ca/overdose](http://fraserhealth.ca/overdose) to find out where naloxone can be obtained.

## Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths - Fraser Health Region

*Data Source: BC Coroner Service, data up to the end of September 2016*

*Data Notes: Coroner numbers are preliminary and subject to change as investigations are finalized. Coroner assigns location to events based on location of overdose and location of death. The Coroner's fentanyl overdose report is one month behind overdose deaths reports due to additional time needed for fentanyl testing. Currently, the BC Coroner service combines numbers for City of Langley and Township of Langley.*

*The coroner illicit drug category includes street drugs (heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, etc.), medications that may not have been prescribed to the deceased, combinations of the above, with prescribed medications, and origin of drug not known.*

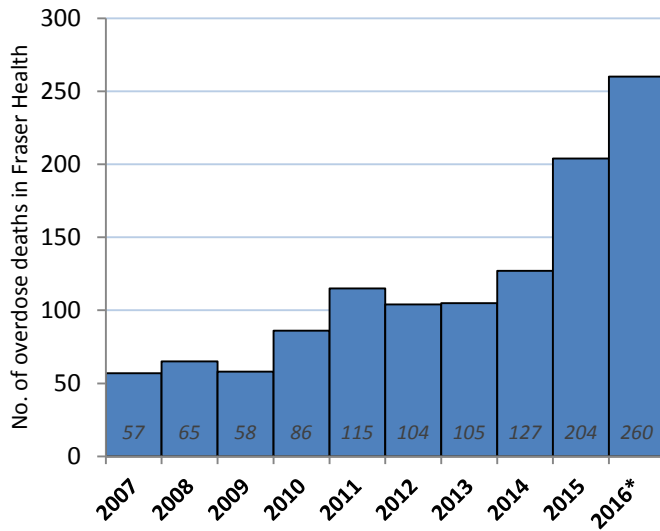
Overdose deaths have been rising steadily within Fraser Health, with a sharp increase in 2015 (Figure 1) and continue to be higher than historical levels. Fentanyl continues to be detected in a large proportion of overdose deaths.

- In September 2016, there were 16 illicit drug overdose deaths in the health region, compared to 15 during August 2016. From January to September 2016, there were 195 illicit overdose deaths (Figure 2).
- Fentanyl was detected in 9 out of 15 overdose deaths in August compared to 10 out of 21 overdose deaths in July 2016. From January to August 2016, fentanyl was detected in 100 out of 179 (56%) of overdose deaths in Fraser Health.

During 2016, 25% of the overdose deaths were among 19-29 year olds and 33% were among 30-39 year olds. Males accounted for 82% of all overdose deaths, and half of all overdose deaths occurred among males 19-39 years old.

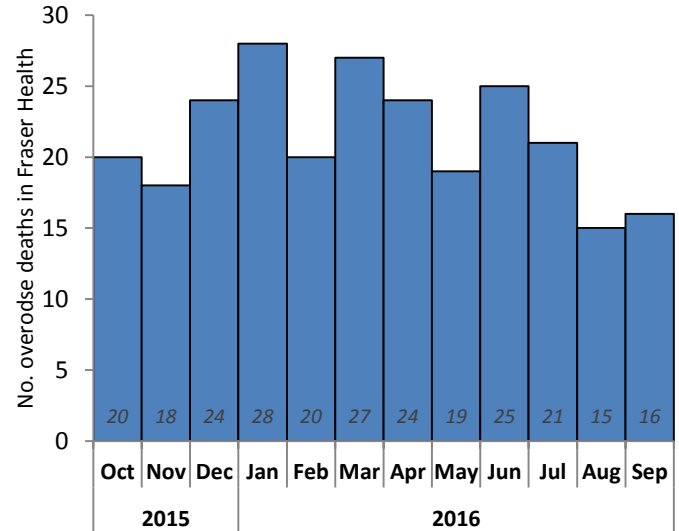
Surrey, Langley (City and Township), Abbotsford and Maple Ridge accounted for 71% of overdose deaths in Fraser Health in 2016 (Table 1).

**Figure 1. Increase in number of illicit drug overdose deaths, by year, within Fraser Health (2007 to 2016).**



\* Projected numbers based on data from January to September, 2016  
Data Source: BC Coroner Service

**Figure 2. Monthly illicit drug overdose deaths within Fraser Health (October 2015 to September 2016).**



Data Source: BC Coroner Service

**Table 1: Illicit drug overdose deaths, projected deaths in 2016 and projected increase compared to 2015 in Fraser Health.**

	Overdose deaths Jan-Sept, 2016	Projected* overdose deaths in 2016	Overdose deaths in 2015	% increase (projected 2016 vs. 2015)
<b>BC</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Fraser Health^</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>29%</b>
Surrey	71	95	72	31%
Maple Ridge	22	29	27	9%
Abbotsford	26	35	25	39%
Langley (City+ Township)	20	27	10	167%

Additional information can be found in BC Coroner reports <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/death-investigation/statistical-reports>

\* Projected counts calculated by annualizing the data available e.g. Deaths X 12 months/9 (months up to September)

^ BC Coroner assigns location based on location of injury (i.e. overdose) and if that is missing, location of death.

## Emergency Department (ED) Suspected Overdose Events

*Data Source: Fraser Health emergency departments, data up to the end of September 2016.*

*Data Notes: Fraser Health Overdose Surveillance system is a dynamic syndromic surveillance system which captures suspected overdose events among those 13 years of age or older. These are suspected events and not confirmed cases. These numbers may change as data entry is finalized. The suspected overdose events include those associated with opioids, stimulants, hallucinogens, and unspecified substances. Events are identified based on physician's discharge diagnosis, patient's stated complaint, chief complaint code assigned at triage and nursing notes associated with the chief complaint.*

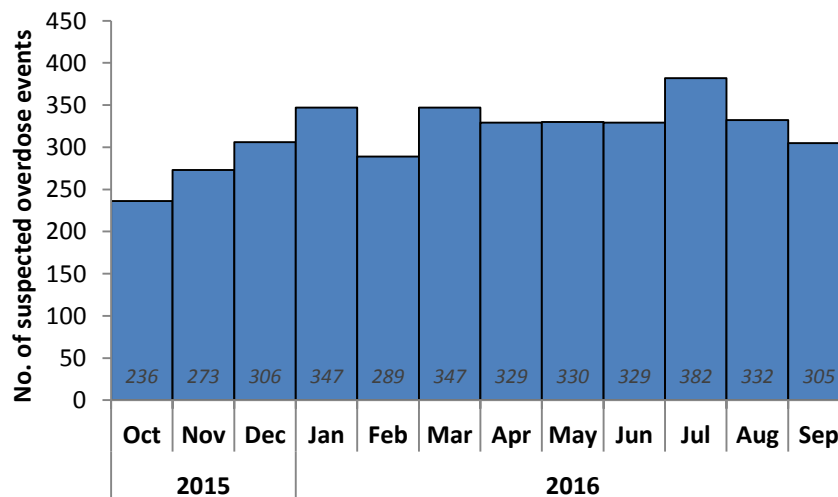
Emergency departments across the Fraser Health region continue to treat a large number of suspected overdose events each week (Figure 3). During September 2016, 305 suspected overdose events presented to the 12 EDs in Fraser Health. This was lower than 332 suspected overdose events seen during August.

In 2016:

- The majority of overdose events were among males (68%), and the highest numbers of events were among those 19-29 years old (37%), followed by those 30-39 years old (25%). Males 19-39 accounted for 43% of all events.
- Opioids were associated with 70% of the suspected overdose events, which is likely an underestimate, due to patients and clinicians being uncertain of the exact composition of substances consumed.
- Approximately 11% of the patients with suspected overdose were admitted to hospital.

From January to September 2016, the highest numbers of suspected overdose events were reported in Surrey, Abbotsford, Maple Ridge, City of Langley and Township of Langley (Table 2). Together these communities account for 61% of all suspected overdose visits to Fraser Health emergency departments.

**Figure 3. No. of suspected overdose events seen at Fraser Health emergency departments, October 2015 to September 2016 (n= 3,805)**



**Table 2. Suspected overdose events presenting at Fraser Health emergency departments.**

Community <sup>^</sup> of residence	No. events during September 2016 (Monthly average <sup>~</sup> )	No. events January to September, 2016
Abbotsford	44 (34.0)	306
Agassiz-Harrison	-- (2.8)	25
Burnaby	19 (21.7)	196
Chilliwack	8 (16.6)	149
City of Langley	-- (9.8)	88
Coquitlam	9 (10.0)	90
Delta	24 (9.2)	83
Hope	-- (1.0)	9
Maple Ridge	23 (26.2)	236
Mission	8 (7.3)	66
New Westminister	13 (13.4)	121
Pitt Meadows	5 (4.8)	43
Port Coquitlam	7 (7.9)	71
Port Moody	5 (4.9)	44
Surrey	92 (117.8)	1060
Township of Langley	9 (13.7)	123
White Rock	6 (4.3)	30
Non-Fraser residents	28 (27.8)	250
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>305 (332.2)</b>	<b>2,990</b>

<sup>^</sup> Community of suspected overdose events, presenting at ED, is based on reported residential address of the patients. Homeless people are assigned to the location of the emergency department where they presented.

<sup>~</sup> Based on data from January to September, 2016

-- counts under 5 not reported due to small sample size

## Take Home Naloxone

*Data Source: BC Take Home Naloxone Program, BC Centre for Disease Control, latest data October 27, 2016*

Since the declaration of the overdose emergency, there has been a large increase in the number of sites distributing naloxone and amount of naloxone distributed to the community within the Fraser Health region.

There are a total of 51 active Take Home Naloxone distribution sites in the Fraser Health region, including 29 new sites added since the declaration of the overdose emergency in April 2016. Take Home Naloxone sites include all emergency departments, mental health and addiction services, and community organizations providing services to various populations at higher risk of overdose (e.g. homeless). Please visit [fraserhealth.ca/overdose](http://fraserhealth.ca/overdose) to find out where you can be obtained.

From January to September of this year, 2261 naloxone kits were distributed within Fraser Health. During the same time period in 2015, 302 naloxone kits were distributed in the region. A prescription is no longer needed to obtain naloxone and individuals can directly purchase naloxone from pharmacies.

## Learn More: Overdose Public Health Emergency

For more information on the Overdose Public Health Emergency, what you can do and Fraser Health's response, go to <http://www.fraserhealth.ca/overdose>