

Provincial Overdose Emergency Monthly Situational Report – January 2017

This report covers the Fraser Health region, with data up to the end of January 31, 2017.

During January 2017, there was a decrease in the number of overdose deaths and number of overdose events seen in Fraser Health region.

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths: There was a decrease in number of overdose deaths in January (n=29) compared to December 2016 (n=38). The number of overdose deaths in B.C. decreased from 142 in December to 116 in January.

Suspected Overdose Events: In January, compared to December 2016, there was a decrease in the number of suspected overdose events seen by Fraser Health Emergency Departments and BC Ambulance Service.

Take Home Naloxone (THN): 50 new sites have joined since April 2016, bringing the total THN sites in Fraser Health to 71. During January 2017, 500 kits were dispensed, and during 2016, 4,507 THN kits were dispensed in the region.

Please visit fraserhealth.ca/overdose to learn more about the Overdose Public Health Emergency and find out where to obtain naloxone.

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths - Fraser Health Region

Data Source: BC Coroner Service, data up to the end of January 2017 (additional details below). Preliminary numbers, subject to change.

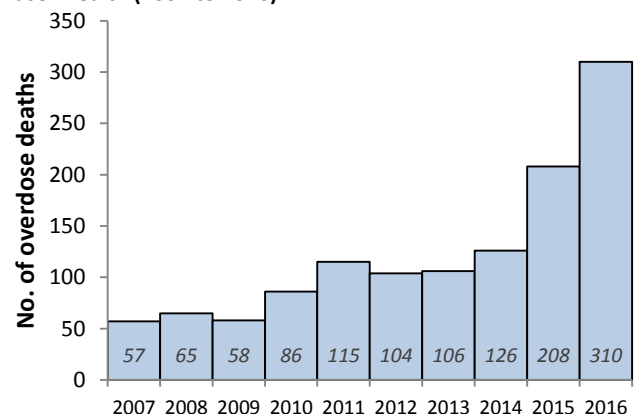
Overdose deaths within Fraser Health increased sharply in 2015 (Figure 1) and continue to be higher than historical levels. In 2016, there were 310 illicit overdose deaths. During January 2017, there were 29 illicit drug overdose deaths in Fraser Health, same as January 2016, but lower than the 38 deaths during December 2016 (Appendix-Figure 2).

- The rate of overdose deaths in 2016, per 100,000 people, was lower in Fraser Health (17.6) compared to B.C. (19.4).
- Compared to 2015, the number of deaths in 2016 increased by 49% in Fraser Health and 80% in B.C.
- In our region, one of the largest increases during 2016 was in Langley (City and Township), where overdose deaths increased by 200% (Appendix-Table 1).
- Surrey, Langley (City and Township), Abbotsford and Maple Ridge accounted for 66% of overdose deaths during 2016 (Appendix-Table 1).
- During 2016, the death rate was highest among 30-39 year olds (Appendix-Figure 3). Males accounted for 82% of all overdose deaths.

- In 2016, according to the BC Coroners Service, 88% of overdose deaths in Fraser Health happened inside (72% private residences, 16% other locations) and 11% happened outside in vehicles, sidewalks, streets, parks etc.

Data up to October 2016 shows that fentanyl was detected in 57% of overdose deaths in the region. Among these deaths, other substances most commonly detected include cocaine (57%), alcohol (28%), meth/amphetamines (29%) and heroin (36%).

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



Data Source: BC Coroner Service

Emergency Department – Suspected Overdose Events

Data Source: Fraser Health Emergency Departments, data up to the end of January 2017 (Additional details below). Preliminary numbers, subject to change.

Compared to December 2016, January saw a decrease in the number of suspected overdose events across Fraser Health Emergency Departments (EDs). During January 2017, 442 suspected overdose events presented to the 12 EDs in Fraser Health, compared to 468 events during the preceding month. The number of suspected overdose events seen in EDs during January 2017 was higher than January 2016 (442 vs. 375).

In 2016, there were 4,492 suspected overdose events seen at Fraser Health EDs, and Surrey, Abbotsford, Maple Ridge, City of Langley and Township of Langley accounted for 60% of all events.

During 2016 (Jan to Dec):

- The majority of events were among males (68%), and the highest numbers of events were among those 19-29 years old (36%), followed by those 30-39 years old (26%). Males aged 19-39 accounted for 43% of all events.
- Opioids were associated with 71% of the suspected overdose events, which is likely an underestimate due to patients and clinicians being uncertain of the exact composition of the substances consumed.
- 11% of the patients with a suspected overdose were admitted to hospital.

BC Ambulance – Suspected Overdose Events

Data Source: Patient Care Reports, BC Ambulance, BC Emergency Health Services, data up to the end of January 2017 (Additional details below). Preliminary numbers, subject to change.

Compared to December 2016, during January 2017 there was a decrease in the number of suspected overdose events attended to by paramedics in the Fraser Health region. The numbers for the most recent month are likely an underestimate due to time needed to enter and finalize data.

In January 2017, paramedics attended to 463 events within Fraser Health, compared to 531 events during December 2016 (Appendix – Figure 5). The number of suspected

overdose events attended by paramedics during January 2017 was lower than January 2016 (463 vs. 540).

During 2016, paramedics responded to 5,861 suspected overdose events within the Fraser Health region (Appendix – Table 3). The age and gender profile of suspected overdose events were similar to trends seen in Emergency Departments; the majority of the events were among males (69%) and those aged 19-39 years (53%).

In 2016 (Jan to Dec):

- 79% of suspected overdose events resulted in the patient being transported to a hospital.
- Paramedics administered naloxone during 1,641 (28%) events; additional naloxone may have been given by other first responders and by community members before paramedics arrived at the scene.
- Home/residence (43%) and street/highway (31%) were the most common locations where paramedics attended to suspected overdose events.

Naloxone Distribution

Data Source: BC Take Home Naloxone Program, BC Centre for Disease Control, data extracted February 15, 2017.

Since the declaration of the overdose emergency in April 2016, Fraser Health has worked hard to expand the number of sites distributing Take Home Naloxone kits. Since the declaration, 50 new sites were added, bringing the total number of sites to 71. In addition to these sites, 13 community sites in the region have registered to receive naloxone boxes for in-facility overdose response.

During January 2017, 500 kits were dispensed in Fraser Health. During 2016, 4,507 Take Home Naloxone kits were dispensed within Fraser Health; this was 800% increase over 2015.

A prescription is no longer needed to obtain naloxone and individuals can directly purchase naloxone from pharmacies. Please visit [fraserhealth.ca/overdose](http://www.fraserhealth.ca/overdose) to learn more about where kits may be obtained.

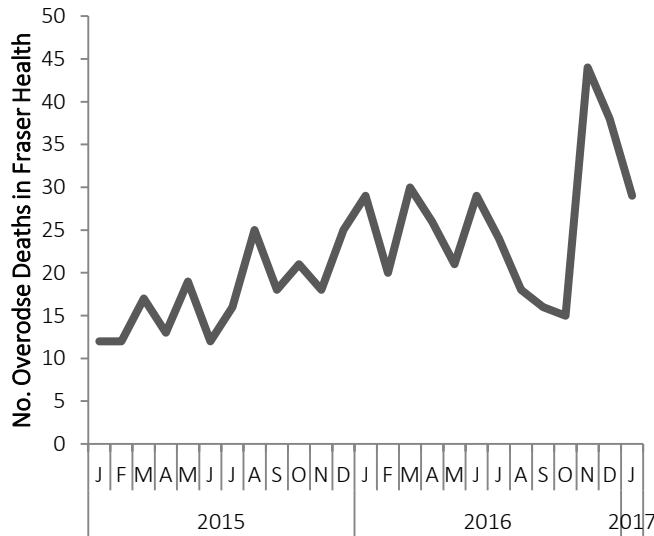
Additional Information

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>

Appendix: Data

Overdose Deaths

Figure 2. Monthly illicit drug overdose deaths within Fraser Health (January 2015 to January 2017).



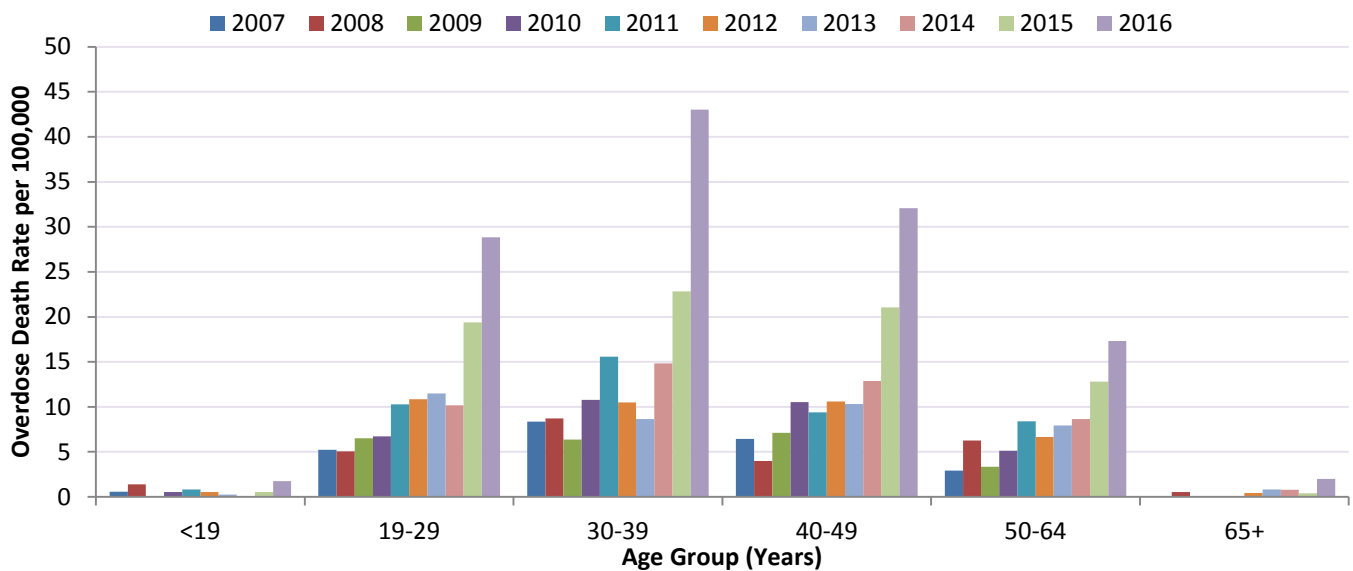
Data Source: BC Coroner Service. Preliminary data, numbers subject to change.

Table 1: Illicit drug overdose deaths within Fraser Health.

	No. deaths Jan 2017	No. deaths 2016	No. deaths 2015	% Increase (2016 vs. 2015)
B.C.	116	922	513	80%
Fraser Health[^]	29	310	208	49%
Surrey	9	110	76	45%
Maple Ridge	0	27	29	-7%
Abbotsford	5	39	27	44%
Langley (City+ Township)	3	30	10	200%

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

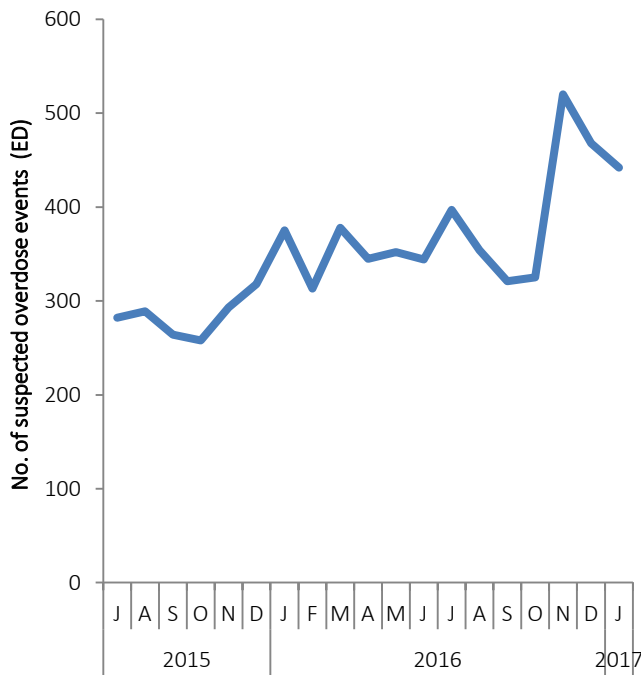
Figure 3. Illicit drug overdose death rate per 100,000 people, by age group, within Fraser Health region (2007-2016).



Data source: BC Coroner Service. Preliminary data, numbers subject to change.

Suspected Overdose Visits to Emergency Department

Figure 4. No. of suspected overdose events seen at Fraser Health Emergency Departments, July 2015 to January 2017.



Data Source: Fraser Health Emergency Departments

Table 2. Suspected overdose events presenting at Fraser Health Emergency Departments.

Community [^] of residence	No. events Jan 2017 (12 month avg. [~])	No. events 2016	Rate/100,000 population
Abbotsford	60 (41.7)	468	407
Agassiz-Harrison	-- (2.5)	29	365
Burnaby	23 (24.8)	296	147
Chilliwack	39 (24.0)	267	361
City of Langley	21 (11.7)	133	614
Coquitlam	14 (12.4)	141	130
Delta	8 (8.7)	104	119
Hope	-- (2.0)	23	345
Maple Ridge	36 (27.3)	325	504
Mission	7 (9.3)	113	326
New Westminster	19 (15.3)	178	297
Pitt Meadows	-- (4.1)	51	342
Port Coquitlam	12 (10.4)	120	249
Port Moody	5 (5.6)	65	235
Surrey	126 (130.7)	1588	375
Township of Langley	12 (13.6)	171	195
White Rock	-- (2.9)	40	224
Non-Fraser residents	51 (33.7)	380	n/a
Fraser Health	442 (380)	4492	322

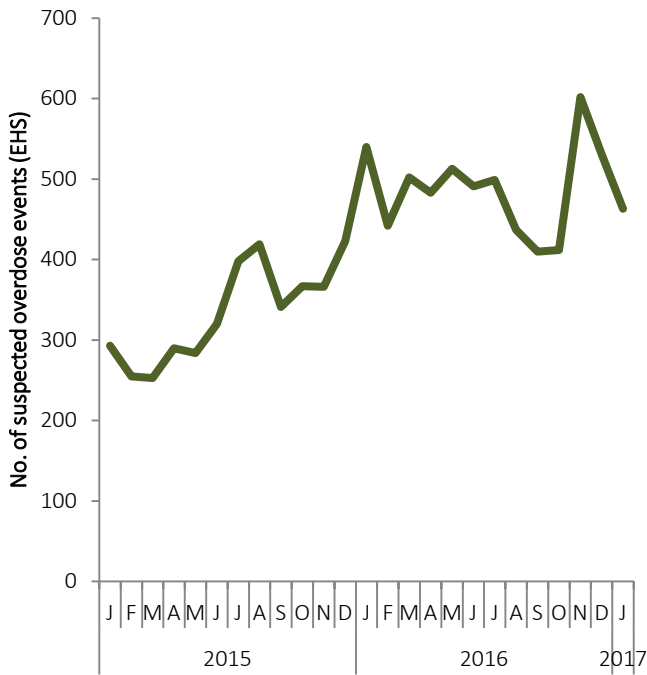
[^] Community of suspected overdose events, presenting at ED, is based on reported residential address of the patients. Homeless people were assigned to the location of the Emergency Department where they presented

[~] based on average of past 12 months, including the most recent month

-- counts under 5 not reported as they are potentially identifiable
Restricted to those 13 years of age or older

Suspected Overdose Events attended by BC Ambulance

Figure 5. No. of suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance service, within Fraser Health Region, January 2015 to January 2017.



Data Source: Patient Care Records data from BC Emergency Service.
Preliminary data, numbers subject to change.

Table 3: Suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance service, within Fraser Health Region.

Community of event [^]	No. events Jan 2017 (12 month avg. [~])	No. events 2016	Rate/100,000 population
Abbotsford	54 (48.3)	570	495
Agassiz-Harrison	-- (2.9)	37	466
Burnaby	36 (39.3)	479	237
Chilliwack	34 (32.0)	369	498
City of Langley	31 (21.0)	255	1176
Coquitlam	20 (22.8)	279	256
Delta	10 (12.4)	152	173
Hope	5 (2.9)	31	464
Maple Ridge	36 (32.6)	406	629
Mission	9 (9.8)	124	358
New Westminster	19 (21.9)	268	447
Pitt Meadows	-- (4.0)	48	321
Port Coquitlam	9 (12.4)	148	307
Port Moody	-- (3.1)	37	133
Surrey	168 (195.4)	2389	564
Township of Langley	20 (18.8)	229	260
White Rock	-- (3.2)	40	224
Fraser Health	463 (482.0)	5861	419

Please note: Numbers for the most recent month are likely an underestimate and will increase as entry of BC Ambulance Patient Care Forms is completed.

[^] Community based on location where the paramedics attended to the suspected overdose event
[~] based on average of past 12 months, including the most recent month
 -- counts under 5 not reported as they are potentially identifiable
 Restricted to those 13 years of age or older

Notes on Data Sources

Please note that numbers in this report are likely an underestimate. This is because first responders (fire, police or paramedics) are not called to all overdose events, not all events are seen at emergency departments and the algorithms used to detected events do not capture all the overdoses.

BC Coroner Service

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

Fraser Health Emergency Department Data

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 were 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. Locations are assigned based on reported residential postal code.

BC Ambulance

Fraser Health receives weekly data from BC Ambulance, BC Emergency Health Services (EHS) via BC Centre for Disease Control. Data are based on Patient Care Forms completed by paramedics for each event they attend. The data on latest cases is delayed by a few weeks due to time needed for collection, transmission and entry of the information. Patient Care Forms are completed for more than 90% of the events attended by paramedics. These are suspected overdose vents and not confirmed cases. These numbers many change as data entry is finalized.

The suspected overdoses events are identified based on naloxone administration, provisional impression of 911 dispatch and provisional impression of the paramedics. We remove events suspected of not being overdose events and those associated primarily with alcohol. Locations are assigned based on latitude and longitude of the location where ambulance was dispatched. In addition to ambulance, other services (police, fire, community organizations etc.) may also be present during an overdose response in the community.