

Provincial Overdose Emergency Monthly Situational Report – August 2017

This report covers the Fraser Health region, with data up to the end of August 31, 2017 unless otherwise noted.

During August 2017 there was no change in the number of overdose deaths and a decrease in the number of overdose events seen in the Fraser Health region.

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths: There was no difference in the number of overdose deaths in August (n=36) compared to July (n=36). Overdose deaths from January to August 2017 were 68% and 164% higher than the first eight months of 2016 and 2015, respectively. In the first eight months of 2017, fentanyl was detected in 81% of illicit drug overdose deaths in Fraser Health. Fentanyl-detected illicit drug deaths from January to August 2017 were 31% higher than in 2016.

Suspected Overdose Events: In August, compared to July, there was a decrease in the number of suspected overdose events seen in Fraser Health Emergency Departments.

Take Home Naloxone: 82 new sites have joined since April 2016, bringing the total number of Take Home Naloxone sites in Fraser Health to 103. There were 5,955 kits dispensed from January to July 2017.

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

Actions in Fraser Health

Supervised Consumption Services and Overdose Prevention Sites:

- Developed plans with peer advocacy groups for augmenting peer involvement in overdose prevention activities in Surrey working with Surrey Area Network of Substance Users (SANSU).
- Finalized Fraser Health Overdose Prevention Site Manual that is posted on <http://www.fraserhealth.ca>.
- Augmented OD prevention services and outreach in Abbotsford, Surrey, Chilliwack, Maple Ridge, and Langley.

Mental Health & Substance Use Services:

- Work underway to open additional Opioid Agonist Treatment Clinics in five communities in the fall; Opioid agonist treatment is the first line treatment for opioid addiction and clinics will also connect people to other support services.
- Overdose Response Community of Practice session held with frontline Mental Health and Substance Use providers to share insights, learning, resources, and practice stories that will help prevent overdose deaths.

Education:

- Staff continued to provide overdose prevention, recognition, and response training and support to various government and non-government service providers including: five naloxone dispensing and administration

training sessions held, reaching approximately 100 participants; six Regional Overdose Prevention Recognition & Response sessions plus webinar held, reaching over 140 participants; two 5-day Core Addictions Practice training workshops delivered to Mental Health and Substance Use service providers.

Community-Based Response and Prevention:

- Implemented a community follow-up pilot at Surrey Memorial Hospital to link people who experienced a non-fatal overdose to treatment and support services.
- Staff participated in various community events, discussions and forums around naloxone, harm reduction and the overdose crisis such as International Overdose Awareness Day.
- Staff discussed overdose activities and plans with Mayors, Councilors, and municipal staff to build awareness and understanding of the overdose crisis, factors contributing to illicit substance use, and evidence-based strategies.

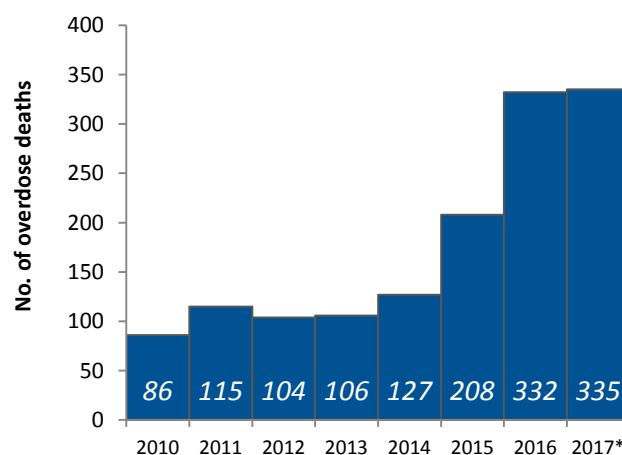
Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths – Fraser Health Region

Data Source: BC Coroner Service (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 Fraser Health, there were 36 overdose deaths in each of July and August, 2017 (Appendix-Figure 2).

- From January to August 2017, the annualized rate, per 100,000, of overdose deaths was lower in Fraser Health (27.9) compared to B.C. (31.6).
- In Fraser Health, overdose deaths during the first eight months of 2017 were 68% and 164% higher, compared to the first eight months of 2016 and 2015, respectively.
- From January to August 2017, the overdose death rate was highest among 30-39 year olds (Appendix-Figure 3). From January to August 2017, males accounted for 85% of all overdose deaths.
- In 2017, according to the BC Coroners Service, 85% of overdose deaths in Fraser Health happened inside, with 67% in private residences; 14% occurred outside on sidewalks, streets, vehicles, parks, etc.
- Among illicit drug overdose deaths in Fraser Health during 2016 where the Coroner’s investigation is complete, 41% were using substances alone at the time of fatal overdose; 69% of those who died were using drugs in private residences.
- Data up to August 2017 showed that fentanyl was detected in 81% of overdose deaths in the region, compared to 62% during 2016.

Figure 1. Number of illicit drug overdose deaths within Fraser Health.



Data Source: BC Coroner Service, 2017 data for Jan to Aug.

Emergency Department – Suspected Overdose Events

Data Source: Fraser Health Emergency Departments (Additional details below). Preliminary numbers, subject to change.

During August 2017, there was a decrease in the number of suspected overdose events across Fraser Health Emergency Departments (EDs). During August, 368 suspected overdose events presented to the 12 EDs in the region, compared with 407 events in July (Appendix-Figure 4).

From January to August 2017:

- There were 3,563 suspected overdose events seen at Fraser Health EDs (Appendix-Table 2).

- The majority of overdose events were among males (70%), and the highest numbers of events were among those 19-29 years old (36%), followed by those 40-59 years old (28%), and 30-39 (26%). Males aged 19-59 accounted for 63% of all suspected overdose events.
- Opioids were associated with 73% of the suspected overdose events; this is likely an underestimate due to patients and clinicians being uncertain of the exact composition of the substances consumed.
- 10% 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 (Additional details below). Preliminary numbers, subject to change.

Preliminary data on suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance up to the end of August 2017.

In August 2017, paramedics attended 470 suspected overdose events within Fraser Health, compared to 543 events during July (Appendix – Figure 5). These numbers will likely increase as additional data are received.

From January to August 2017, paramedics responded to 4,740 suspected overdose events within the Fraser Health region (Appendix – Table 3). The age and sex profile of suspected overdose events were similar to trends seen in Emergency Departments; the majority of the events were among males (70%) and those aged 19-39 years (52%).

From January to August 2017:

- 73% of suspected overdose events resulted in the patient being transported to a hospital.

- Paramedics administered naloxone during 1,337 (28%) overdose events; additional naloxone may have been given by other first responders and by community members before paramedics arrived at the scene.
- Home/residence (39%) and street/highway (33%) were the most common locations where paramedics attended suspected overdose events.

Naloxone Distribution

Data Source: BC Take Home Naloxone Program, BC Centre for Disease Control, data extracted September 30, 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 (THN) kits. Between April 2016 and July 2017, 82 new sites were added, bringing the total number of sites to 103. Furthermore, 145 community sites in the region registered to receive naloxone boxes for in-facility overdose response between December 2016 and August 2017.

In the first seven months of 2017, there were 5,955 THN kits dispensed in Fraser Health. During 2016, 4,659 THN kits were dispensed within Fraser Health.

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

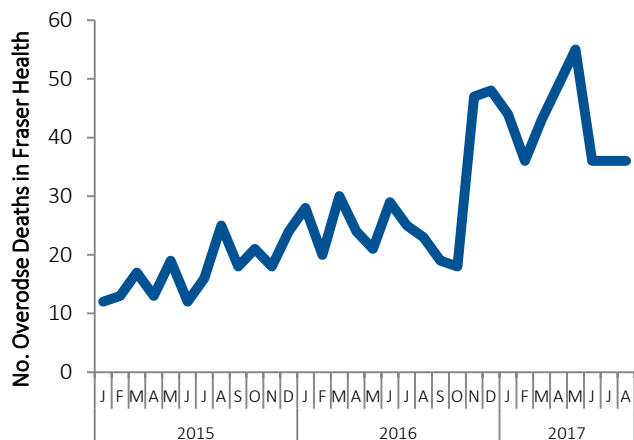
Additional Information

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.



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

Table 1: Illicit drug overdose deaths within Fraser Health.

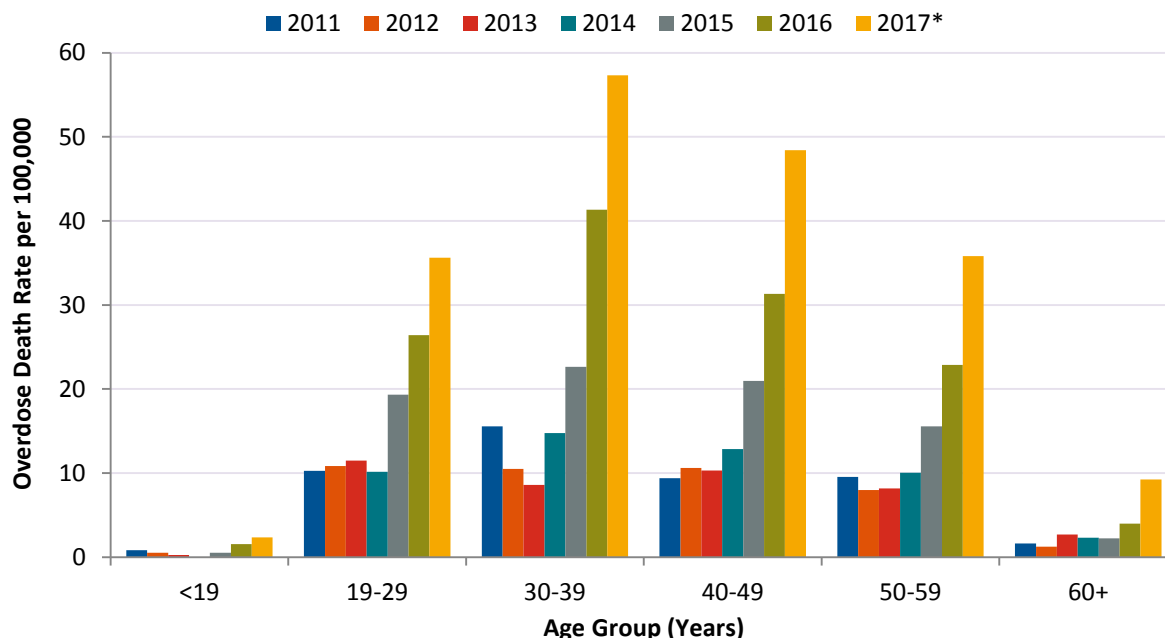
	No. Deaths Jan-Aug 2017	Projected* No. Deaths 2017	No. deaths 2016	% Increase (2017* vs. 2016)
BC	1,013	1,520	982	55
Fraser Health[^]	335	503	332	51
Surrey	123	185	121	52
Maple Ridge	25	38	27	39
Abbotsford	34	51	39	31
Langley (City+ Township)	24	36	30	20
Burnaby	33	50	39	27
Chilliwack	19	29	12	138
Coquitlam	18	27	13	108
New Westminster	13	20	11	77
Other communities	46	69	40	73

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

* Projected based on available months in 2017.

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

Figure 3. Illicit drug overdose death rate per 100,000 people, by age group, within Fraser Health (2011-2017*).

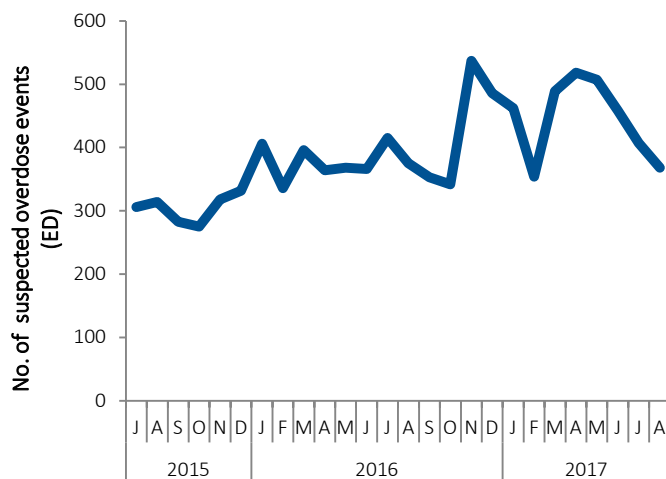


* Annualized rate based on available months in 2017.

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.



Data Source: Fraser Health Emergency Departments

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

Community [^] of residence	No. events Aug 2017 (Avg. past 12 months [~])	No. events 2017 Jan-Aug (Rate per 100,000) *	No. events 2016 (Rate per 100,000)
Abbotsford	32 (44.9)	339 (442)	481 (418)
Agassiz-Harrison	<5 (<5)	17 (321)	30 (377)
Burnaby	27 (26.5)	212 (157)	308 (152)
Chilliwack	20 (33.7)	283 (573)	283 (382)
City of Langley	6 (14.8)	125 (865)	142 (655)
Coquitlam	16 (14.8)	124 (170)	149 (136)
Delta	11 (11.2)	85 (145)	111 (127)
Hope	5 (<5)	20 (449)	24 (359)
Maple Ridge	30 (27.3)	230 (535)	341 (529)
Mission	<5 (12.6)	100 (432)	118 (340)
New Westminster	7 (14.3)	106 (265)	186 (310)
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	35 (351)	52 (348)
Port Coquitlam	12 (11.9)	89 (277)	126 (261)
Port Moody	<5 (6.6)	52 (281)	70 (252)
Surrey	137 (153.8)	1,254 (444)	1,697 (401)
Township of Langley	15 (13.6)	108 (184)	184 (209)
White Rock	6 (<5)	40 (336)	44 (246)
Non-Fraser Residents	33 (41.0)	344 (n/a)	398 (n/a)
Fraser Health	368 (440.1)	3,563 (382)	4,744 (339)

[^] Community based on reported residential address. Homeless people assigned to the community where Emergency Department was located.

* Rate annualized based on available months for 2017.

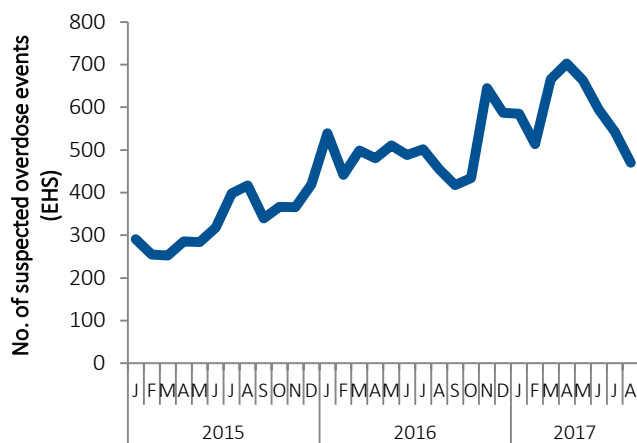
Based on average of past 12 months, including the most recent month. Counts under five not reported as they are potentially identifiable.

Restricted to those 13 years of age or older.

Suspected Overdose Events attended by BC Ambulance

Data on suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance are current to the end of August 2017.

Figure 5. No. of suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance service within Fraser Health Region.



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 Aug 2017 (Avg. past 12 months [~])	No. events 2017 Jan-Aug (Rate per 100,000) *	No. events 2016 (Rate per 100,000)
Abbotsford	50 (55.1)	440 (573)	574 (499)
Agassiz-Harrison	5 (<5)	25 (472)	36 (453)
Burnaby	54 (45.4)	373 (277)	495 (245)
Chilliwack	12 (39.8)	318 (644)	378 (510)
City of Langley	14 (25.2)	222 (1,536)	256 (1,181)
Coquitlam	18 (27.7)	234 (322)	283 (259)
Delta	10 (15.2)	129 (221)	154 (176)
Hope	<5 (<5)	31 (696)	30 (449)
Maple Ridge	27 (34.5)	292 (679)	437 (677)
Mission	18 (15.8)	142 (614)	124 (358)
New Westminster	20 (25.8)	205 (512)	272 (453)
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	42 (422)	51 (341)
Port Coquitlam	7 (15.5)	115 (358)	159 (330)
Port Moody	11 (<5)	33 (178)	38 (137)
Surrey	204 (232.3)	1,960 (694)	2,451 (579)
Township of Langley	10 (19.4)	157 (268)	229 (260)
White Rock	<5 (<5)	22 (185)	40 (224)
Fraser Health	470 (569.3)	4,740 (508)	6,007 (429)

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

* Rate annualized based on available months for 2017

-- 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 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 the BC Centre for Disease Control. Data are based on Patient Care Forms completed by paramedics for each event they attend. The data on the most recent 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 events and not confirmed cases. These numbers many change as data entry is finalized.

Suspected overdose 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.