

# Provincial Overdose Emergency Monthly Situational Report – June 2017

**This report covers the Fraser Health region, with data up to the end of June 30, 2017.**

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

**Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths:** There was a decrease in the number of overdose deaths in June (n=35) compared to May (n=55). Overdose deaths from January to June 2017 were 70% and 200% higher, compared to the first six months of 2016 and 2015, respectively. In the first five months of 2017, fentanyl was detected in 82% of illicit drug overdose deaths in Fraser Health.

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

**Take Home Naloxone:** 81 new sites have joined since April 2016, bringing the total number of Take Home Naloxone sites in Fraser Health to 102. There were 5,678 kits dispensed from January to June 2017.

Please visit [fraserhealth.ca/overdose](http://fraserhealth.ca/overdose) to learn more about the Overdose Public Health Emergency and to find out where to obtain naloxone.

## Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths - Fraser Health Region

*Data Source: BC Coroner Service (additional details below). Preliminary numbers, subject to change.*

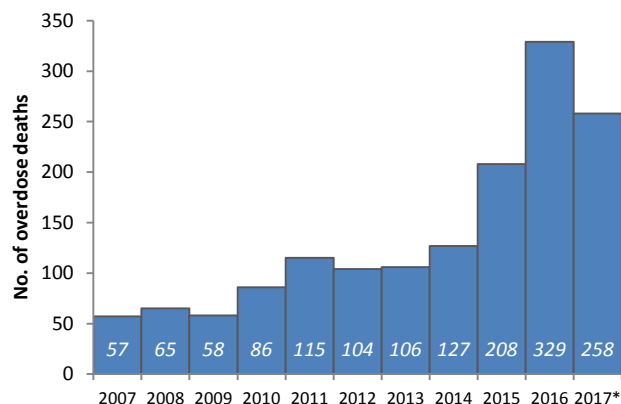
Overdose deaths within Fraser Health increased sharply in 2015 (Figure 1) and continue to be higher than historical levels. During June 2017, there were 35 illicit drug overdose deaths in Fraser Health, compared to 55 deaths during May 2017 (Appendix-Figure 2).

- From January to June 2017, the annualized rate, per 100,000, of overdose deaths was lower in Fraser Health (28.7) compared to B.C. (32.5).
- In Fraser Health, overdose deaths during the first six months of 2017 were 70% and 200% higher, compared to the first six months of 2016 and 2015, respectively.
- From January to June 2017, the overdose death rate was highest among 30-39 year olds (Appendix-Figure 3). From January to June 2017, males accounted for 85% of all overdose deaths.
- In 2017, according to the BC Coroners Service, 86% of overdose deaths in Fraser Health happened inside, with

69% in private residences; 14% occurred on sidewalks, streets, vehicles, parks, etc.

- Among illicit drug overdose deaths in Fraser Health during 2016 where the Coroner’s investigation is complete, 59% were using substances alone at the time of fatal overdose; 69% of those who died were using drugs in private residences.
- Data up to May 2017 showed that fentanyl was detected in 82% 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 Jun only.*

## Emergency Department – Suspected Overdose Events

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

During June 2017, there was a decrease in the number of suspected overdose events across Fraser Health Emergency Departments (EDs). During June, 421 suspected overdose events presented to the 12 EDs in the region, compared to 495 events during the preceding month (Appendix-Figure 4).

From January to June 2017:

- There were 2,664 suspected overdose events seen at Fraser Health EDs (Appendix-Table 2).
- The majority of events were among males (71%), and the highest numbers of events were among those 19-29 years old (35%), followed by those 30-39 years old (26%). Males aged 19-39 accounted for 43% of all suspected overdose events.
- Opioids were associated with 75% 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 end of June 2017.*

In June 2017, paramedics attended 487 suspected overdose events within Fraser Health, compared to 651 events during May (Appendix – Figure 5). This number will likely increase as additional data are received.

From January to June 2017, paramedics responded to 3,594 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 (71%) and those aged 19-39 years (55%).

From January to June 2017:

- 73% of suspected overdose events resulted in the patient being transported to a hospital.
- Paramedics administered naloxone during 1,023 (28%) events; additional naloxone may have been given by other first responders and by community members before paramedics arrived at the scene.
- Home/residence (40%) 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 July 31, 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, 81 new sites were added, bringing the total number of sites to 102. Furthermore, 152 community sites in the region have registered to receive naloxone boxes for in-facility overdose response.

In the first six months of 2017 there were 5,678 kits dispensed in Fraser Health; this was over 350% higher than the same period in 2016. During 2016, 4,659 Take Home Naloxone 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](http://fraserhealth.ca/overdose) to learn more about where kits may be obtained.

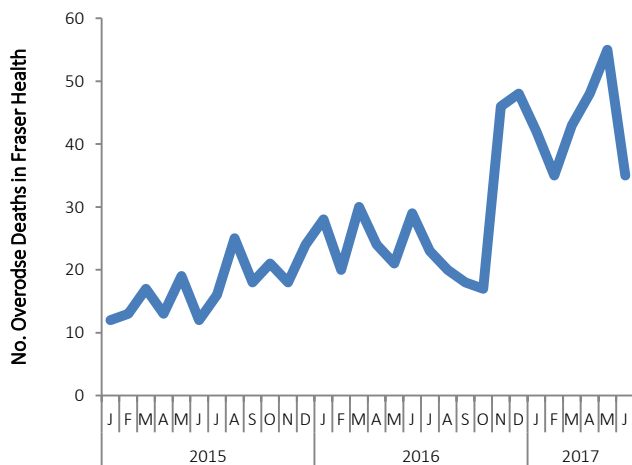
## Additional Information

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.**

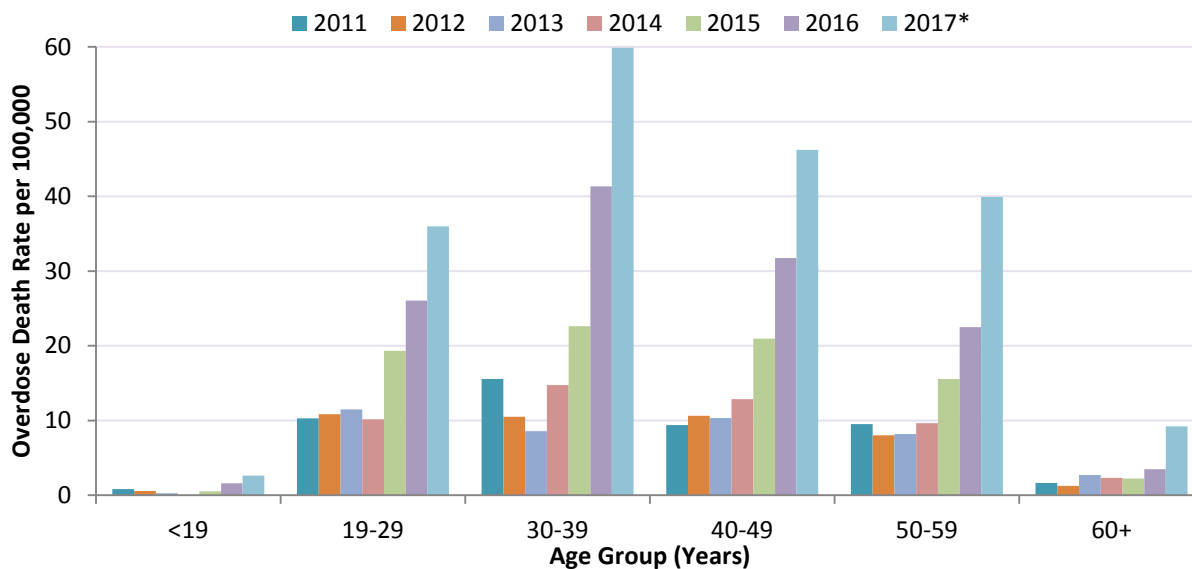
	No. Deaths Jan-Jun 2017	Projected* No. Deaths 2017	No. deaths 2016	% Increase (2017* vs. 2016)
<b>BC</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>1,560</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Fraser Health<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>258</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>59</b>
Surrey	87	174	117	49
Maple Ridge	22	44	27	63
Abbotsford	32	64	39	64
Langley (City+ Township)	18	36	30	20
Burnaby	26	52	37	41
Chilliwack	15	30	12	150
Coquitlam	12	24	20	20
New Westminster	12	24	10	140
Other communities	34	68	32	113

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

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

\* Projected based on available months in 2017

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

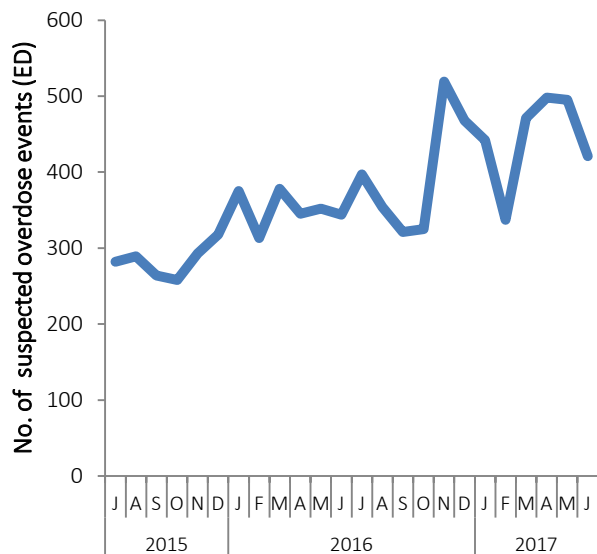


Data source: BC Coroner Service. Preliminary data, numbers subject to change.

\* Annualized rate based on available months in 2017

## 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 <sup>^</sup> of residence	No. events June 2017 (Avg. past 12 months <sup>~</sup> )	No. events 2017 (Rate Jan-Jun (Rate per 100,000) <sup>*</sup>	No. events 2016 (Rate per 100,000)
Abbotsford	45 (44.1)	269 (467)	468 (407)
Agassiz-Harrison	--	10 (252)	29 (365)
Burnaby	19 (24.5)	143 (141)	296 (147)
Chilliwack	32 (31)	223 (602)	267 (361)
City of Langley	26 (13.4)	97 (895)	133 (614)
Coquitlam	10 (13.7)	91 (167)	141 (130)
Delta	8 (10.6)	61 (139)	104 (119)
Hope	--	14 (419)	23 (345)
Maple Ridge	23 (27.7)	177 (549)	325 (504)
Mission	10 (12.5)	88 (507)	113 (326)
New Westminister	17 (14.6)	81 (270)	177 (295)
Pitt Meadows	6 (4.3)	26 (348)	51 (342)
Port Coquitlam	12 (11.8)	62 (257)	120 (249)
Port Moody	8 (6.4)	45 (324)	65 (235)
Surrey	149 (143.4)	925 (437)	1,588 (375)
Township of Langley	14 (12.3)	72 (164)	171 (195)
White Rock	--	27 (302)	40 (224)
Non-Fraser residents	33 (37)	253 (n/a)	380 (n/a)
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>421 (414.8)</b>	<b>2,664 (381)</b>	<b>4,491 (321)</b>

<sup>^</sup> Community based on reported residential address. Homeless people assigned to the community where Emergency Department was located

<sup>~</sup> based on average of past 12 months, including the most recent month

<sup>\*</sup> Rate annualized based on available months for 2017

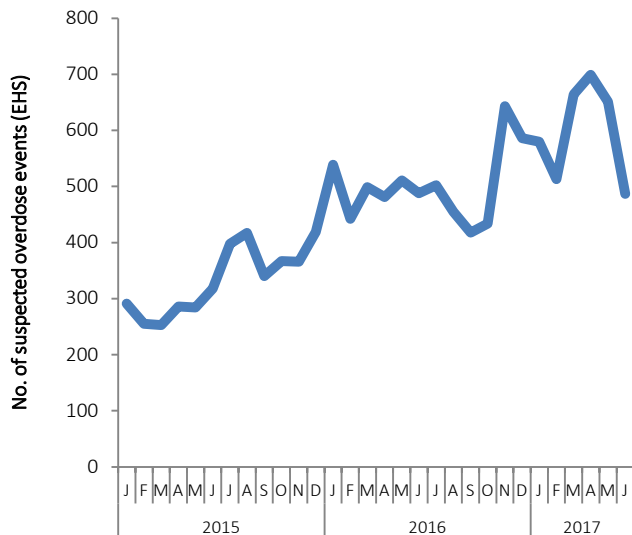
-- counts under 5 not reported as they are potentially identifiable

Restricted to those 13 years of age or older

## Suspected Overdose Events attended by BC Ambulance

Data on suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance are current to the end of June 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 <sup>^</sup>	No. events June 2017 (Avg. past 12 months <sup>~</sup> )	No. events 2017 Jan-June (Rate per 100,000) <sup>*</sup>	No. events 2016 (Rate per 100,000)
Abbotsford	53 (54.5)	341 (592)	572 (497)
Agassiz-Harrison	--	13 (327)	37 (466)
Burnaby	32 (42.5)	269 (266)	484 (239)
Chilliwack	31 (38.9)	248 (669)	373 (503)
City of Langley	23 (23.7)	161 (1,486)	255 (1,176)
Coquitlam	22 (29)	189 (346)	281 (257)
Delta	25 (14)	91 (208)	152 (173)
Hope	--	22 (659)	31 (464)
Maple Ridge	26 (35.3)	230 (713)	408 (632)
Mission	14 (14)	105 (605)	124 (358)
New Westminster	23 (26.1)	160 (533)	269 (448)
Pitt Meadows	9 (4.8)	35 (469)	48 (321)
Port Coquitlam	15 (15)	87 (361)	149 (309)
Port Moody	--	17 (123)	37 (133)
Surrey	192 (224.6)	1,491 (704)	2,395 (566)
Township of Langley	17 (18.8)	121 (275)	229 (260)
White Rock	0 (3.2)	14 (157)	40 (224)
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>487 (552.6)</b>	<b>3,594 (514)</b>	<b>5,884 (421)</b>

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.

<sup>^</sup> Community based on location where the paramedics attended to the suspected overdose event

<sup>~</sup> based on average of past 12 months, including the most recent month

<sup>\*</sup> 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 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 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.