

Fraser Health Overdose Emergency Monthly Situational Report – June 2018

This report covers the Fraser Health region. Availability of data varies by source. All data are preliminary and subject to change as additional information is received.

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths: There were fewer overdose deaths in May (n=33) compared to April (n=46). Overdose deaths in 2018 are 15% lower than the first five months of 2017 but remain higher than the first five months of 2016 (62% higher). Compared to 2017, there is a trend toward increasing fatality rates in Fraser South and among persons aged 19-29 years.

Suspected Overdose Events treated in Emergency Departments: There was a decrease in the number of suspected overdose events seen in Fraser Health Emergency Departments between May (n=372) and June (n=339) of 2018.

Suspected Overdose Events attended by paramedics: BC Ambulance responded to fewer suspected overdoses in May compared to April of 2018 (493 vs. 527, respectively). Across Fraser Health, 28% of people treated for overdose declined transport to additional health services.

Take Home Naloxone: 383 new sites have joined since April 2016, bringing the total number of Take Home Naloxone sites in Fraser Health to 409. There were 6,125 kits dispensed from January to May 2018.

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:

Mental Health & Substance Use Services:

- Launched the Substance Use Services Access Team that allows family practitioners, emergency departments, and hospital staff to call one number to speak to a team of substance use professionals, make referrals, or ask questions around services
- Opened an injectable opioid agonist treatment clinic in Surrey
- Implemented an Intensive Case Management Team in Surrey

Education:

- Held full day Overdose Response for Organizations training

Community-Based Response and Prevention:

- Participated in and also supported people with living and lived experience to participate in the annual provincial Overdose Action Exchange
- Staffed a health tent that provided both Take Home Naloxone and Overdose Prevention Services support for the Surrey 135A Street decampment to support a safer transition for residents into modular housing
- Supported and coordinated 22 people with living and lived experience to join a roundtable with Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Judy Darcy

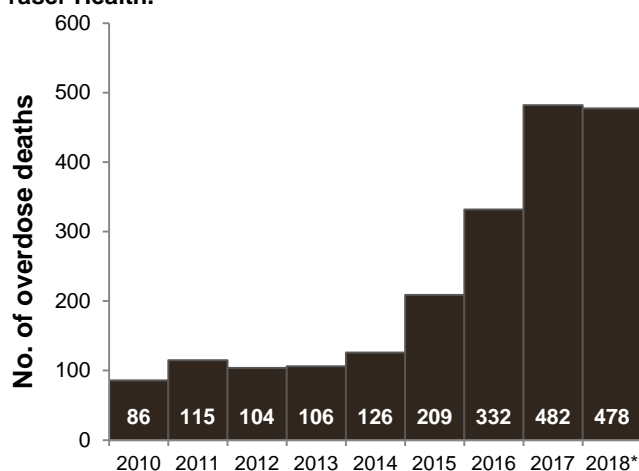
Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths – Fraser Health Region

Data Source: BC Coroner Service (additional details below). Preliminary data, 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 33 overdose deaths in May 2018 (Appendix – Figure 2).

- From January to May 2018, the annualized rate, per 100,000, of overdose deaths was lower in Fraser Health (26.0) compared to B.C. (30.6).
- Year to date, there have been 15% fewer overdose deaths than in the first five months of 2017; however, the number of overdoses is 62% higher than the same time period in 2016.
- For January to May 2018, the highest rate of death was among persons 19-39 years of age. Males accounted for 82% of all overdose deaths.
- Compared to 2017, the rate of death for persons aged 19-29 years in Fraser Health has increased 37%.
- In 2018, according to the BC Coroners Service, 87% of overdose deaths in Fraser Health happened inside, with 73% in private residences; 8% occurred outside on sidewalks, streets, vehicles, parks, etc.

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



Data Source: BC Coroner Service.

* Projected based on available months in 2018.

Emergency Department – Suspected Overdose Events

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

During June 2018, there was a decrease in the number of suspected overdose events seen at Fraser Health Emergency Departments (EDs). There were 339 suspected overdose events in June compared with 372 events in May 2018 (Appendix – Figure 3).

From January to June, 2018:

- There were 2,024 suspected overdose events seen at Fraser Health EDs (Appendix – Table 2).
- The majority of overdose events presenting to emergency were among males (71%), and the highest numbers of events were among those 19-29 years old (33%), followed by those 30-39 years old (28%), and 40-59 years old (26%). Males aged 19-59 accounted for 63% of all suspected overdose events.
- Opioids were associated with 65% 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 data, numbers subject to change.

Preliminary data on suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance to the end of May 2018.

In May 2018, paramedics attended 493 suspected overdose events within Fraser Health, compared to 521 events during April (Appendix – Figure 4). These numbers will likely increase as additional data are received.

From January to May 2018, paramedics have responded to 2,345 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 (55%).

From January to May 2018:

- 72% of suspected overdose events resulted in the patient being transported to a hospital.

- Paramedics administered naloxone during 627 (26%) overdose events; additional naloxone may have been given by other first responders and by community members before paramedics arrived at the scene.
- Home/residence (44%) and street/highway (28%) 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 15, 2018

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 May 2018, 383 new sites were added, bringing the total number of sites to 409.

Furthermore, 178 community sites in the region have registered to receive naloxone boxes for in-facility overdose response.

Between January and May of 2018, there were 6,125 THN kits dispensed in Fraser Health. During 2017, 15,244 THN kits were dispensed within Fraser Health.

Naloxone is available in British Columbia without a prescription. Take Home Naloxone (THN) kits and training are available **at no cost** for community members at risk of overdose and those likely to witness an overdose. Eligible community members can access THN kits and training through approved THN distribution sites across the Fraser Health region. Visit fraserhealth.ca/overdose to find out where you can get a THN kit and training.

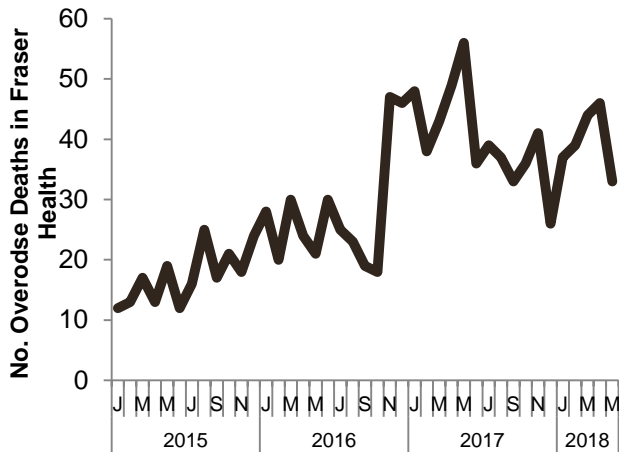
Additional Information

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.

	Deaths Jan-May 2018	Projected Deaths 2018*	Deaths 2017	% Change (2018* vs. 2017)
BC	620	1,488	1,449	3
Fraser Health[^]	199	478	482	-1
Surrey	97	233	176	32
Maple Ridge	11	26	33	-20
Abbotsford	9	22	50	-57
Langley (City+ Township)	14	34	36	-7
Burnaby	15	36	44	-18
Chilliwack	10	24	23	4
Coquitlam	12	29	29	-1
New Westminster	12	29	24	20
Other communities	19	46	67	-32

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

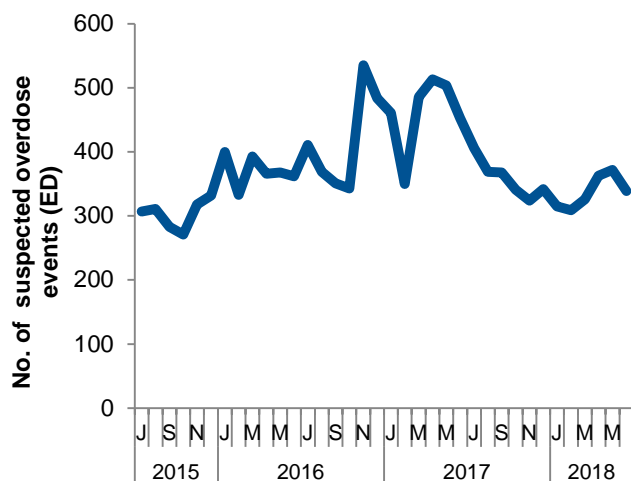
- Data not yet available

* Projected based on available months in 2018.

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

Suspected Overdose Visits to Emergency Department

Figure 3. 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 Jun 2018 (Avg. past 12 months~)	No. events Jan-Jun 2018 (Rate per 100,000*)	No. events 2017 (Rate per 100,000)
Abbotsford	43 (34.0)	209 (350)	477 (399)
Agassiz-Harrison	<5 (<5)	13 (316)	28 (341)
Burnaby	24 (26.2)	149 (141)	317 (150)
Chilliwack	19 (24.8)	130 (314)	394 (476)
City of Langley	8 (9.1)	48 (428)	162 (721)
Coquitlam	16 (14.0)	86 (143)	176 (146)
Delta	<5 (8.9)	50 (113)	119 (134)
Hope	<5 (<5)	17 (521)	22 (337)
Maple Ridge	18 (19.7)	112 (321)	305 (437)
Mission	9 (9.6)	56 (305)	149 (405)
New Westminster	19 (12.5)	80 (242)	161 (243)
Pitt Meadows	5 (<5)	12 (152)	44 (278)
Port Coquitlam	7 (10.1)	55 (219)	128 (255)
Port Moody	<5 (<5)	30 (212)	70 (247)
Surrey	103 (117.6)	692 (316)	1,684 (384)
Township of Langley	13 (12.8)	69 (140)	159 (161)
White Rock	0 (<5)	14 (152)	59 (320)
Non-Fraser Residents	40 (33.3)	202 (n/a)	463 (n/a)
Fraser Health	339 (347.8)	2,024 (265)	4,917 (322)

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

* Rate annualized based on available months for 2018.

~ Average of past 12 months, including the current month.

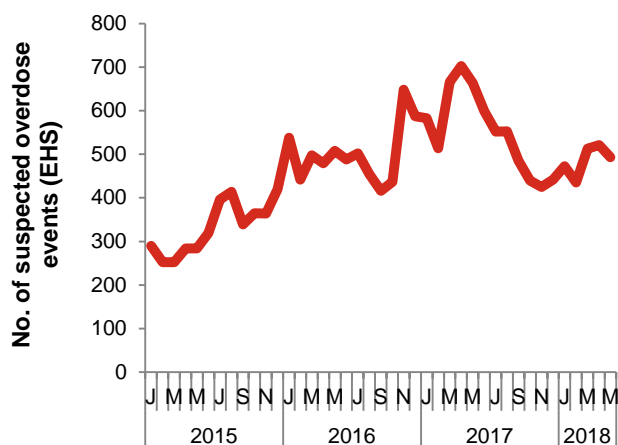
Counts under five reported as <5 as they are potentially identifiable.

Restricted to those 13 years of age or older. Population estimates for 2016 are used effective the September 2017 report.

Suspected Overdose Events attended by BC Ambulance

Data on suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance are current to the end of May 2018.

Figure 4. 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 May 2018 (Avg. past 12 months~)	No. events 2018 YTD (Rate per 100,000*)	No. events 2017 (Rate per 100,000)
Abbotsford	53 (50.0)	243 (488)	645 (539)
Agassiz-Harrison	<5 (<5)	9 (263)	36 (438)
Burnaby	36 (45.9)	225 (256)	568 (269)
Chilliwack	31 (35.8)	176 (510)	475 (574)
City of Langley	11 (17.9)	69 (737)	285 (1,269)
Coquitlam	21 (26.8)	156 (311)	332 (276)
Delta	21 (19.1)	96 (260)	202 (228)
Hope	9 (<5)	14 (515)	38 (582)
Maple Ridge	30 (27.1)	122 (419)	406 (582)
Mission	9 (14.5)	63 (411)	202 (550)
New Westminster	22 (22.3)	108 (392)	298 (450)
Pitt Meadows	0 (<5)	9 (136)	57 (360)
Port Coquitlam	11 (12.4)	53 (253)	169 (336)
Port Moody	<5 (<5)	16 (135)	48 (169)
Surrey	212 (189.0)	975 (534)	2,599 (593)
Township of Langley	20 (16.6)	80 (195)	223 (226)
White Rock	<5 (<5)	21 (273)	43 (233)
Fraser Health	493 (494.3)	2,435 (383)	6,626 (434)

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

~ Average of past 12 months, including the current month.

* Rate annualized based on available months for 2018

Counts under 5 reported as <5 as they are potentially identifiable.

Restricted to those 13 years of age or older. Population estimates for 2016 are used effective the September 2017 report.

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 detect 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 may 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.