

# FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE EMERGENCY PUBLIC REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2018

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

Fraser Health and its partners are working hard to reduce opioid/fentanyl-related overdoses, including the following new actions in September 2018:

- Hosted a peer engagement strategy forum with more than 20 people with lived and living experience, featuring a facilitated dialogue to review and inform Fraser Health's draft Peer Engagement Strategy.
- Community Overdose Innovation Grants were awarded by the Community Action Initiative for projects in Tri-Cities, Surrey, Mission and Hope/Kent/Agassiz
- Fraser Health is in its second month of a community drug checking pilot assessing the utility and feasibility of drug checking outside of our supervised consumption sites and overdose prevention sites. For a full list of locations, please [click here](#).

## FATAL OVERDOSES

According to the BC Coroners Service, there were 27 illicit drug overdose deaths in Fraser Health in August 2018, compared with 44 in July 2018. Data for September 2018 was not yet available at the time this report was published.

**Table 1: Illicit drug overdose deaths within Fraser Health, January 2017 to August 2018**

Community <sup>^</sup>	Jan-Aug 2018	Projected 2018*	2017	% Change (2018* vs. 2017)
Abbotsford	20	30	52	-42
Burnaby	23	35	44	-22
Chilliwack	21	23	23	0
Coquitlam	15	23	23	0
Langley (City + Township)	21	32	36	-13
Maple Ridge	19	29	31	-8
New Westminster	20	30	24	25
Surrey	131	197	175	12
Other communities	39	59	66	-11
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>1,452</b>	<b>0</b>

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

<sup>^</sup> 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.

## SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION AND OVERDOSE PREVENTION SITES

### Supervised Consumption Sites

In September 2018, there were 2,958 visits for substance use and 23 overdoses reversed at Supervised Consumption Sites. In the previous month, there were 3,334 visits and 32 overdoses reversed.

## Overdose Prevention Sites

In September 2018, there were 4,666 visits for any reason, 3,266 visits for substance use, and 4 overdoses reversed at Overdose Prevention Sites. In the previous month, there were 5,264 visits for any reason, 2,831 visits for substance use and 1 overdose reversed.

## OVERDOSES ATTENDED BY BC AMBULANCE

In August 2018, there were 536 overdoses responded to by BC Ambulance Services across Fraser Health, compared to 571 in July 2018. The majority of overdoses year to date occurred among males (71%) and people aged 19 to 39 years (55%). Twenty nine percent of people declined transportation to medical services from BC Ambulance.

**Table 2: Suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance Service within Fraser Health Region.**

Community	2018*			2017		Rate Change (2018* vs. 2017)
	Aug 2018 (12 mo avg~)	Events Jan-Aug	Rate per 100,000	Events	Rate per 100,000	
Abbotsford	59 (50.7)	408	512	645	539	-5
Agassiz-Harrison	<5 (<5)	23	420	36	438	-4
Burnaby	44 (44.8)	352	250	568	269	-7
Chilliwack	36 (36.9)	298	540	475	574	-6
City of Langley	18 (13.9)	107	715	285	1,269	-44
Coquitlam	34 (28.7)	250	312	332	276	13
Delta	17 (17.8)	146	247	202	228	8
Hope	5 (<5)	29	667	38	582	14
Maple Ridge	29 (27.3)	220	473	407	583	-19
Mission	16 (14.2)	111	453	202	550	-18
New Westminster	33 (23.9)	201	455	297	449	2
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	12	114	57	360	-68
Port Coquitlam	15 (12.2)	97	290	169	336	-14
Port Moody	6 (<5)	38	201	48	169	19
Surrey	191 (182.4)	1,581	541	2,598	593	-9
Township of Langley	25 (17.3)	142	216	223	226	-4
White Rock	<5 (<5)	32	260	43	233	12
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>536 (486.6)</b>	<b>4,047</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>6,625</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>-8</b>

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

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

*Counts under 5 reported as <5 as they are potentially identifiable. Restricted to those 13 years of age or older.*

*^ 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*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- For more information on Fraser Health's response to the overdose public health emergency, go to <http://www.fraserhealth.ca/overdose>.
- For information on the provincial response to the public health emergency, go to <http://www.bccdc.ca/our-services/programs/overdose-response>
- To access reports from the BC Coroners Service on illicit drug fatalities, click [here](#).