

FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE EMERGENCY PUBLIC REPORT – OCTOBER 2018

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

- Endorsed a regional Peer Engagement Strategy.
- Hosted a two-day Mental Wellness forum attended by 150 people in partnership with First Nations Health Authority and the Ministry for Children and Family Development. The forum included education on substance use services, pain management, the residential school system and historical trauma, and a traditional long-house healing ceremony.
- Facilitated Overdose Dialogues in each quadrant of Burnaby, with opening remarks by the mayor.

FATAL OVERDOSES

According to the BC Coroners Service, there were 48 suspected illicit drug overdose deaths in Fraser Health in September 2018, compared with 32 in August 2018.

Table 1: Suspected illicit drug overdose deaths within Fraser Health, January 2017 to September 2018

Community [^]	Jan-Sep 2018	Projected 2018*	2017	% Change (2018* vs. 2017)
Abbotsford	29	39	52	-26
Burnaby	31	41	43	-4
Chilliwack	25	33	23	45
Coquitlam	17	23	28	-19
Langley (City + Township)	24	32	36	-11
Maple Ridge	20	27	31	-14
New Westminster	23	31	24	28
Surrey	162	216	177	22
Other communities	48	64	67	-4
Fraser Health	379	505	481	5
BC	1,143	1,524	1,458	5

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

[^] 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 2018.*

SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION AND OVERDOSE PREVENTION SITES

Supervised Consumption Sites

In October 2018, there were 3,299 visits for substance use and 25 overdoses reversed at Supervised Consumption Sites. In the previous month, there were 2,958 visits and 23 overdoses reversed.

Overdose Prevention Sites

In October 2018, there were 4,109 visits for any reason, 3,067 visits for substance use, and 9 overdoses reversed at Overdose Prevention Sites. In the previous month, there were 4,666 visits for any reason, 3,266 visits for substance use and 4 overdoses reversed.

OVERDOSES ATTENDED BY BC AMBULANCE

In September 2018 there were 549 overdoses responded to by BC Ambulance Services across Fraser Health, compared to 570 in August 2018. The majority of overdoses year to date occurred among males (71%) and people aged 19 to 39 years (55%). 28% of persons 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)
	Sep 2018 (12 mo avg~)	Events Jan-Sep	Rate per 100,000	Events	Rate per 100,000	
Abbotsford	60 (51.4)	477	532	645	539	-1
Agassiz-Harrison	<5 (<5)	25	406	36	438	-7
Burnaby	49 (45.2)	405	256	568	269	-5
Chilliwack	42 (37.8)	354	570	475	574	-1
City of Langley	23 (14.4)	132	784	285	1,269	-38
Coquitlam	23 (29.1)	274	304	332	276	10
Delta	12 (17.4)	160	241	202	228	6
Hope	0 (<5)	29	593	38	582	2
Maple Ridge	31 (27.3)	251	479	407	583	-18
Mission	29 (15.6)	140	508	202	550	-8
New Westminster	18 (24.0)	222	447	297	449	0
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	14	118	57	360	-67
Port Coquitlam	15 (12.7)	112	297	169	336	-12
Port Moody	<5 (<5)	39	183	48	169	8
Surrey	216 (187.4)	1,809	551	2,598	593	-7
Township of Langley	23 (18.1)	167	226	223	226	0
White Rock	5 (<5)	37	267	43	233	15
Fraser Health	549 (496.2)	4,647	406	6,625	434	-6

Data Source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services. 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 Records 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.

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](#).