

# FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE EMERGENCY PUBLIC REPORT – APRIL 2019

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

- An opioid dialogue session was held in Agassiz, co-hosted by Fraser Health and with over 50 attendees.
- Fraser Health, in partnership with Surrey RCMP and Surrey Fire Services, was selected as one of five finalists in the MaRS Opioid Data Challenge for their Overdose Cluster Analysis Application. More information on the Opioid Data Challenge is available here: <http://www.healthdatachallenge.com/>
- The Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectrometer (FTIR) drug checking machine is now available at the Abbotsford Community Hub Centre on Tuesdays. More information on drug checking including a list of locations is available here: <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/drugchecking>

## FATAL OVERDOSES

According to the BC Coroners Service, there were 35 suspected illicit drug overdose deaths in Fraser Health in March 2019, compared with 26 in February 2019.

**Table 1: Suspected illicit drug overdose deaths within Fraser Health, January 2018 to March 2019**

Community <sup>^</sup>	Jan-Mar	Projected 2019*	2018	% change (2019* vs. 2018)
Abbotsford	13	52	40	30
Burnaby	7	28	48	-42
Chilliwack	6	24	35	-31
Delta	5	20	21	-5
Langley (City & Township)	7	28	32	-13
New Westminster	7	28	34	-18
Surrey	33	132	212	-38
Other communities	13	52	91	-43
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>-29</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>-29</b>

Data Source: BC Coroners Service Public Report to March 2019.

Preliminary data, numbers subject to change. Numbers include both open and closed cases.

Illicit drug overdose deaths reported by BC Coroners Service include illicit drug overdoses involving street drugs (heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, etc.), medications that were not prescribed to the deceased, combinations of the above, with prescribed medications, and those overdoses where the origin of drug is not known.

<sup>^</sup>Community assigned based on location of overdose and if that is missing, location of death.

\*Projected based on available months for 2019.

## OVERDOSES ATTENDED BY BC AMBULANCE

In March 2019 there were 659 overdoses responded to by BC Ambulance Services across Fraser Health, compared to 640 in February 2019. The majority of overdoses year to date occurred among males (69%) and people aged 19 to 39 years (54%). 25% of persons declined transportation to medical services from BC Ambulance.

**Table 2: Suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance Service within Fraser Health, January 2018 to March 2019**

Community <sup>^</sup>	2019*			2018		Rate change 2019* vs. 2018
	Mar (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Mar	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Mar	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Abbotsford	110 (73.1)	354	1,184	678	567	109
Agassiz / Harrison	<5 (<5)	6	292	36	438	-33
Burnaby	63 (50.2)	168	318	582	275	15
Chilliwack	61 (46.4)	170	822	495	598	37
City of Langley	15 (16.3)	43	766	194	864	-11
Coquitlam	36 (33.2)	113	376	393	327	15
Delta	19 (19.0)	48	217	237	267	-19
Hope	<5 (<5)	7	429	41	628	-32
Maple Ridge	32 (32.8)	104	596	360	516	16
Mission	21 (19.4)	82	892	189	514	74
New Westminster	27 (28.6)	79	477	334	504	-5
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	5	126	22	139	-9
Port Coquitlam	23 (16.8)	61	486	165	328	48
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	9 (6.1)	25	353	60	212	67
South Surrey / White Rock	15 (17.4)	45	214	207	246	-13
Surrey	191 (200.4)	555	563	2,367	600	-6
Township of Langley	31 (22.2)	76	308	234	237	30
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>659 (590.3)</b>	<b>1,941</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>6,594</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>18</b>

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services. Restricted to those 13 years of age or older.

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 Form is completed.

Suspected overdose events include those associated with opioids, stimulants, hallucinogens, and unspecified substance.

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

\*Rate annualized based on available months for 2019.

~Average of past 12 months, including the most recent month.

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

## 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](#).