

# FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE EMERGENCY PUBLIC REPORT – NOVEMBER 2019

## FATAL OVERDOSES

According to the BC Coroners Service, there were 23 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in October 2019, compared with 18 in September 2019. While most Fraser Health communities are projected to have fewer illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2019 than 2018, Abbotsford is the only publicly reported communities projected to have more deaths in 2019 than in 2018 (see Table 1). These projections are subject to change as additional data are received.

**Table 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2018 to October 2019**

Community <sup>^</sup>	Jan-Oct	Projected 2019*	2018	% change (2019* vs. 2018)
Abbotsford	39	47	41	14
Burnaby	25	30	48	-38
Chilliwack	19	23	37	-38
Langley (City & Township)	16	19	33	-42
Maple Ridge	12	14	29	-50
New Westminster	17	20	35	-42
Surrey	105	126	214	-41
Other communities	39	47	65	-28
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>-36</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>-36</b>

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

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

Illicit drug toxicity 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

**NOTE:** Starting with the July 2019 report, Fraser Health's surveillance definition of suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance Service has been modified to include only probable opioid overdose events and suspected overdose events excluding medication overdoses. All data below have been restated using this revised definition.

In September 2019, there were 386 overdoses responded to by BC Ambulance Services across Fraser Health, compared to 472 in August 2019. The majority of overdoses year to date occurred among males (73%) and people aged 19 to 39 years (58%). 28% 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 September 2019**

Community^	2019*			2018		Rate change 2019* vs. 2018
	Sep (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Sep	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Sep	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Abbotsford	32 (58.9)	593	661	387	324	104
Agassiz / Harrison	0 (<5)	19	308	22	268	15
Burnaby	45 (34.6)	358	226	313	148	53
Chilliwack	28 (31.8)	316	509	244	295	73
City of Langley	16 (16.2)	150	891	126	561	59
Coquitlam	17 (23.7)	225	250	241	200	24
Delta	6 (10.6)	92	138	120	135	2
Hope	<5 (<5)	43	879	24	368	139
Maple Ridge	30 (25.0)	240	458	219	314	46
Mission	11 (13.8)	133	482	105	286	69
New Westminster	22 (19.8)	192	387	200	302	28
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	16	135	11	70	94
Port Coquitlam	7 (11.8)	118	313	93	185	69
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	5 (<5)	35	165	33	116	41
South Surrey / White Rock	9 (9.1)	85	135	124	148	-9
Surrey	140 (146.4)	1,370	463	1,562	396	17
Township of Langley	14 (15.5)	161	218	126	128	70
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>386 (428.6)</b>	<b>4,146</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>3,950</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>40</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 or other recreational drugs.

^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](#).