

FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT – JUNE 2020

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

The Provincial Health Services Authority has released the *Lifeguard App*, available from the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#). The app is activated by the user before they take their dose. After 50 seconds the app will sound an alarm. If the user doesn't hit a button to stop the alarm, indicating they are fine, the alarm grows louder. After 75 seconds a text-to-voice call will go straight to 9-1-1, alerting emergency medical dispatchers of a potential overdose. For the full press release, please click [here](#).

FRASER HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY – JUNE 2020

FATAL OVERDOSES

According to the BC Coroners Service, there were 42 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health March 2020 and 32 in April 2020. Many Fraser Health communities are seeing marked increases in drug toxicity deaths, especially Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, and Langley (see Table 1). These counts are subject to change as additional data are received.

Table 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2019 to April 2020

Community [^]	Jan-Apr 2020	2019	% change (2020 vs. 2019)
Abbotsford	10	45	-33
Burnaby	10	31	-3
Chilliwack	9	21	29
Coquitlam	7	11	91
Langley (City & Township)	10	21	43
Maple Ridge	7	13	62
New Westminster	8	18	33
Surrey	48	119	21
Other communities	11	47	-30
Fraser Health	120	326	10
BC	382	978	17

Data Source: BC Coroners Service Public Report to April 2020.

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.

[^]Community assigned based on location of overdose and if that is missing, location of death.

OVERDOSES ATTENDED BY BC AMBULANCE

In March 2020, there were 383 overdoses responded to by BC Ambulance Services across Fraser Health, compared to 317 in February 2020. The majority of overdoses year to date occurred among males (73%) and more than half were among people aged 20 to 39 years (54%). 29% of persons declined transportation to medical services from BC Ambulance. Ambulance-attended overdoses, unlike drug toxicity deaths, did not decrease between 2019 and 2020 in most Fraser Health communities.

Table 2: Suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance Service within Fraser Health, January 2019 to March 2020

Community [^]	2020*			2019		Rate change 2020* vs. 2019
	Mar (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Mar	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Mar	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Abbotsford	39 (51.2)	151	505	730	611	-17
Agassiz / Harrison	<5 (<5)	5	243	26	316	-23
Burnaby	30 (35.2)	88	167	455	215	-23
Chilliwack	21 (29.0)	69	334	391	472	-29
City of Langley	14 (15.1)	31	552	178	793	-30
Coquitlam	30 (20.3)	65	216	264	220	-2
Delta	10 (9.8)	31	140	122	138	2
Hope	<5 (<5)	7	429	46	705	-39
Maple Ridge	15 (24.6)	66	378	312	447	-15
Mission	20 (13.6)	42	457	176	479	-5
New Westminster	24 (19.3)	59	356	233	352	1
Pitt Meadows	0 (<5)	<5	76	21	133	-43
Port Coquitlam	13 (10.7)	33	263	138	275	-4
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	9	127	44	155	-18
South Surrey / White Rock	7 (9.7)	25	119	113	134	-12
Surrey	136 (137.0)	321	326	1,741	441	-26
Township of Langley	18 (16.8)	43	174	203	206	-15
Fraser Health	383 (403.6)	1,048	275	5,193	340	-19

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 2020.

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

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