

FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT

April – June, 2020

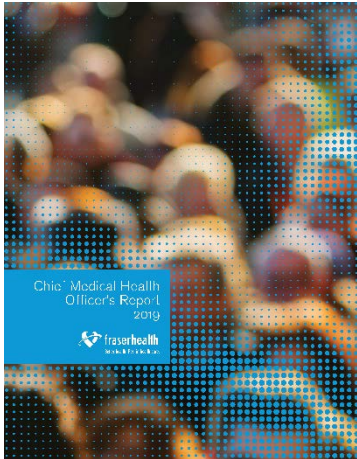


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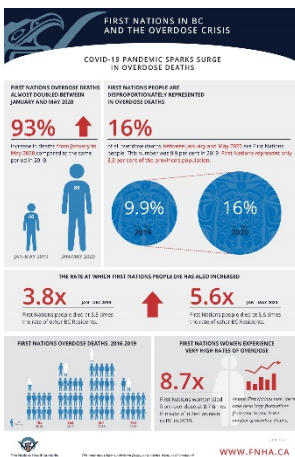
New and Noteworthy

CHIEF MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT



On June 19, Fraser Health released its most recent Chief Medical Health Officer's report, focussing on young adults, women, and South Asian men who have died from illicit drug toxicity. These focus populations were selected because we identified increases in the number of deaths in these demographic groups. You can find the media release [here](#) and the full report [here](#).

FIRST NATION HEALTH AUTHORITY DATA ON OVERDOSE CRISIS



On July 6, the First Nations Health Authority released new data on increases in illicit drug toxicity deaths among Status First Nations people in British Columbia. In the first five months of 2020, deaths increased by 93% for all First Nations people. First Nations women continue to experience very high rates of overdose deaths. The media release and report are available [here](#).

Program Updates

FRASER HEALTH OPIOID STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Fraser Health Opioid Stewardship program has continued to be active in its Case Review and Feedback program which provides surveillance of opioid prescribing focused at Royal Columbian Hospital and Surrey Memorial Hospital. In April and May 2020, a total of 761 patients were screened and 260 patients received 500 interventions aimed at optimizing and ensuring the safe prescribing of opioids.

An increasing proportion of the cases are now arising from referrals from other health professionals (over 50 per month in April and May) indicating that the program is gaining recognition as a valuable resource for health care teams. In the near future, the Opioid Stewardship team plans to roll out a new surgical discharge prescribing guidance tool to help ensure that appropriate quantities of discharge opioids are prescribed after common surgical procedures.

The team is also actively involved in evaluating the impact of the Opioid Stewardship Program by analyzing longer term trends in prescribing of opioids and sedative-hypnotic drugs at Fraser Health sites.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

- MHSU staff and other FH staff in each community formed Integrated Response Teams (IRTs), which respond together with family practitioners, to referrals for people who are homeless for Emergency Response Centres (ERCs) and Isolation Centres (ICs) to support people to physical distance and people who are symptomatic for covid-19
 - Addiction consultation, harm reduction and other health support services are offered at ERCs and ICs
- Received funding from MMHA to implement Substance Use Integrated Teams (SUIT) in Fraser East to engage and retain adult clients in treatment and recovery services, and support people to move seamlessly between services in the system
- Opened a Virtual Health Addictions Clinic (VHAC) which offers virtual addictions care to augment services at Community OAT clinics without physician coverage; RAAC to facilitate retention to care while promoting self-isolation to reduce transmission of COVID-19; ERCs and ICs, which provide a space to self-isolate. Between April 1 and June 30th, there were 385 total visits, and 48 individuals were started or restarted on Opioid Agonist Treatment.

EMERGENCY NETWORK

- Seven FH EDs are partnering with the BC Patient Safety and Quality Council in the provincial Learning about Opioid Use Disorder (LOUD) in ED project.
- All FH EDs are now providing Safer Injection Kits to patients who use injectable substances for harm reduction purposes.
- Emergency Network and MHSU program leads are working in partnership with the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) to undertake a formal evaluation of a trauma and resiliency training program (TRIP) for 100 FH Emergency Department (ED) staff members. The goal is to understand its potential effectiveness in reducing stigmatizing attitudes and behaviours and improve compassion satisfaction and resiliency among health care providers. Program planning is currently underway for October implementation.
- SUSAT referrals from FH ED's have continued to rise over the past year, with a milestone of over 1000 referrals achieved for the month of July alone.

Fraser Health Surveillance Summary

January 2020

FATAL OVERDOSES

Across British Columbia, record numbers of drug toxicity deaths occurred in May and June 2020. According to the BC Coroners Service, there were 51 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in June 2020, compared with 54 in May 2020. Compared with 2019, deaths have increased by the largest margin in Maple Ridge, Coquitlam, Langley, and New Westminster (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 June 2020

Community [^]	Jan-Jun 2020	2019	% change (2020 vs. 2019)
Abbotsford	22	45	-2
Burnaby	19	31	23
Chilliwack	14	21	33
Coquitlam	10	11	82
Langley (City & Township)	18	21	71
Maple Ridge	15	13	131
New Westminster	16	19	68
Surrey	92	119	55
Other communities	22	48	-8
Fraser Health	228	328	39
BC	728	981	48

Data Source: BC Coroners Service Public Report to June 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

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.

In May 2020, there were 579 overdoses responded to by BC Ambulance Services across Fraser Health, compared to 475 in April 2020. The majority of overdoses year to date occurred among males (75%) and people aged 20 to 39 years (56%). 33% of persons declined transportation to medical services from BC Ambulance.

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

Community [^]	2020*			2019		
	May (Avg. past 12 months [~])	Jan-May	Rate per 100,000 Jan- May	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan- Dec	Rate change 2020* vs. 2019
Abbotsford	74 (49.6)	273	548	731	611	-10
Agassiz / Harrison	5 (<5)	12	350	27	329	7
Burnaby	43 (34.8)	182	207	450	213	-3
Chilliwack	41 (29.1)	151	438	388	469	-7
City of Langley	29 (14.4)	78	834	173	770	8
Coquitlam	25 (20.9)	117	234	259	215	8
Delta	14 (10.5)	58	157	119	134	17
Hope	<5 (<5)	11	405	46	705	-43
Maple Ridge	34 (23.7)	114	392	311	445	-12
Mission	14 (13.3)	73	477	182	495	-4
New Westminster	23 (18.7)	97	352	229	346	2
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	<5	61	22	139	-56
Port Coquitlam	14 (11.3)	65	311	136	271	15
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	14	119	45	159	-25
South Surrey / White Rock	<5 (<5)	13	37	39	46	-20
Surrey	202 (138.3)	697	424	1,738	441	-4
Township of Langley	42 (19.0)	105	255	201	204	25
Fraser Health	579 (403.7)	2,102	330	5,171	339	-2

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.

OVERDOSE PREVENTION & SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITES

Please see the Fraser Health website for a list of [overdose prevention sites](#) and [supervised consumption sites](#).

Table 3: Visits and overdoses reversed at overdose prevention sites and supervised consumption sites in Fraser Health, January-March 2020 vs. April-June 2020

	Visits for consumption		Overdose reversed [^]	
	Apr-Jun 2020	Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jan-Mar 2020
Overdose prevention sites total	4,344	9,207	5	7
Supervised consumption sites total	7,532	11,534	66	128

[^]Among visits for consumption.

DRUG CHECKING

To find a drug checking site near you, please click [here](#).

Table 4: Drug checking volumes in Fraser Health, January-March 2020 vs. April-June 2020

Tests performed		Fentanyl positive		% Fentanyl positive	
Apr-Jun 2020	Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jan-Mar 2020
0	55	0	44	0	80

Data source: Agiloft and BC Centre for Substance Use.

Table 5: Drug checking by substance in Fraser Health, January-March 2020 vs. April-June 2020

Buy-as	Tests performed		Fentanyl positive		% Fentanyl positive	
	Apr-Jun 2020	Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jan-Mar 2020
Opioid [^]	0	47	0	43	0	92
Psychedelic	0	2	0	0	0	0
Depressant	0	2	0	0	0	0
Other [*]	0	4	0	1	0	25
All substances	0	55	0	44	0	80

Data source: Agiloft and BC Centre for Substance Use.

[^]Opioid includes heroin, fentanyl, or 'down'.

^{*}Other includes substances mixtures. For example, heroin and methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin.

OPIOID AGONIST THERAPY

Table 6: Opioid Agonist Therapy, April – June, 2020

Clinics	Methadone [^]	Suboxone [^]	Kadian [^]
Abbotsford	3	9	0
Burnaby	13	14	0
Chilliwack	30	17	3
Creekside Inpatient Detox/Withdrawal Management Centre	5	33	2
Creekside Rapid Access Addictions (RAAC)	173	175	57
Langley	23	24	5
Maple Ridge Alouette	33	7	8
Maxine Wright	2	3	1
MHSU UCRC	7	2	2
Mission	9	6	0
Port Moody	36	19	12
Surrey Substance Use Services	10	6	3
Roshni Clinic	1	4	0
SHOP Clinic	3	0	3
Surrey ICM Team	7	3	2
White Rock	14	13	4
Total Starts	369	335	102

[^]Numbers may also include restarts