

# FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT – AUGUST 2020

## NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

## FRASER HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY – AUGUST 2020

### FATAL OVERDOSES

According to the BC Coroners Service, there were 56 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health July 2020 and 51 in June 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 July 2020**

Community <sup>^</sup>	Jan-Jul 2020	2019	% change (2020 vs. 2019)
Abbotsford	26	45	-1
Burnaby	21	31	16
Chilliwack	19	21	55
Coquitlam	17	11	165
Langley (City & Township)	23	21	88
Maple Ridge	16	13	111
New Westminster	19	19	71
Surrey	113	119	63
Other communities	31	49	8
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>58</b>

Data Source: BC Coroners Service Public Report to July 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.

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

## OVERDOSES ATTENDED BY BC AMBULANCE

In July 2020, there were 672 overdoses responded to by BC Ambulance Services across Fraser Health, compared to 720 in June 2020. The majority of overdoses year to date occurred among males (75%) and more than half were among people aged 20 to 39 years (53%). 32% 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 July 2020**

Community <sup>^</sup>	2020*			2019		Rate change 2020* vs. 2019
	Jul (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Jul	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Jul	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Abbotsford	90 (54.7)	448	642	731	611	5
Agassiz / Harrison	<5 (<5)	21	438	27	329	33
Burnaby	50 (38.8)	302	245	450	213	15
Chilliwack	46 (33.1)	261	541	388	469	15
City of Langley	27 (14.4)	115	878	173	770	14
Coquitlam	33 (23.1)	181	258	259	215	20
Delta	24 (14.4)	120	232	119	134	73
Hope	7 (<5)	39	1,025	46	705	45
Maple Ridge	44 (26.5)	188	462	311	445	4
Mission	27 (15.6)	124	578	182	495	17
New Westminster	41 (21.2)	178	461	229	346	33
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	13	141	22	139	1
Port Coquitlam	21 (12.8)	107	365	136	271	35
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	29	175	45	159	10
South Surrey / White Rock	12 (12.9)	108	220	114	136	62
Surrey	212 (146.3)	1,080	469	1,738	441	7
Township of Langley	27 (21.3)	180	313	201	204	54
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>672 (447.7)</b>	<b>3,494</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>5,171</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>16</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.

<sup>^</sup>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.