

FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2020

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

FRASER HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2020

FATAL OVERDOSES

According to the BC Coroners Service, there were 39 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health September 2020 and 54 in August 2020. Many Fraser Health communities are seeing marked increases in drug toxicity deaths, especially Coquitlam, New Westminister, and Maple Ridge (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 September 2020

| Community [^] | Jan-Sep 2020 | 2019 | % change (2020 vs. 2019) |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Abbotsford | 39 | 45 | 16 |
| Burnaby | 32 | 31 | 38 |
| Chilliwack | 25 | 21 | 59 |
| Coquitlam | 22 | 11 | 167 |
| Langley (City & Township) | 27 | 22 | 64 |
| Maple Ridge | 18 | 13 | 85 |
| New Westminister | 30 | 19 | 111 |
| Surrey | 142 | 118 | 60 |
| Other communities | 47 | 47 | 33 |
| Fraser Health | 382 | 327 | 56 |
| BC | 1,202 | 981 | 63 |

Data Source: BC Coroners Service Public Report to September 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 August 2020, there were 611 overdoses responded to by BC Ambulance Services across Fraser Health, compared to 672 in July 2020. The majority of overdoses year to date occurred among males (75%) and more than half were among people aged 20 to 39 years (52%). 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 August 2020

| Community [^] | 2020* | | | 2019 | | Rate change 2020* vs. 2019 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Aug (Avg. past 12 months~) | Jan-Aug | Rate per 100,000 Jan-Aug | Jan-Dec | Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec | |
| Abbotsford | 77 (57.8) | 525 | 753 | 731 | 611 | 23 |
| Agassiz / Harrison | 6 (<5) | 27 | 563 | 27 | 329 | 71 |
| Burnaby | 49 (40.9) | 351 | 285 | 450 | 213 | 34 |
| Chilliwack | 47 (34.1) | 308 | 638 | 388 | 469 | 36 |
| City of Langley | 19 (14.9) | 134 | 1,023 | 173 | 770 | 33 |
| Coquitlam | 43 (23.2) | 224 | 319 | 259 | 215 | 48 |
| Delta | 17 (14.3) | 137 | 265 | 119 | 134 | 97 |
| Hope | <5 (<5) | 42 | 1,104 | 46 | 705 | 57 |
| Maple Ridge | 29 (26.5) | 217 | 533 | 311 | 445 | 20 |
| Mission | 16 (16.1) | 140 | 653 | 182 | 495 | 32 |
| New Westminster | 35 (22.8) | 213 | 552 | 229 | 346 | 59 |
| Pitt Meadows | <5 (<5) | 14 | 152 | 22 | 139 | 9 |
| Port Coquitlam | 18 (12.8) | 125 | 427 | 136 | 271 | 58 |
| Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra | 6 (<5) | 35 | 212 | 45 | 159 | 33 |
| South Surrey / White Rock | 11 (13.0) | 119 | 243 | 114 | 136 | 79 |
| Surrey | 208 (149.6) | 1,288 | 560 | 1,738 | 441 | 27 |
| Township of Langley | 26 (21.8) | 206 | 358 | 201 | 204 | 76 |
| Fraser Health | 611 (460.3) | 4,105 | 461 | 5,171 | 339 | 36 |

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.