

TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2022

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 35 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in September 2022.
- This is less than deaths reported in the previous month, with 50 deaths in August 2022.
- Compared to 2021, the greatest increase in drug toxicity deaths in 2022 has been seen in Abbotsford (+9%).

Table 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2021 to September 2022

Community**	Jan-Sep 2022	2021	% Change (2022* vs. 2021)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	71	87	9
Chilliwack	27	57	-37
Fraser North			
Burnaby	47	78	-20
Maple Ridge	28	45	-17
Fraser South			
Surrey	169	283	-20
Langley	34	58	-22
Other Communities	116	173	-11
Fraser Health	492	781	-16
BC	1,644	2,267	-3

Data source: BC Coroners Service to Sep 30, 2022.

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

Illicit drug toxicity deaths reported by BC Coroners Service include those involving street drugs (heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, etc.), medications that were not prescribed to the deceased, combinations of the above, with prescribed medications, and where the origin of drug is not known.

**Community assigned based on location of injury and if that is missing, location of death.

*Year to date.

PARAMEDIC-ATTENDED TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

- BC paramedics responded to 500 toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in September 2022; this is a 32% decrease compared to the previous 12 months (Table 2).
- Compared to 2021, the greatest increases in paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events have occurred in Mission (+23%), Abbotsford (+18%), and Port Moody/ Anmore/ Belcarra (+10%).
- In 2022, the largest decreases in the rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events have occurred in Port Coquitlam (-49%), Hope (-47%), and Agassiz/Harrison (-45%) compared to 2021.

Table 2: Suspected paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events within Fraser Health, January 2021 to September 2022

Community**	2022*			2021		Rate change 2022* vs. 2021
	Sep (Av g. past 12 months-)	Jan-Sep	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Sep	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	91 (123.6)	1,099	1,039	1,224	881	18
Agassiz / Harrison^	6 (<5)	33	453	79	826	-45
Chilliwack	42 (54.5)	422	606	752	827	-27
Hope^	<5 (5.3)	32	537	80	1,007	-47
Mission	22 (32.8)	291	934	311	759	23
Fraser North						
Burnaby	35 (48.4)	430	246	580	252	-2
Coquitlam	35 (34.3)	297	288	473	350	-18
Maple Ridge	25 (53.4)	414	697	683	871	-20
New Westminster	27 (38.4)	316	553	562	751	-26
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	31	237	49	284	-17
Port Coquitlam	11 (14.7)	104	247	270	489	-49
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	41	162	49	148	10
Fraser South						
City of Langley	20 (32.2)	271	1,434	341	1,387	3
Delta	6 (16.8)	131	170	197	196	-13
South Surrey / White Rock	10 (13.0)	111	151	177	184	-18
Surrey	144 (228.2)	1,906	555	3,061	683	-19
Township of Langley	18 (22.3)	180	202	334	287	-30
Fraser Health	500 (730.9)	6,109	471	9,222	543	-13

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to Sep 30, 2022. 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. Numbers may change with data quality and analysis refinements and are not directly comparable to numbers reported previously.

Suspected toxic drug poisoning events include those associated with opioids or other drugs.

**Community assigned based on location where the paramedics attended the event.

*Rate annualized based on available months for 2022.

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

^Rates may fluctuate due to small population size.

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