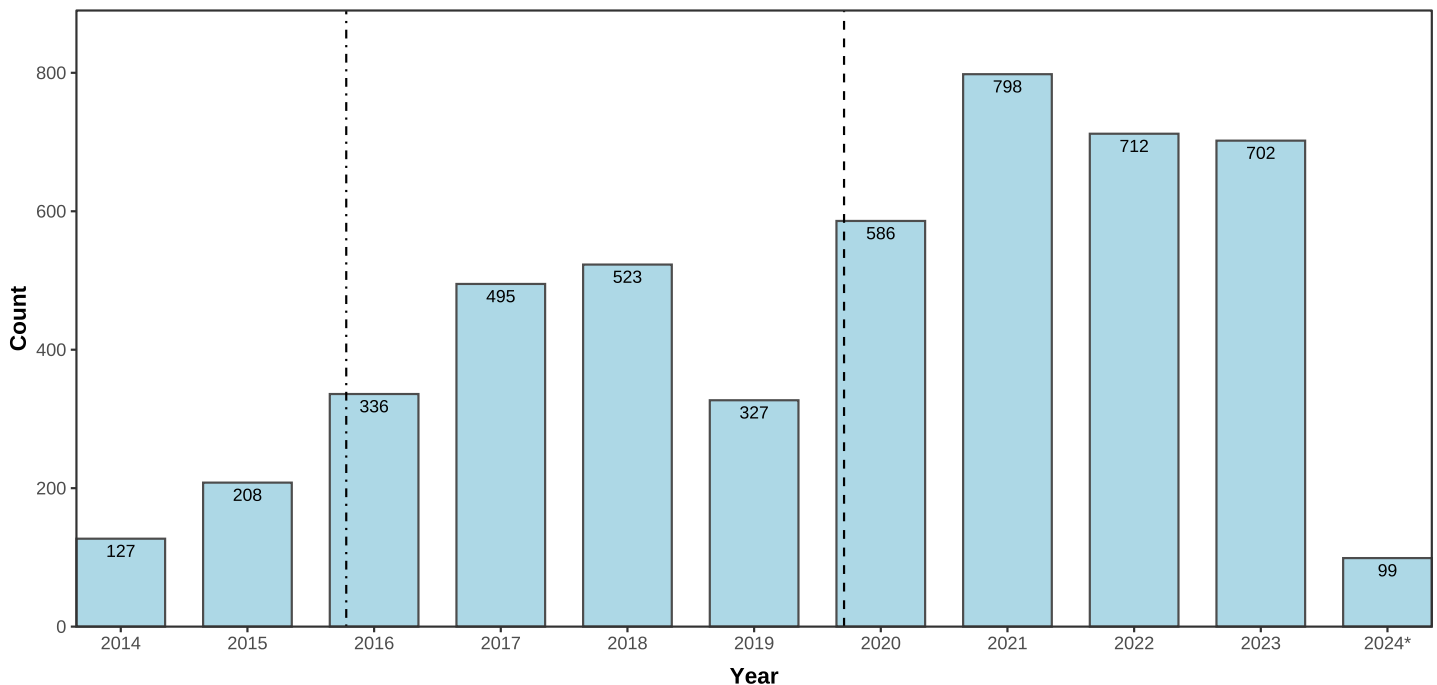


TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT, FEBRUARY 2024

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 38 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in February 2024.
- This is a 38% decrease from the number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 61 deaths in January 2024.
- Compared to 2023, the greatest increases in (projected) drug toxicity deaths in 2024 have been seen in Coquitlam (+68%), Langley (+15%), and Abbotsford (+12%) (Table 1).

Figure 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2013 to February 2024



Toxic drug supply emergency declared on 14 April 2016 (two dash grey line)

COVID-19 emergency declared on 17 March 2020 (short dash grey line)

Data source: BC Coroners Service. 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 but obtained on the street, from unknown means, and where the origin of drug is unknown.

* To February 2024.

Table 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2023 to February 2024

Community**	Jan-Feb 2024	Jan-Dec 2023	% Change (2024* vs. 2023)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	17	91	12
Chilliwack	5	59	-49
Fraser North			
Burnaby	9	51	6
Coquitlam	7	25	68
New Westminster	2	38	-68
Fraser South			
Langley	9	47	15
Surrey	29	237	-27
Other Fraser Health Communities	21	154	-18
Fraser Health	99	702	-15
BC	377	2,546	-11

Data source: BC Coroners Service to Feb 29, 2024.

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.

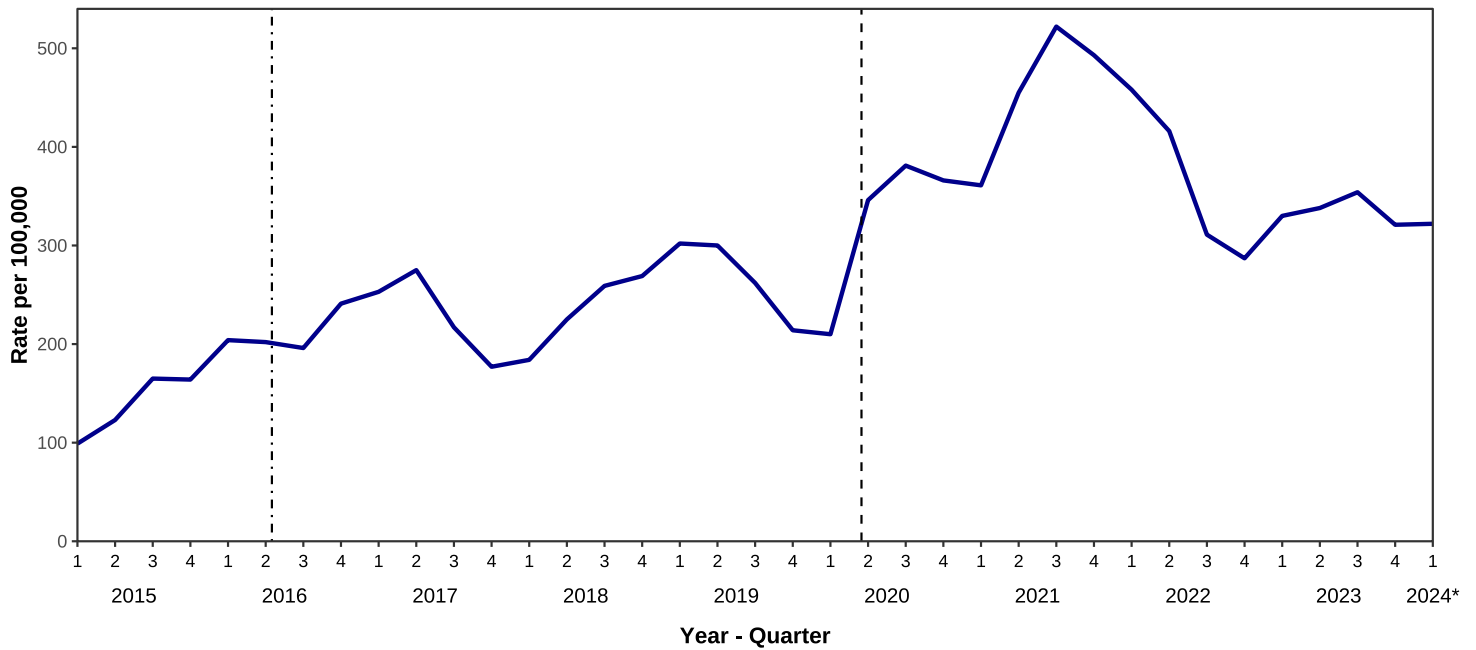
**Community assigned based on location of injury and if that is missing, location of death.

*Year to date; count annualized based on available months for 2024.

PARAMEDIC-ATTENDED TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

- Effective this report, paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events of those less than 13 years old are included.
- Paramedics responded to 601 suspected toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in February 2024; this is a 2% increase compared to the average of the previous 12 months (Table 2).
- Compared to 2023, the greatest increases in the projected rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events in 2024 have occurred in South Surrey / White Rock (+21%) and Surrey (+12%) (Table 2).
- Compared to 2023, the largest decreases in the projected rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events in 2024 have occurred in Pitt Meadows (-84%), Hope*** (-71%), Delta (-42%), and New Westminster (-39%) (Table 2).

Figure 2: Quarterly rate of suspected paramedic-attended drug poisoning events in Fraser Health, January 2015 to February 2024



Toxic drug supply emergency declared on 14 April 2016 (two dash grey line)

COVID-19 emergency declared on 17 March 2020 (short dash grey line)

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services. Preliminary data, numbers subject to change.

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

* To February 2024; rates for incomplete quarters are projected based on available months for 2024.

Table 2: Suspected paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events within Fraser Health, January 2023 to February 2024

Community**	2024*			2023		
	Feb (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Feb	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Feb	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	% Rate change 2024* vs. 2023
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	75 (85.2)	151	499	1004	570	-13
Agassiz / Harrison***	<5 (<5)	6	302	46	398	-24
Chilliwack	69 (59.9)	119	617	733	653	-5
Hope***	<5 (5.2)	<5	198	61	681	-71
Mission	23 (21.5)	42	490	272	542	-10
Fraser North						
Burnaby	38 (46.2)	98	205	537	192	7
Coquitlam	23 (26.9)	55	188	330	196	-4
Maple Ridge	50 (40.1)	84	490	475	475	3
New Westminister	25 (37.5)	49	321	471	530	-39
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	<5	27	36	168	-84
Port Coquitlam	11 (11.4)	18	157	148	220	-29
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	6 (<5)	9	122	51	120	2
Fraser South						
City of Langley	10 (17.4)	31	556	205	642	-13
Delta	9 (11)	14	69	142	119	-42
South Surrey / White Rock	12 (11)	27	133	129	109	21
Surrey	221 (188.3)	430	438	2227	393	12
Township of Langley	25 (17.8)	35	136	229	153	-11
Fraser Health	601 (590.7)	1172	322	7096	336	-4

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to Feb 29, 2024.

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 2024.

~Average of past 12 months, does not include the most recent month.

***Rates may fluctuate due to small population size.

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