

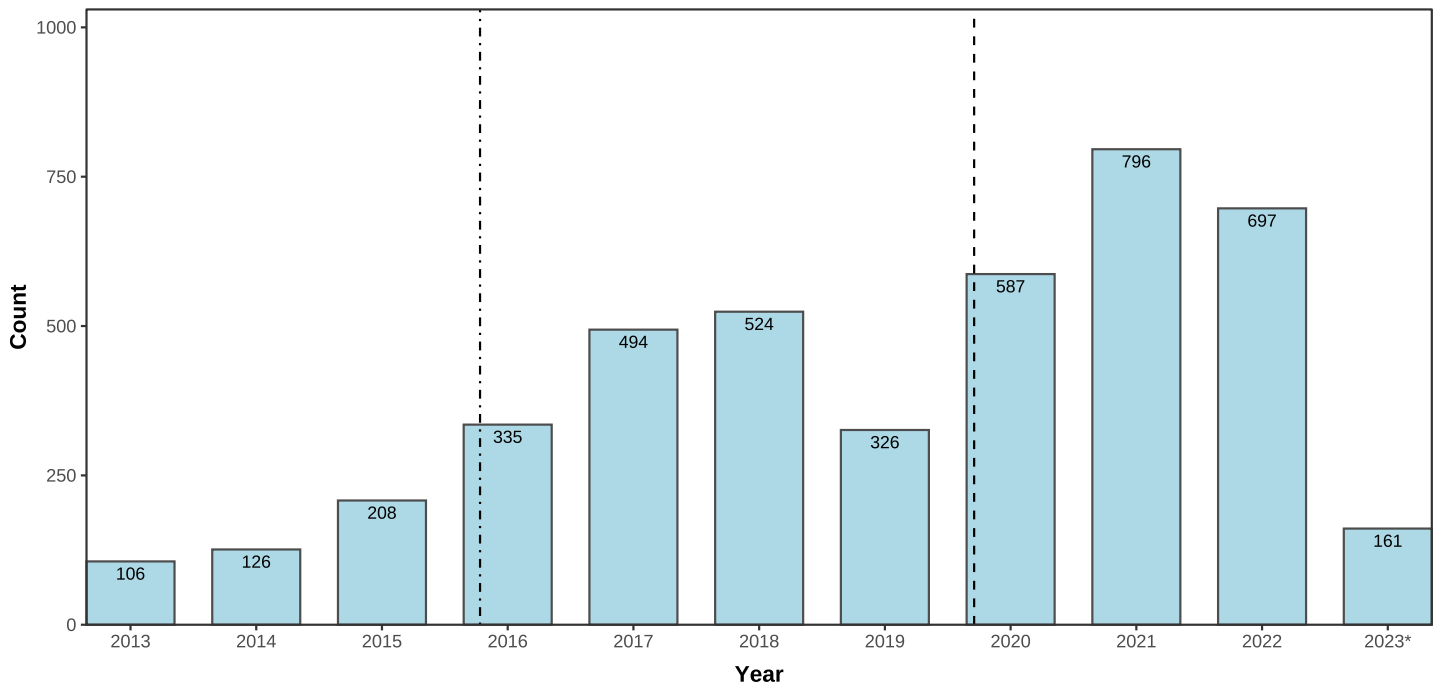
TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE

PUBLIC REPORT, MARCH 2023

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 50 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in March 2023.
- This is a 6% increase from the number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 47 deaths in February 2023.
- Compared to 2022, the greatest increases in (projected) drug toxicity deaths in 2023 have been seen in Chilliwack (+80%) and Langley (+7%) (Table 1).

Figure 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2013 to March 2023



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 March 2023.

Table 1: Illicit drug toxicity deaths within Fraser Health, January 2022 to March 2023

Community**	Jan-Mar 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	% Change (2023* vs. 2022)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	20	91	-12
Chilliwack	22	49	80
Fraser North			
Burnaby	6	68	-65
Coquitlam	5	32	-38
New Westminster	8	31	3
Fraser South			
Langley	11	41	7
Surrey	55	237	-7
Other Communities	34	148	-8
Fraser Health	161	697	-8
BC	596	2,314	3

Data source: BC Coroners Service to Mar 31, 2023.

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.

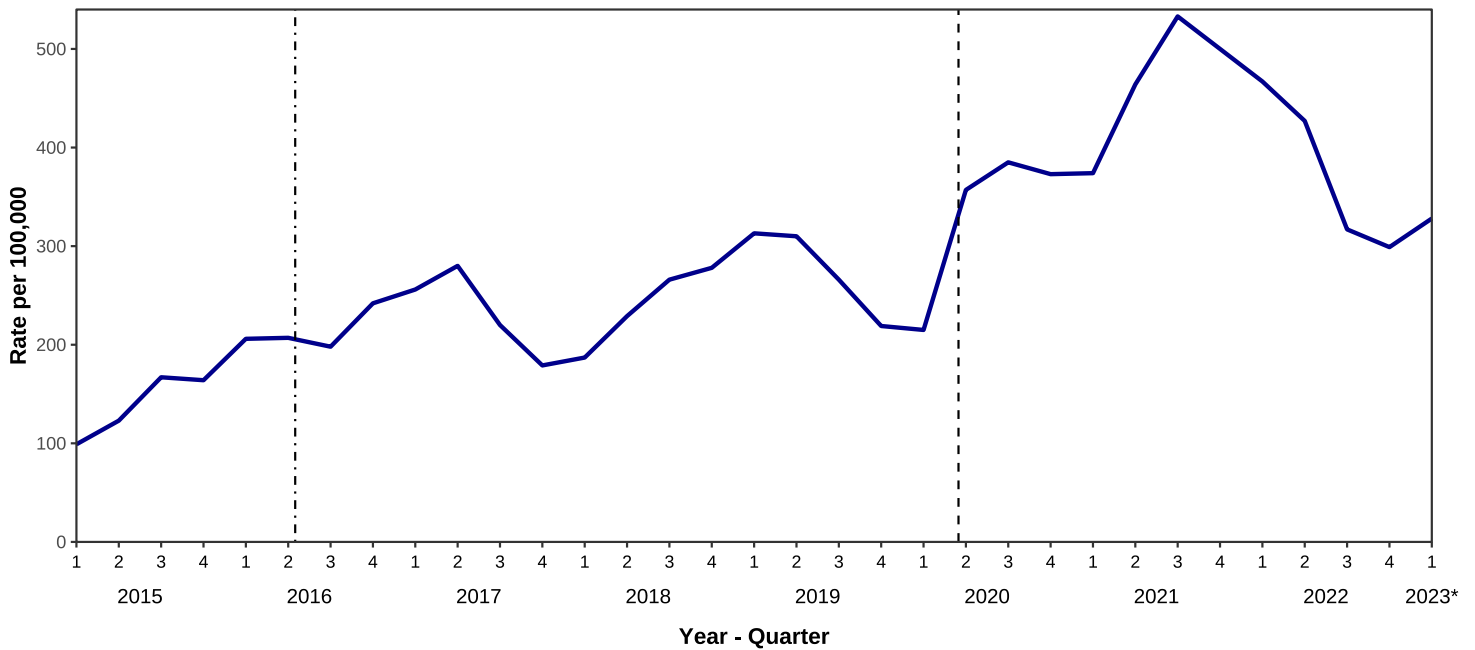
**Community assigned based on location of injury and if that is missing, location of death.

*Year to date; count annualized based on available months for 2023.

PARAMEDIC-ATTENDED TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

- BC paramedics responded to 531 toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in February 2023; this is a 14% decrease compared to the previous 12 months (Table 2).
- Compared to 2022, the greatest increases in the rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events have occurred in Port Coquitlam (+36%), Chilliwack (+27%), and New Westminster (+10%) (Table 2).
- Compared to 2022, the largest decreases in the rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events have occurred in Abbotsford (-49%), Hope^ (-46%), and Agassiz / Harrison^ (-41%) (Table 2).

Figure 2: Quarterly rate of suspected paramedic-attended drug poisoning events in Fraser Health, January 2015 to February 2023



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 2023; rates for incomplete quarters are projected based on available months for 2023.

Table 2: Suspected paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events within Fraser Health, January 2022 to February 2023

Community**	2023*			2022		% Rate change 2023* vs. 2022
	Feb (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Feb	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Feb	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	55 (103.7)	115	468	1317	912	-49
Agassiz / Harrison^	<5 (<5)	<5	241	40	409	-41
Chilliwack	59 (48.7)	126	795	582	628	27
Hope^	<5 (<5)	<5	290	44	538	-46
Mission	29 (30.4)	64	896	371	883	1
Fraser North						
Burnaby	32 (46.1)	76	188	567	238	-21
Coquitlam	26 (30.2)	65	275	377	272	1
Maple Ridge	36 (37.8)	66	464	488	586	-21
New Westminster	34 (35.1)	80	616	426	558	10
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	6	197	46	257	-23
Port Coquitlam	13 (11.8)	31	323	134	237	36
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	9 (<5)	10	167	54	154	8
Fraser South						
City of Langley	22 (26.2)	39	907	326	1,277	-29
Delta	13 (13.5)	28	162	161	157	3
South Surrey / White Rock	9 (11.7)	21	118	145	142	-17
Surrey	173 (190.2)	354	447	2317	499	-10
Township of Langley	13 (19.2)	40	196	235	196	0
Fraser Health	531 (618.3)	1129	377	7630	434	-13

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to Feb 28, 2023. 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 2023.

~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.