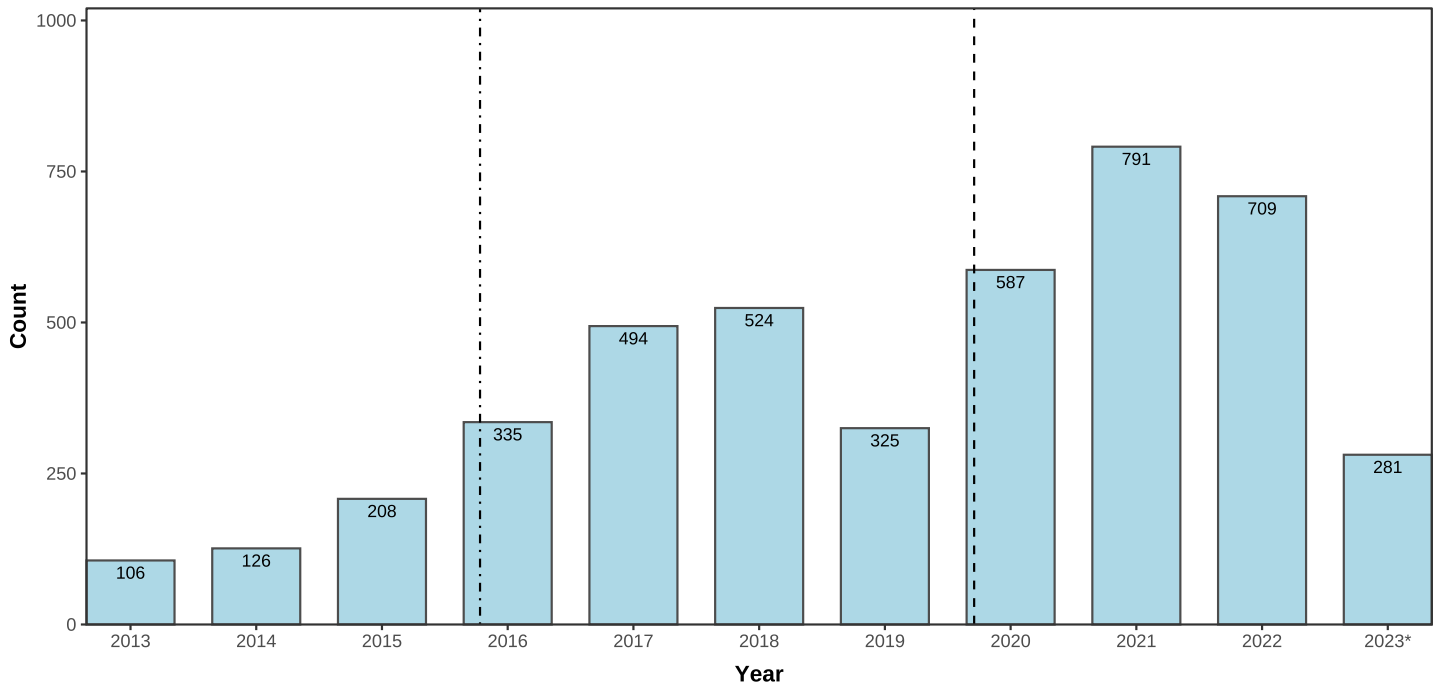


TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT, MAY 2023

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 54 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in May 2023.
- This is a 8% decrease from the number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 59 deaths in April 2023.
- Compared to 2022, the greatest increases in (projected) drug toxicity deaths in 2023 have been seen in Chilliwack (+54%) and Langley (+23%) (Table 1).

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

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

Community**	Jan-May 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	% Change (2023* vs. 2022)
Fraser East			
Abbotsford	39	91	3
Chilliwack	32	50	54
Fraser North			
Burnaby	12	69	-58
Coquitlam	9	34	-36
New Westminster	13	32	-3
Fraser South			
Langley	22	43	23
Surrey	96	241	-4
Other Communities	58	149	-7
Fraser Health	281	709	-5
BC	1,018	2,358	4

Data source: BC Coroners Service to May 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.

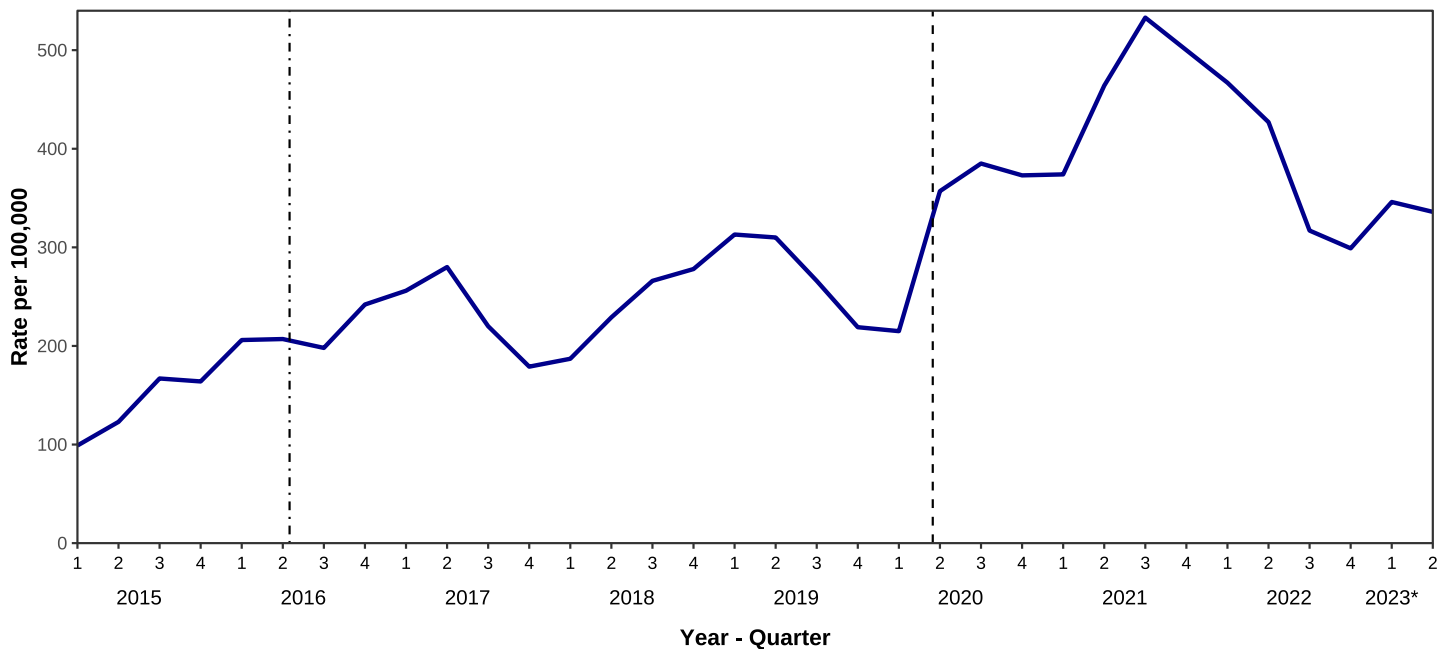
**Community assigned based on location of injury and if that is missing, location of death.

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

PARAMEDIC-ATTENDED TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

- Paramedics responded to 578 suspected toxic drug poisoning events across Fraser Health in April 2023; this is a 2% decrease compared to the average of the previous 12 months (Table 2).
- Compared to 2022, the greatest increases in the projected rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events in 2023 have occurred in Hope*** (+35%), Chilliwack (+31%), and Port Coquitlam (+28%) (Table 2).
- Compared to 2022, the largest decreases in the projected rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events in 2023 have occurred in Abbotsford (-34%), City of Langley (-29%), and Pitt Meadows (-23%) (Table 2).

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

Community**	2023*			2022		
	Apr (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Apr	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Apr	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	% Rate change 2023* vs. 2022
Fraser East						
Abbotsford	81 (89.8)	297	604	1317	912	-34
Agassiz / Harrison***	<5 (<5)	12	362	40	409	-12
Chilliwack	69 (51.2)	261	823	582	628	31
Hope***	7 (<5)	20	725	44	538	35
Mission	19 (27.3)	113	791	371	883	-10
Fraser North						
Burnaby	47 (43.9)	162	200	567	238	-16
Coquitlam	24 (30)	132	279	377	272	3
Maple Ridge	48 (36.7)	153	538	488	586	-8
New Westminster	31 (35.5)	152	585	426	558	5
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	12	197	46	257	-23
Port Coquitlam	7 (12.5)	58	302	134	237	28
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	<5 (<5)	20	167	54	154	8
Fraser South						
City of Langley	19 (23.3)	78	907	326	1,277	-29
Delta	7 (12.2)	49	141	161	157	-10
South Surrey / White Rock	7 (11.6)	43	121	145	142	-15
Surrey	178 (180.1)	718	453	2317	499	-9
Township of Langley	24 (18.2)	81	198	235	196	1
Fraser Health	578 (587.6)	2361	394	7630	434	-9

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to Apr 30, 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.