

# TOXIC DRUG POISONING RESPONSE PUBLIC REPORT, AUGUST 2022

## ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS

- According to BC Coroners Service, there were 50 illicit drug toxicity deaths in Fraser Health in August 2022.
- This is the same number of deaths reported in the previous month, with 50 deaths in July 2022.
- Compared to 2021, the greatest increase in drug toxicity deaths in 2022 has been seen in Abbotsford (+12%).

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

Community**	Jan-Aug 2022	2021	% Change (2022* vs. 2021)
<b>Fraser East</b>			
Abbotsford	65	87	12
Chilliwack	24	57	-37
<b>Fraser North</b>			
Burnaby	44	78	-15
Maple Ridge	27	45	-10
<b>Fraser South</b>			
Surrey	152	283	-19
Langley	34	58	-12
Other Communities	109	173	-5
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>-13</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>1,468</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>-3</b>

Data source: BC Coroners Service to Aug 31, 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 August 2022; this is a 35% 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 (+28%), Abbotsford (+22%), and Port Moody/ Anmore/ Belcarra (+17%).
- In 2022, the largest decreases in the rate of paramedic-attended toxic drug poisoning events have occurred in Agassiz/Harrison (-49%), Port Coquitlam (-49%), and Hope (-47%) compared to 2021.

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

Community**	2022*			2021		Rate change 2022* vs. 2021
	Aug (Av g. past 12 months-)	Jan-Aug	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Aug	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
<b>Fraser East</b>						
Abbotsford	83 (125.9)	1,008	1,072	1,224	881	22
Agassiz / Harrison^	5 (5.3)	27	417	79	826	-49
Chilliwack	35 (57.7)	380	614	752	827	-26
Hope^	<5 (5.8)	28	529	80	1,007	-47
Mission	21 (32.8)	269	971	311	759	28
<b>Fraser North</b>						
Burnaby	56 (49.7)	395	255	580	252	1
Coquitlam	23 (37.3)	262	286	473	350	-18
Maple Ridge	32 (58.2)	389	737	683	871	-15
New Westminster	22 (40.8)	289	569	562	751	-24
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	29	249	49	284	-12
Port Coquitlam	8 (15.8)	93	249	270	489	-49
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	5 (5.2)	39	173	49	148	17
<b>Fraser South</b>						
City of Langley	18 (32.8)	251	1,494	341	1,387	8
Delta	11 (17.3)	125	183	197	196	-7
South Surrey / White Rock	6 (13.1)	101	155	177	184	-16
Surrey	158 (240.6)	1,762	577	3,061	683	-16
Township of Langley	14 (23.6)	162	204	334	287	-29
<b>Fraser Health</b>	<b>500 (765.6)</b>	<b>5,609</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>9,222</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>-10</b>

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services to Aug 31, 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.