

This report summarizes all unintentional illicit drug toxicity deaths in British Columbia (accidental and undetermined) that occurred between January 1, 2012, and March 31, 2022, inclusive. It includes confirmed and suspected illicit toxicity deaths (inclusion criteria below). *Please note that data is subject to change as investigations are concluded.* ¹<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events/death/coroners-service/statistical-reports>

Inclusion Criteria: The illicit drug toxicity category includes the following:

- Street drugs (Controlled and illegal drugs: heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, illicit fentanyl etc.).
- Medications not prescribed to the decedent but obtained/purchased on the street, from unknown means or where origin of drug not known.
- Combinations of the above with prescribed medications.

Note: 2022 data is up to the month of March. Due to the short time frame, rates, numbers, and percentages should be interpreted with caution and are subject to change as investigations are completed.

2022 Summary

- In March 2022, there were 165 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths. This is the second highest number of deaths ever recorded in the month of March.
- The total of 165 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths represent a 5% decrease from the number of deaths in March 2021 (174) and is a 5% decrease from the number of deaths occurring in February 2022 (174).
- The number of illicit drug toxicity deaths in March 2022 equates to about 5.3 deaths per day.
- In 2022, 74% of those dying were aged 30 to 59, and 77% were male.
- The townships experiencing the highest number of illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2022 are Vancouver, Surrey, and Victoria.
- By Health Authority (HA), in 2022, the highest **number** of illicit drug toxicity deaths were in Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Health Authorities (182 and 156 deaths, respectively), making up 62% of all such deaths during this period.
- By Health Authority (HA), in 2022, the highest **rates** were in Northern Health (52 deaths per 100,000 individuals) and Vancouver Coastal Health (50 per 100,000). Overall, the rate in BC is 42 deaths per 100,000 individuals in 2022.
- By Health Service Delivery Area (HSDA), in 2022, the highest **rates** were in Vancouver, Thompson Cariboo, Fraser East, Northern Interior and Northwest.

- By Local Health Area (LHA), in **2021**, the highest **rates** were in Upper Skeena, Merritt, Enderby, Lillooet, and North Thompson.
- In 2022, 85% of illicit drug toxicity deaths occurred inside (57% in private residences and 28% in other residences including social and supportive housing, SROs, shelters, and hotels and other indoor locations) and 14% occurred outside in vehicles, sidewalks, streets, parks, etc.
- In Vancouver Coastal, other residences (45%) were the most common place of illicit drug toxicity deaths followed by private residences (36%) between 2019 and 2022 (see Table 3, Page 5).
- No deaths have been reported at supervised consumption or drug overdose prevention sites.²
- There is no indication that prescribed safe supply is contributing to illicit drug deaths.

Trends

- Male illicit drug toxicity death rates have decreased this month while female rates remain relatively high. (see Figure 4, Page 8).
- Illicit drug toxicity death rates among those aged 40-59 years have increased this month (see Figure 6, Page 10).
- The proportion of deaths that are 50+ years of age has steadily increased year after year for the past 6 years. In 2022, 38% of decedents were at least 50 years old (see Figure 5, Page 9).
- Illicit drug rates in all health authorities except Fraser Health have decreased this month. Illicit drug toxicity death rates for all health authority rates remain elevated (see Figure 7, Page 13).
- The detection rate of benzodiazepines rapidly increased from 15% of samples in July 2020 to 52% of samples in January 2022. It has since fallen to 32% in March 2022.
- Between July 2020 and March 2022, etizolam was found in 40% of illicit drug toxicity deaths that have undergone expedited toxicological testing. Etizolam is a benzodiazepine analogue and non-opioid sedative that does not respond to naloxone and creates life-saving challenges for first responders.

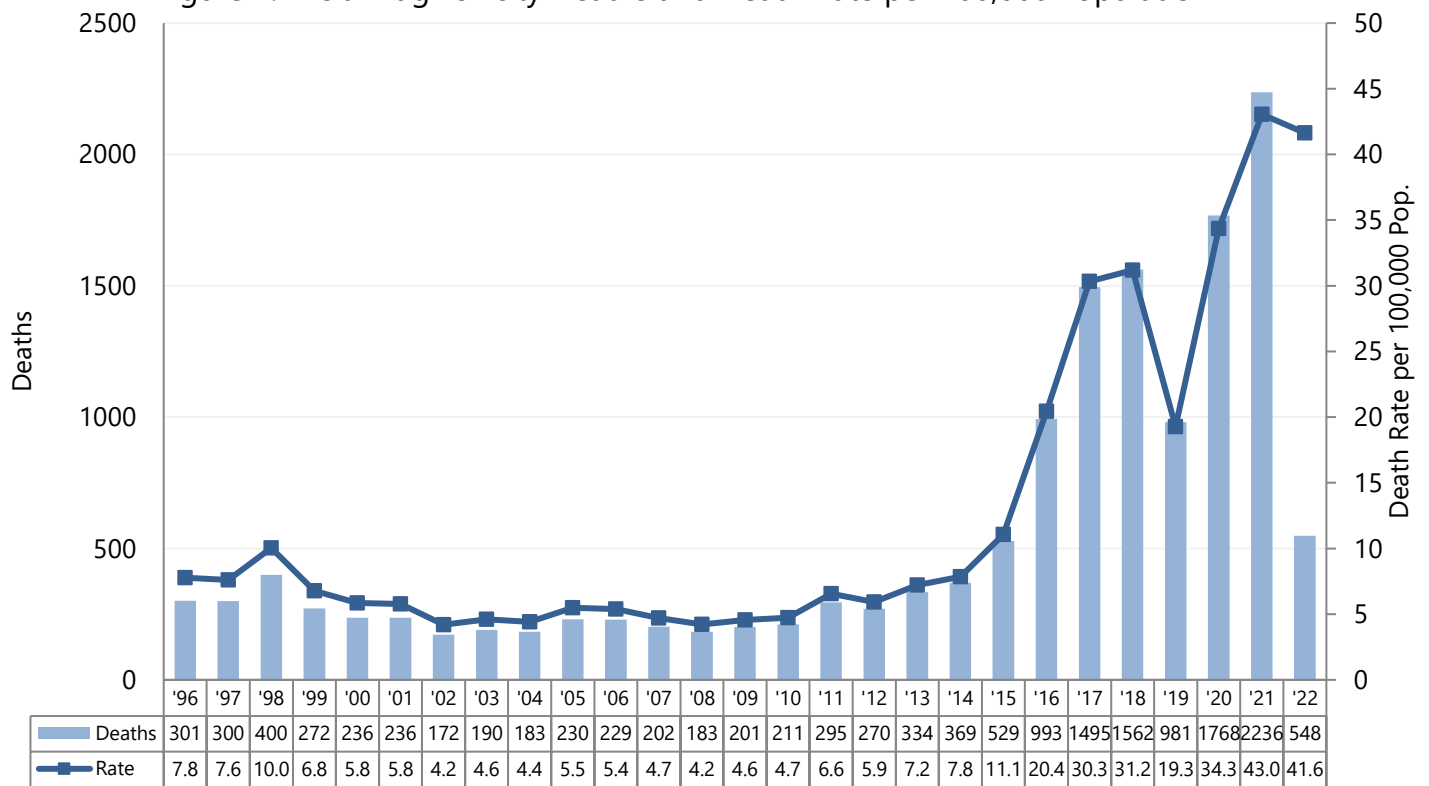
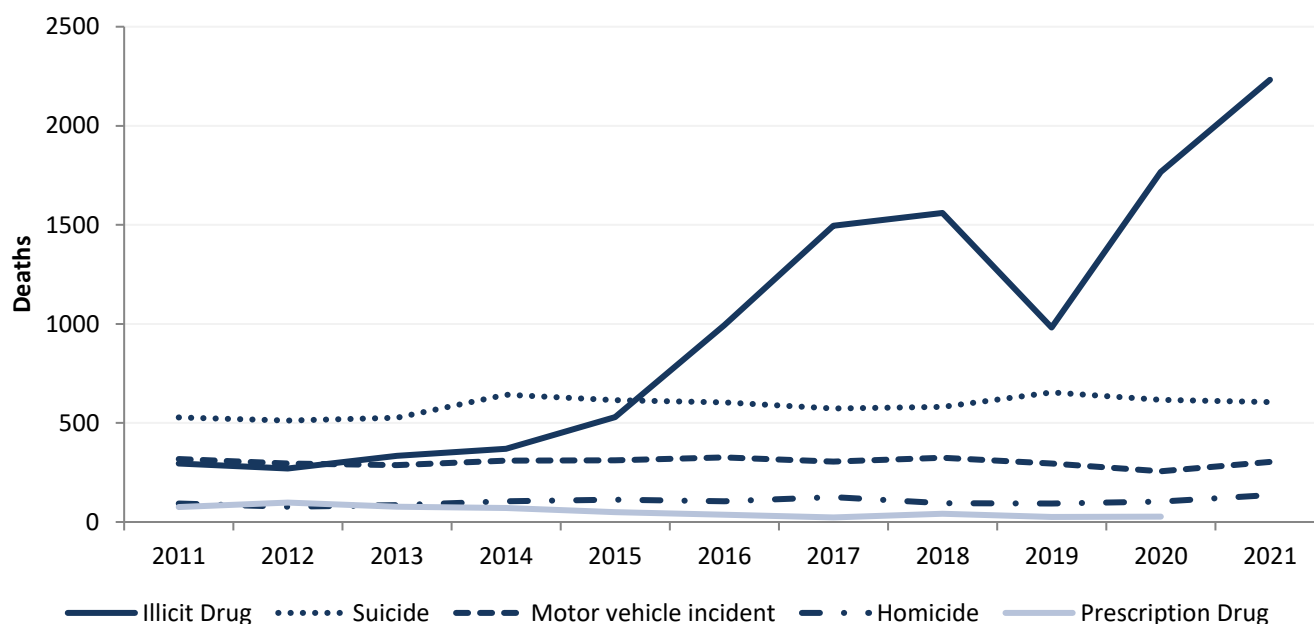
Figure 1: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths and Death Rate per 100,000 Population ^[3,5]

Table 1: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Month, British Columbia, 2012-2022^[3]

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jan	20	20	23	43	85	148	134	94	80	188	209
Feb	17	21	38	31	58	124	108	84	78	173	174
Mar	25	33	28	32	76	130	159	119	119	174	165
Subtotal	62	74	89	106	219	402	401	297	277	535	548
Apr	31	31	29	34	72	155	135	82	128	184	-
May	19	28	40	41	51	149	118	88	180	171	-
Jun	25	25	29	34	71	129	116	74	188	170	-
Jul	29	39	25	40	74	122	151	72	185	196	-
Aug	20	21	37	53	65	127	125	84	162	195	-
Sep	16	28	32	50	63	97	139	62	143	154	-
Oct	19	19	35	53	77	98	119	79	176	201	-
Nov	28	31	28	52	140	112	131	81	166	210	-
Dec	21	38	25	66	161	104	127	62	163	220	-
Total	270	334	369	529	993	1,495	1,562	981	1,768	2,236	548
Average	22.5	27.8	30.8	44.1	82.8	124.6	130.2	81.8	147.3	186.3	182.7

Comparison to Other Common Causes of Unnatural Deaths from 2011 to 2021:**Figure 2: Major Causes of Unnatural Deaths in BC**

**Data is preliminary and subject to change. Prescription drug toxicity deaths (accidental and undetermined) include cases where only a prescription drug is involved and reported for closed investigations only to 2020.*

BC Data by Place of Injury**Table 2: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Place of Injury, BC, 2019-2022^[3]**

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Inside:				
Private Residence	566 (57.7%)	1,004 (56.8%)	1,242 (55.6%)	314 (57.3%)
Other Residence	258 (26.3%)	460 (26.0%)	556 (24.9%)	127 (23.2%)
Correctional facility/police cell	4 (0.4%)	5 (0.3%)	8 (0.4%)	1 (0.2%)
Medical facility	5 (0.5%)	5 (0.3%)	9 (0.4%)	2 (0.4%)
Occupational site	6 (0.6%)	6 (0.3%)	8 (0.4%)	2 (0.4%)
Public building				
Public washroom	11 (1.1%)	6 (0.3%)	12 (0.5%)	7 (1.3%)
Other area of building	8 (0.8%)	13 (0.7%)	28 (1.3%)	13 (2.4%)
Outside	117 (11.9%)	250 (14.1%)	340 (15.2%)	74 (13.5%)
Unknown	6 (0.6%)	19 (1.1%)	33 (1.5%)	8 (1.5%)
Total	981	1,768	2,236	548

Table 3: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Place of Injury and Health Authority, BC, 2019-2022^[3]

	Interior	Fraser	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Northern
Inside:					
Private Residence	552 (61.8%)	1,287 (69.1%)	560 (36.3%)	488 (57.9%)	239 (61.4%)
Other Residence	199 (22.3%)	236 (12.7%)	691 (44.8%)	196 (23.3%)	79 (20.3%)
Other Inside	33 (3.7%)	68 (3.7%)	32 (2.1%)	14 (1.7%)	12 (3.1%)
Outside	97 (10.9%)	259 (13.9%)	230 (14.9%)	138 (16.4%)	57 (14.7%)
Unknown	12 (1.3%)	14 (0.8%)	31 (2.0%)	7 (0.8%)	2 (0.5%)
Total	893	1,864	1,544	843	389

Private Residence – includes driveways garages, trailer homes and either decedent's own or another's residence.

Other Residence – includes hotels, motels, rooming houses, SRO (single room occupancy, shelters, social/supportive housing etc.)

Medical facility – includes hospitals, community care facilities, etc

Occupational site – includes locations where the decedent was at their place of work.

Public buildings – includes restaurants, community centres, businesses, clinics, etc.

Outside – includes vehicles, streets, sidewalks, parking lots, public parks, wooded areas, and campgrounds

BC Data by Drugs Involved:

- Preliminary data suggests that the proportion of illicit drug toxicity deaths for which illicit fentanyl was detected (alone or in combination with other drugs) was approximately 79% in 2022 and 86% in 2021. *2022 data will change as further toxicology results are received.*
- Post-mortem toxicology results suggest that there has been a greater number of cases with extreme fentanyl concentrations in Nov 2021-Mar 2022 compared with previous months (concentrations exceeding >50ug/L (micrograms/litre).
 - From Nov 2021-Mar 2022, approximately 19% of cases had extreme fentanyl concentrations as compared to 13% from Apr 2020 to Oct 2021 and 8% from Jan 2019 to Mar 2020.
- Carfentanil has been detected in 32 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2022 and 189 deaths in 2021. *This is subject to change as further toxicology results are received.*
- A review of completed cases from 2019-21 indicates that the top four detected drugs relevant to illicit drug toxicity deaths were fentanyl (85%), cocaine (46%), methamphetamine/amphetamine (41%), and other opioids (23%).
- There is no indication that prescribed safe supply is contributing to illicit drug deaths.
- Among the drug types involved in completed illicit drug toxicity death investigations, illicit fentanyl has increased from 5% in 2012 to 85% in 2020. Methamphetamine has also increased from 14% in 2012 to 44% in 2020. Cocaine and other opioids have steadily declined from 2012 to 2020; however, cocaine was involved in 44% of illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2020.

Table 5: Top Drugs Involved Among Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths, 2019-21

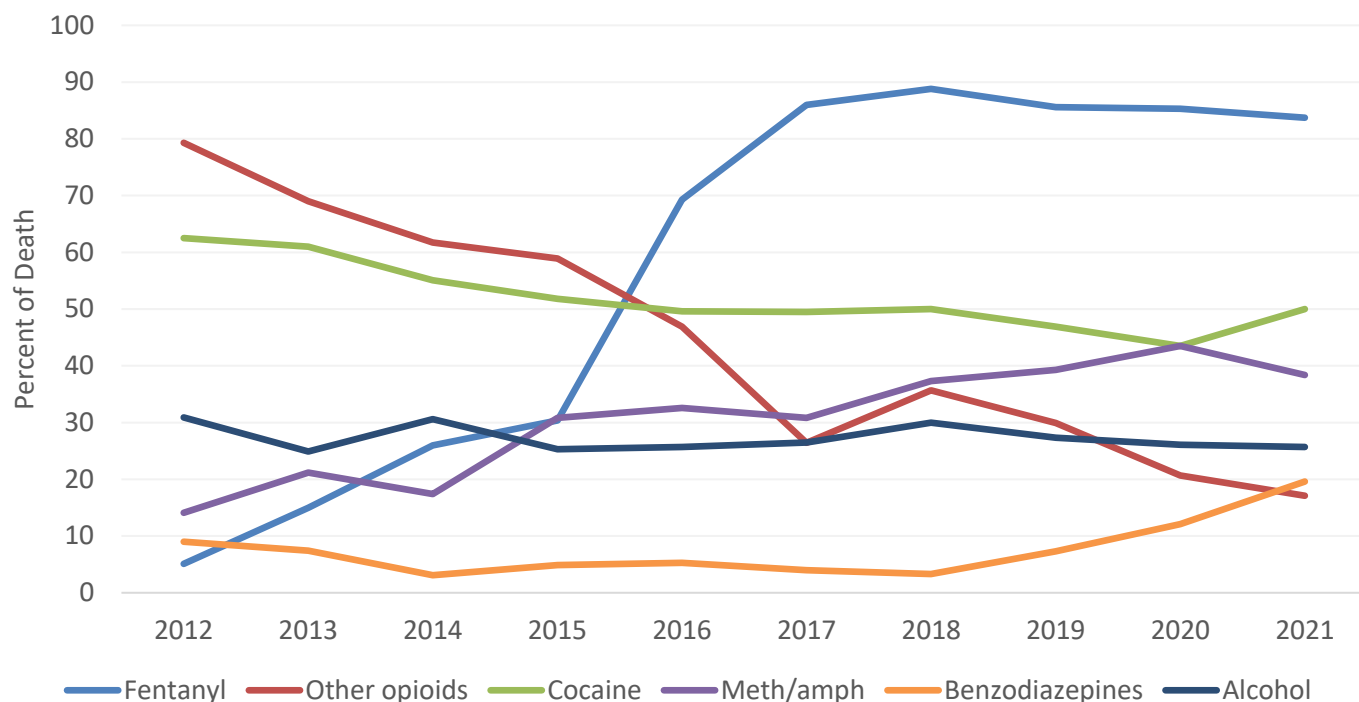
Drug Detected	BC (n=1,856)
Illicit fentanyl & analogues	85.1%
Cocaine	45.7%
Methamphetamine/amphetamine	41.3%
Other opioids	22.6%
Ethyl alcohol	26.4%
Benzodiazepines	12.2%
Other stimulants	3.1%

Notes:

Drugs involved are noted by the coroner as being relevant to the death (this data is only available for concluded investigations). Data does not indicate when a substance was taken.

Fentanyl & analogues includes fentanyl, acetylfentanyl, 3-methylfentanyl, furanylfentanyl, carfentanil, cyclopropyl fentanyl, methoxyacetylfentanyl, 4-fluoroisobutyryl fentanyl, and norfentanyl. Meth/amph includes methamphetamine and amphetamine. Other opioids include heroin, codeine, oxycodone, morphine, hydromorphone, methadone, etc but excludes fentanyl and analogues. Other stimulants include MDMA, MDA, paramethoxymethamphetamine, paramethoxyamphetamine, pseudophedrine, methylbenzodioxylbutamine, methylone, methylphenidate, caffeine, and ephedrine.

Figure 3: Drug Types Relevant to Death, 2012-2021

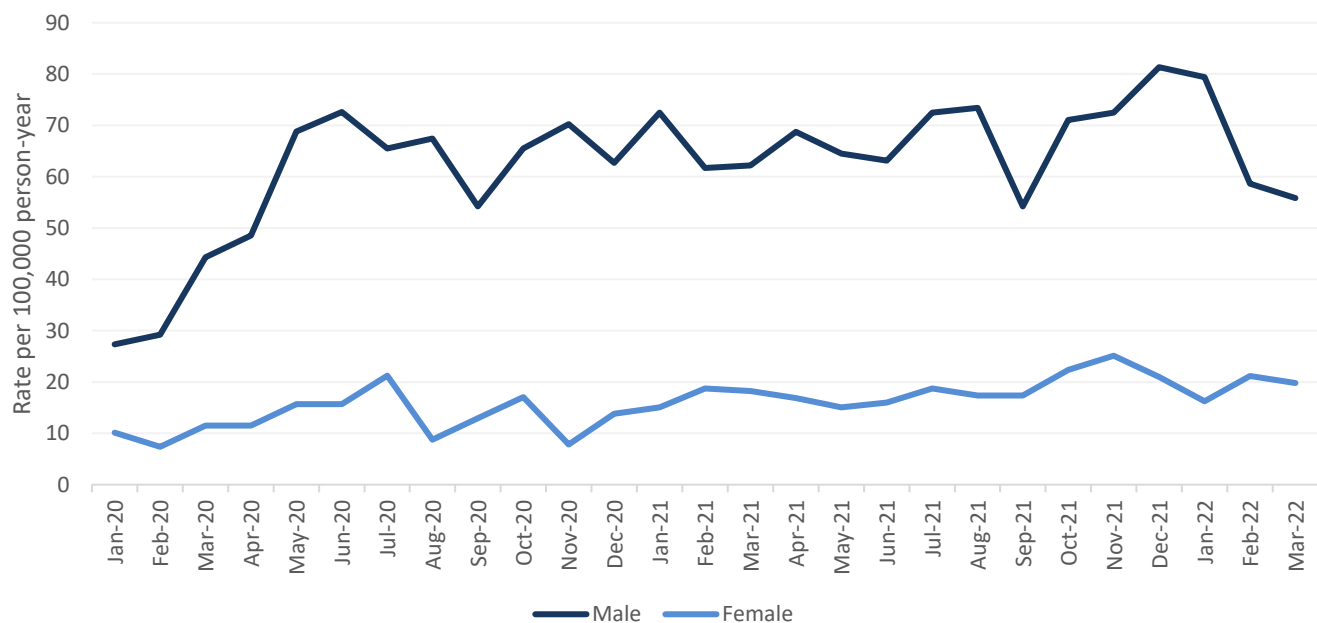
**Income Assistance Week:****Table 4: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths per day by Income Assistance Payment Week, 2021-2022^[3,4]**

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Avg
Income Assistance Payment Week (Wed-Sun)	6.2	5.6	7.8	6.2	7.2	8.6	6.6	9.2	7.6	7.8	8.6	8.0	7.5
All other days of the month	6.1	5.5	5.2	6.3	6.1	4.4	6.5	6.6	7.0	6.5	5.7	4.8	5.9
Total	6.1	5.5	5.7	6.3	6.3	5.1	6.5	7.0	7.1	6.7	6.2	5.3	6.2

- More illicit drug toxicity deaths occurred during the days following income assistance payment (Wed-Sun) than all other days in 2020-21. Income assistance payment dates can be found at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/payment-dates>.

BC Data by Sex/Age:**Table 6: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Sex, 2012-2022^[3]**

Sex	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Female	76	79	86	106	200	272	316	236	333	486	127
Male	194	255	283	423	793	1,223	1,246	745	1,435	1,749	420
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	270	334	369	529	993	1,495	1,562	981	1,768	2,236	548

Figure 4: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Sex and Month, 2020-2022**Table 7: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Age Group, 2012-2022^[3]**

Age Group	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<19	5	6	3	5	12	26	18	13	18	30	6
19-29	61	94	83	117	204	272	301	170	309	325	66
30-39	61	77	101	137	261	400	397	274	415	538	140
40-49	67	74	85	130	233	355	348	215	409	488	129
50-59	56	62	73	110	230	314	363	214	406	560	138
60-69	19	21	24	29	50	121	127	91	195	264	61
70-79	1	0	0	1	3	7	8	4	16	30	7
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	270	334	369	529	993	1,495	1,562	981	1,768	2,236	548

Table 8: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Age Group and Month, 2021-22^[3]

Age Group	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<19	4	3	3	5	2	2	1	2	3	0	6	0
19-29	28	27	17	14	30	26	31	35	39	29	18	19
30-39	38	38	42	55	49	35	43	52	59	41	56	43
40-49	41	34	33	58	42	36	42	45	45	54	30	45
50-59	50	51	50	40	44	38	57	53	48	56	45	37
60-69	23	14	23	21	25	15	26	20	24	24	16	21
70-79	0	4	2	3	3	2	1	3	2	4	3	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	184	171	170	196	195	154	201	210	220	209	174	165

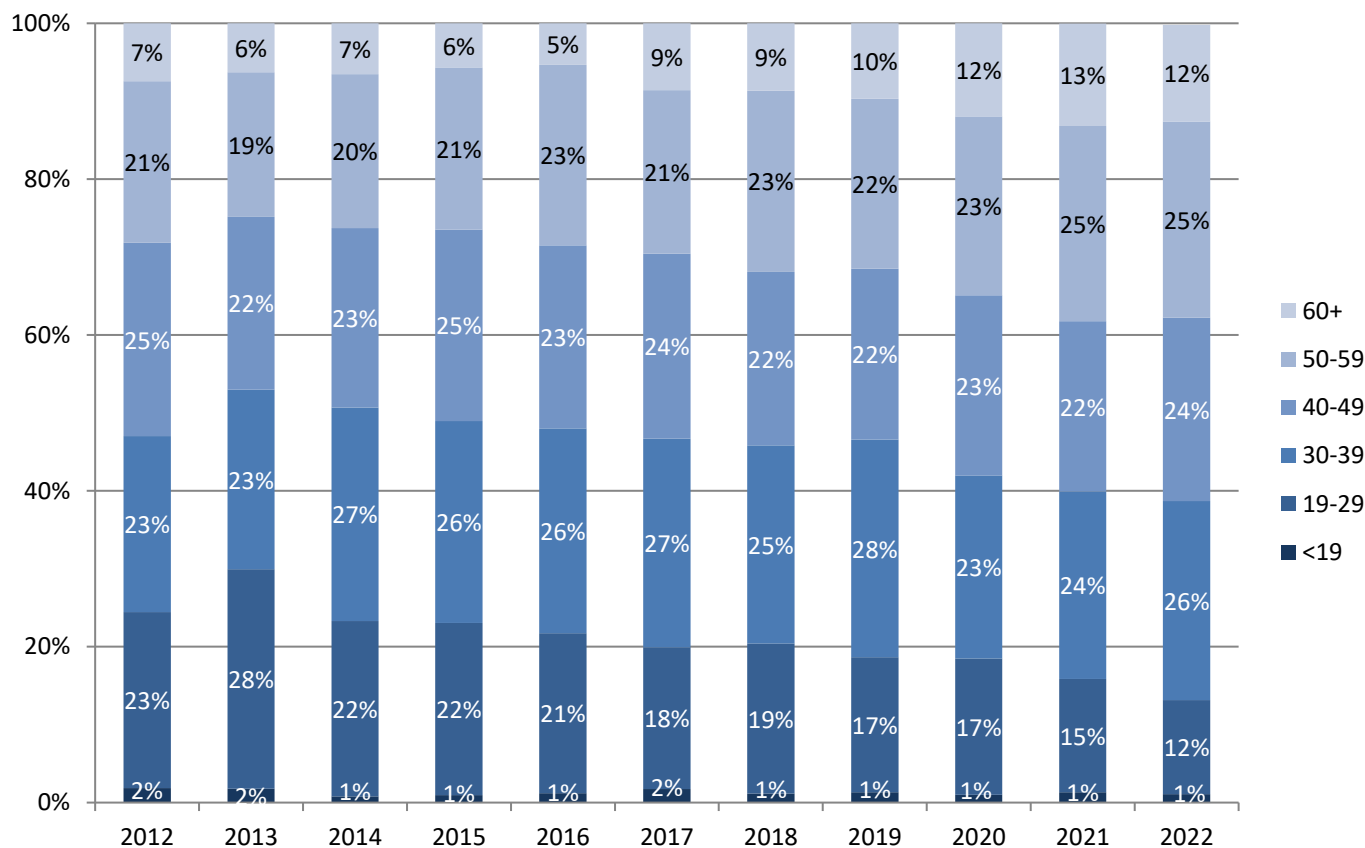
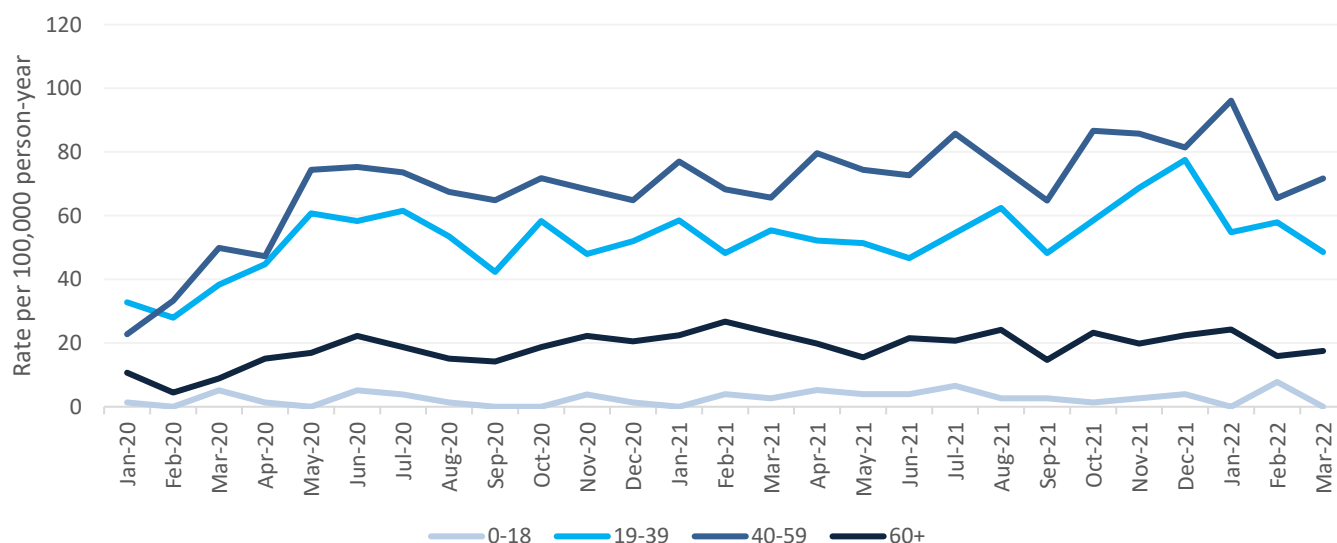
Figure 5: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Age Group, 2012-2022

Table 9: Age-Specific Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates per 100,000, 2012-2022^[3,5]

Age Group	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<19	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.6	1.3	2.8	1.9	1.4	1.9	3.3	2.6
19-29	8.8	13.5	11.7	16.5	28.5	37.4	40.3	22.2	40.6	42.9	35.0
30-39	10.1	12.6	16.1	21.4	39.7	59.2	57.0	38.0	56.1	70.8	72.0
40-49	10.0	11.1	12.9	19.9	35.7	54.6	53.7	33.2	63.0	74.6	77.6
50-59	8.1	8.8	10.1	15.0	31.1	42.7	49.8	29.5	56.3	78.1	78.0
60-69	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.9	8.1	19.2	19.7	13.8	28.9	38.3	34.7
70-79	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.9	1.9	2.0	1.0	3.7	6.6	5.9
Total	5.9	7.2	7.8	11.1	20.4	30.3	31.2	19.3	34.3	43.0	41.6

*2022 rates should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers.

Figure 6: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Age Group and Month, 2020-2022

BC Data by Township of Injury:

Table 10: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Top Townships of Injury in 2022, 2012-2022 ^[3]											
Township	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Vancouver	65	80	102	138	231	374	399	243	419	528	137
Surrey	44	36	44	76	118	181	216	119	222	283	56
Victoria	18	25	20	23	68	95	99	62	122	127	31
Abbotsford	7	10	7	27	40	52	41	44	66	86	26
Kamloops	5	8	7	7	44	37	47	26	60	78	25
Burnaby	10	13	11	15	40	44	49	29	57	78	19
Prince George	10	7	10	12	18	24	51	25	59	55	18
Kelowna	8	12	12	20	47	73	56	34	61	73	17
Langley	5	10	10	10	31	37	33	23	38	56	13
Mission	3	3	3	4	8	18	10	12	12	18	13
Nanaimo	6	20	16	18	30	56	38	27	39	49	12
Chilliwack	8	6	6	10	13	22	37	21	37	54	12
Maple Ridge	5	10	14	29	28	33	29	13	39	45	11
Penticton	2	4	3	3	7	15	16	21	17	25	10
New Westminster	3	5	9	12	10	24	36	20	37	43	9
Other Township	71	85	95	125	260	410	405	262	483	638	139
Total	270	334	369	529	993	1,495	1,562	981	1,768	2,236	548

Health Authority Data:**Table 11: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Health Authority, 2012-2022^[3,6]**

HA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Interior	31	54	47	64	169	246	236	140	288	372	93
Fraser	104	106	126	208	334	494	524	326	586	770	182
Vancouver Coastal	72	95	120	160	276	447	454	280	488	620	156
Island	45	60	55	72	162	242	247	168	272	326	77
Northern	18	19	21	25	52	66	101	67	134	148	40
BC	270	334	369	529	993	1,495	1,562	981	1,768	2,236	548

Table 12: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Health Authority per 100,000, 2012-2022^[3,5,6]

HA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Interior	4.3	7.4	6.3	8.4	22.0	31.5	29.6	17.3	35.2	45.3	44.9
Fraser	6.2	6.2	7.3	11.8	18.6	26.9	28.0	17.1	30.3	39.3	36.6
Vancouver Coastal	6.4	8.3	10.4	13.7	23.3	37.4	37.5	22.8	39.4	49.7	49.5
Island	5.9	7.8	7.0	9.0	19.9	29.5	29.6	19.8	31.7	37.6	35.0
Northern	6.3	6.5	7.1	8.5	17.8	22.5	34.1	22.4	44.6	48.9	52.3
BC	5.9	7.2	7.8	11.1	20.4	30.3	31.2	19.3	34.3	43.0	41.6

*2022 rates should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers.

Figure 7: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Health Authority and Month, 2020-2022

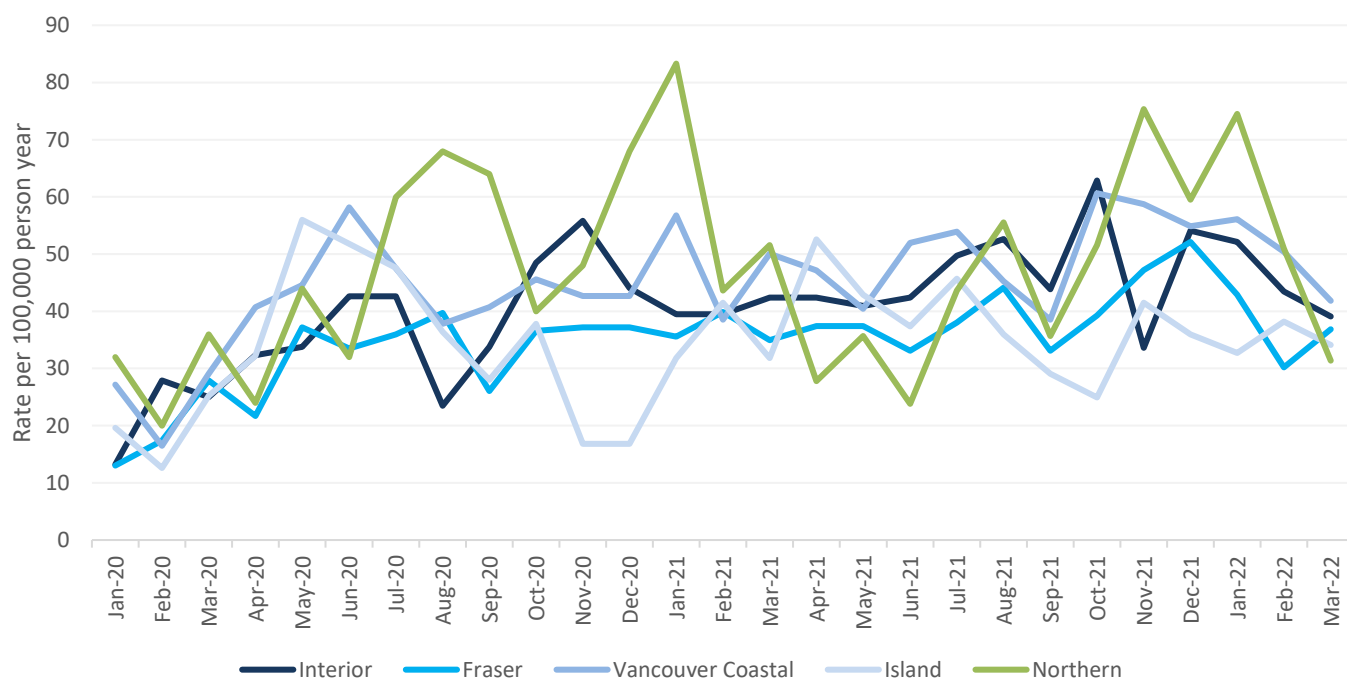


Figure 8: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Health Authority, 2012-2022

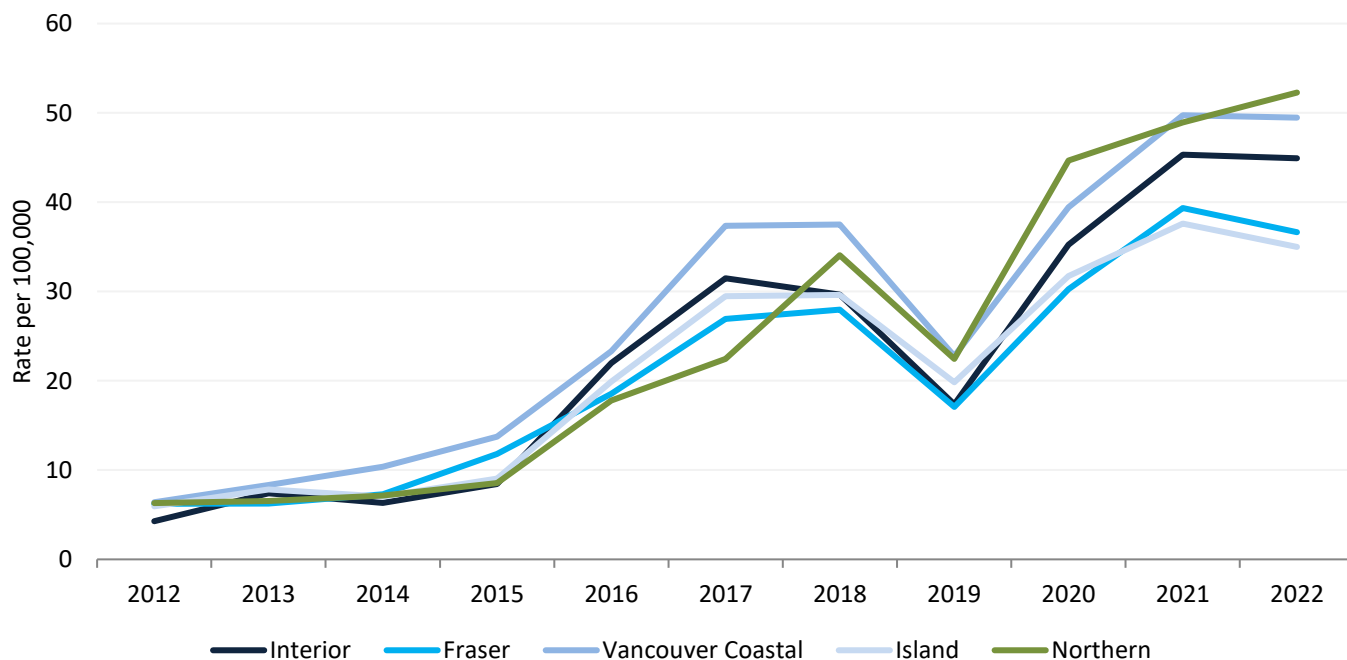


Table 13: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Month of Death and Health Authority and Township, 2021-2022^[3,6]

Year	Month	Health Authorities					Township		
		Interior	Fraser	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Northern	Vancouver	Surrey	Victoria
2021	Jan	27	58	59	23	21	47	20	15
	Feb	27	65	40	30	11	35	28	13
	Mar	29	57	52	23	13	40	15	11
	Apr	29	61	49	38	7	44	26	17
	May	28	61	42	31	9	40	23	12
	Jun	29	54	54	27	6	41	16	9
	Jul	34	62	56	33	11	48	21	12
	Aug	36	72	47	26	14	43	28	8
	Sep	30	54	40	21	9	32	21	8
	Oct	43	64	63	18	13	55	26	6
	Nov	23	77	61	30	19	53	25	7
	Dec	37	85	57	26	15	50	34	9
2022	Jan	36	71	59	24	19	50	23	7
	Feb	30	50	53	28	13	46	7	15
	Mar	27	61	44	25	8	41	26	9
Total		465	952	776	403	188	665	339	158
Average		31.0	63.5	51.7	26.9	12.5	44.3	22.6	10.5

Table 14: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Health Services Delivery Area (HSDA), 2012-2022^[3,6]

HSDA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
East Kootenay	2	4	4	2	13	7	6	1	18	22	5
Kootenay Boundary	4	2	3	6	11	17	15	14	21	29	2
Okanagan	16	33	27	43	78	156	130	84	148	172	41
Thompson Cariboo	9	15	13	13	67	66	85	41	101	149	45
Fraser East	20	20	16	42	67	105	97	84	124	174	55
Fraser North	30	35	51	73	105	148	153	85	180	234	48
Fraser South	54	51	59	93	162	241	274	157	282	362	79
Richmond	1	3	3	6	14	28	12	13	19	32	8
Vancouver	65	80	102	138	231	374	399	243	419	528	137
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	6	12	15	16	31	45	43	24	50	60	11
South Vancouver Island	21	26	23	26	78	106	124	74	138	141	33
Central Vancouver Island	20	25	25	33	57	99	93	65	102	119	30
North Vancouver Island	4	9	7	13	27	37	30	29	32	66	14
Northwest	0	6	2	6	10	8	14	16	18	42	11
Northern Interior	12	8	11	15	24	35	63	34	85	79	22
Northeast	6	5	8	4	18	23	24	17	31	27	7
Total	270	334	369	529	993	1,495	1,562	981	1,768	2,236	548

Table 15: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by HSDA and Month, 2021-22^[3,6]

HSDA	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
East Kootenay	1	2	2	5	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	1
Kootenay Boundary	1	0	2	4	1	3	2	1	5	1	0	1
Okanagan	18	10	14	15	18	14	23	11	16	13	17	11
Thompson Cariboo	9	16	11	10	15	12	16	10	15	19	12	14
Fraser East	9	15	13	17	16	10	15	19	14	18	17	20
Fraser North	22	16	19	18	21	13	18	20	28	22	15	11
Fraser South	30	30	22	27	35	31	31	38	43	31	18	30
Richmond	2	0	8	2	1	2	4	2	2	4	3	1
Vancouver	44	40	41	48	43	32	55	53	50	50	46	41
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	3	2	5	6	3	6	4	6	5	5	4	2
South Vancouver Island	18	13	10	13	9	11	6	9	10	9	15	9
Central Vancouver Island	10	13	11	11	9	5	10	16	13	9	8	13
North Vancouver Island	10	5	6	9	8	5	2	5	3	6	5	3
Northwest	3	0	3	7	5	2	4	4	3	3	4	4
Northern Interior	1	7	3	3	8	5	6	14	10	11	8	3
Northeast	3	2	0	1	1	2	3	1	2	5	1	1
Total	184	171	170	196	195	154	201	210	220	209	174	165

Table 16: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Health Services Delivery Area per 100,000, 2012-2022^[3,5,6]

HSDA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
East Kootenay	2.6	5.1	5.0	2.4	15.7	8.4	7.1	1.2	20.7	25.3	22.9
Kootenay Boundary	5.1	2.5	3.8	7.4	13.5	20.7	18.1	16.7	25.0	34.5	9.5
Okanagan	4.6	9.3	7.5	11.6	20.8	40.6	33.2	21.1	36.5	42.2	39.8
Thompson Cariboo	4.1	6.8	5.8	5.8	29.3	28.5	35.9	17.1	41.9	61.5	73.7
Fraser East	6.9	6.8	5.4	13.8	21.6	33.2	29.9	25.4	37.0	51.5	64.3
Fraser North	4.8	5.5	7.9	11.1	15.7	21.8	22.2	12.2	25.5	32.9	26.6
Fraser South	7.2	6.6	7.5	11.6	19.7	28.7	31.9	17.9	31.6	39.9	34.2
Richmond	0.5	1.5	1.5	3.0	6.7	13.4	5.7	6.1	8.8	14.6	14.4
Vancouver	10.0	12.2	15.3	20.6	34.0	54.3	57.2	34.1	58.5	73.1	75.0
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	2.1	4.2	5.2	5.5	10.4	15.0	14.2	7.9	16.4	19.6	14.2
South Vancouver Island	5.6	6.9	6.0	6.6	19.4	26.1	30.0	17.6	32.4	32.6	30.0
Central Vancouver Island	7.6	9.4	9.2	11.9	20.1	34.6	32.0	22.1	34.3	39.8	39.7
North Vancouver Island	3.3	7.4	5.6	10.3	21.2	28.7	22.8	21.8	23.7	48.5	40.6
Northwest	0.0	8.1	2.7	8.0	13.4	10.7	18.6	21.1	23.6	54.5	56.4
Northern Interior	8.4	5.5	7.5	10.3	16.3	23.7	42.0	22.5	55.9	51.6	56.8
Northeast	8.7	7.0	11.0	5.6	25.4	32.4	33.6	23.7	43.2	37.3	38.2
Total	5.9	7.2	7.8	11.1	20.4	30.3	31.2	19.3	34.3	43.0	41.6

*2022 rates should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers.

New Table 17: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates (per 100,000 person-years) by Top Local Health Areas (LHA) in 2021, 2016-2021^[3,5,6]

Due to small numbers of deaths and population size rates in LHAs, rates may be difficult to interpret.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	No. of Deaths 2021
Upper Skeena	0.0	0.0	44.6	44.2	0.0	175.7	8
Merritt	70.6	79.1	43.1	25.5	16.8	124.9	15
Enderby	13.2	13.1	52.3	0.0	63.7	102.0	8
Lillooet	0.0	47.1	47.7	24.5	74.4	98.6	4
North Thompson	0.0	23.5	46.1	23.2	46.2	92.2	4
Hope	23.5	47.0	45.9	56.5	78.4	90.0	8
Powell River	34.1	24.5	43.7	24.2	57.7	81.6	17
Vancouver	34.0	54.3	57.2	34.1	58.5	73.1	528
Terrace	18.9	14.2	28.1	32.3	45.6	72.6	16
Kamloops	39.7	33.2	41.2	22.3	52.9	69.1	88
Nechako	6.0	6.1	12.2	6.1	30.6	66.7	11
Peace River South	10.7	63.9	35.3	28.2	21.2	63.3	18
Alberni/Clayoquot	15.5	36.8	39.4	32.9	32.5	62.0	21
Vernon	20.2	42.6	35.1	19.4	39.6	58.4	43
Penticton	16.0	38.8	35.9	49.0	37.6	57.1	26
Cranbrook	7.3	11.0	7.2	0.0	35.5	56.8	16
Grand Forks	0.0	44.5	99.4	33.1	32.9	55.5	5
Kettle Valley	27.6	27.9	0.0	0.0	27.3	55.2	2
Surrey	25.5	38.0	44.3	23.7	43.3	54.4	283
Prince George	19.1	26.8	52.7	25.1	60.2	54.0	57
Greater Campbell River	33.7	42.2	30.5	30.1	31.9	52.9	25
Abbotsford	27.0	34.3	26.3	27.5	40.8	52.8	86
Greater Victoria	29.0	41.5	43.5	25.3	49.8	52.5	131
Chilliwack	14.3	25.1	37.1	21.1	35.0	52.3	56
New Westminster	13.5	31.5	46.0	24.9	44.8	51.3	43
Smithers	5.9	11.7	34.9	17.3	5.7	50.7	9
Comox Valley	15.8	24.2	21.0	16.5	19.0	46.9	35
Agassiz/Harrison	29.6	58.0	9.4	9.3	18.6	46.1	5
Quesnel	4.1	28.9	24.6	24.6	69.6	45.1	11
South Cariboo	29.6	14.7	29.2	14.5	14.5	43.8	3
Salmon Arm	17.1	14.1	13.8	5.5	27.2	43.5	16
Cowichan Valley West	15.3	15.2	30.0	29.6	14.5	43.4	3

New Table 17: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates (per 100,000 person-years) by Top Local Health Areas (LHA) in 2021, 2016-2021^[3,5,6]

Due to small numbers of deaths and population size rates in LHAs, rates may be difficult to interpret.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	No. of Deaths 2021
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows	30.3	32.2	27.0	14.3	36.8	42.9	48
Revelstoke	0.0	0.0	68.3	0.0	42.8	42.6	4
Cowichan Valley South	14.7	21.1	44.9	19.1	34.8	42.5	27
Vancouver Island North	8.5	8.5	8.5	25.2	16.7	41.6	5
Arrow Lakes	0.0	21.3	42.3	21.1	41.4	41.5	2
Greater Nanaimo	26.4	50.2	33.9	23.3	35.4	40.8	50
Castlegar	21.0	13.9	0.0	33.9	20.2	40.1	6
100 Mile House	0.0	6.7	20.1	13.4	13.2	39.7	6
Mission	17.7	38.9	27.6	25.2	25.2	39.6	19
Princeton	0.0	122.0	99.9	19.9	58.9	39.2	2
Central Okanagan	26.8	43.7	31.8	19.2	36.8	38.3	86
Sunshine Coast	9.6	22.4	19.0	9.5	22.1	37.7	12
Keremeos	0.0	56.3	55.6	36.7	72.3	35.8	2
Prince Rupert	28.3	14.1	0.0	14.0	27.8	34.6	5
Cariboo/Chilcotin	15.5	27.2	34.6	11.5	38.2	34.4	9
Langley	20.6	24.0	20.9	14.4	23.5	34.1	56
Kitimat	10.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.6	31.2	3
Oceanside	14.2	20.3	14.0	15.9	37.3	31.1	16
Burnaby	16.4	17.9	19.6	11.4	22.1	30.0	78
Trail	9.9	24.7	9.8	14.5	19.4	29.1	6
Nelson	18.9	14.9	7.4	7.3	25.6	25.4	7
Tri-Cities	9.4	18.1	15.2	7.9	17.7	25.3	65
Peace River North	37.7	8.0	37.0	23.6	57.3	20.6	8
Howe Sound	7.5	18.9	13.9	2.3	4.6	20.6	9
Kimberley	31.3	0.0	20.3	0.0	0.0	19.7	2
Fort Nelson	17.4	36.5	0.0	0.0	58.7	19.5	1
Southern Okanagan	5.0	14.8	29.2	9.5	14.3	19.0	4
Delta	10.1	18.5	18.2	12.6	17.8	17.6	20
Creston	7.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5	15.0	2
Richmond	6.7	13.4	5.7	6.1	8.8	14.6	32
Golden	14.0	13.7	13.5	0.0	13.1	13.1	1
Southern Gulf Islands	12.4	0.0	6.1	6.1	12.3	12.2	2

New Table 17: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates (per 100,000 person-years) by Top Local Health Areas (LHA) in 2021, 2016-2021^[3,5,6]

Due to small numbers of deaths and population size rates in LHAs, rates may be difficult to interpret.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	No. of Deaths 2021
West Vancouver/Bowen Island	7.6	9.6	11.4	5.7	13.3	11.4	6
North Vancouver	9.5	12.8	10.7	7.9	14.5	10.5	16
Cowichan Valley North	25.5	24.8	14.7	19.4	29.0	9.6	2
Windermere	40.4	29.9	9.8	0.0	28.2	9.5	1
Armstrong/Spallumcheen	9.4	9.3	9.2	0.0	27.1	9.0	1
Saanich Peninsula	7.4	5.9	10.2	13.0	7.1	5.7	4
Western Communities	2.5	3.6	12.7	2.2	8.7	4.2	4
South Surrey/White Rock	2.0	3.0	4.8	0.9	1.9	2.8	3
Haida Gwaii	0.0	22.5	0.0	44.4	21.7	0.0	0
Fernie	12.6	0.0	0.0	6.0	17.8	0.0	0
Summerland	0.0	31.5	15.6	7.7	15.2	0.0	0
Burns Lake	45.5	0.0	15.3	15.3	0.0	0.0	0

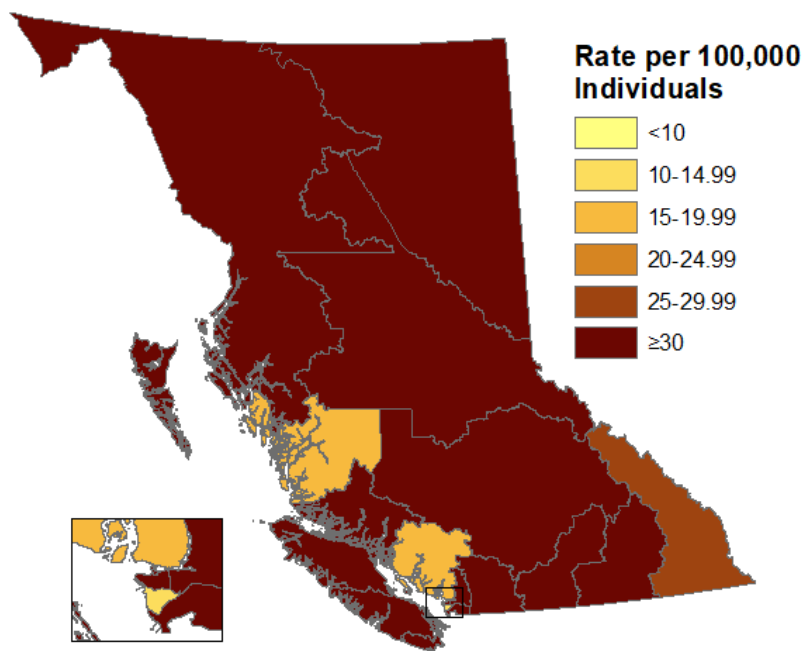
Note: Table will be updated every four months due to small numbers. LHAs with small populations have been omitted.

Notes:

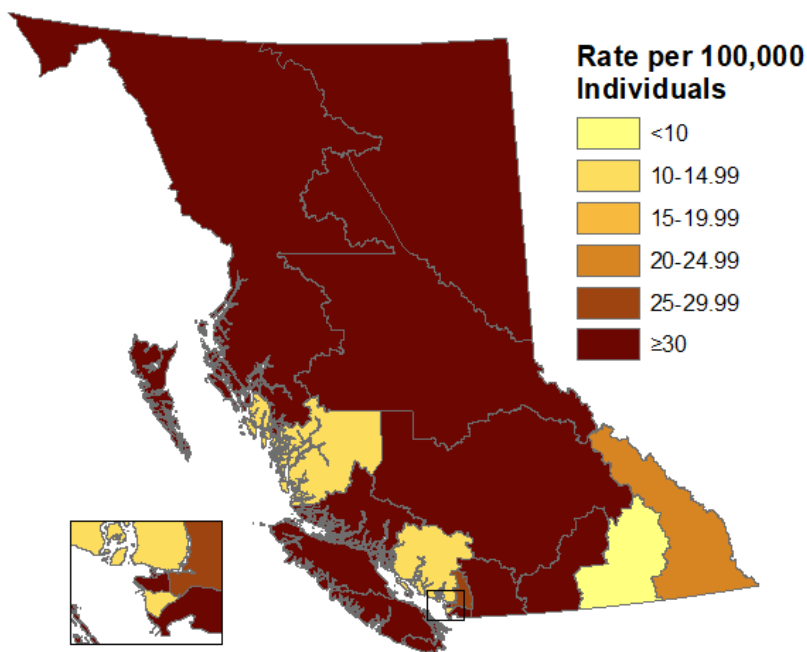
1. The BCCS operates in a live database environment. Some data for more recent years is based on preliminary circumstances and is subject to change as investigations are concluded. Data are not directly comparable to published counts from previous years.
2. This does not include circumstances where the injury event occurred at an overdose prevention site and death occurred in hospital.
3. 2022 data includes January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022.
4. Date of death was used in tables where date of injury was unknown.
5. Population estimates were taken from:
<https://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/apps/PopulationProjections.aspx>
6. Health Region breakdowns can be found at: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/geographic-data-services/land-use/administrative-boundaries/health-boundaries>

Figure 9: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rate Maps by Health Services Delivery Area

2021 Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Health Services Delivery Area



2022 Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Health Services Delivery Area



References for health regions can be found at: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/geographic-data-services/land-use/administrative-boundaries/health-boundaries>

List of Townships and Corresponding Health Regions

Township Name	Health Authority	Health Services Delivery Area
100 Mile House	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
108 Mile Ranch	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
150 Mile House	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Abbotsford	Fraser	Fraser East
Alert Bay	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Armstrong	Interior	Okanagan
Arras	Northern	Northeast
Beasley	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Beaver Falls	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Blue River	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Bowen Island	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Bowser	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Burnaby	Fraser	Fraser North
Burns Lake	Northern	Northern Interior
Cache Creek	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Campbell River	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Canal Flats	Interior	East Kootenay
Castlegar	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Cawston	Interior	Okanagan
Cedar	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Central Saanich	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Charlie Lake	Northern	Northeast
Chase	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Chemainus	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Chetwynd	Northern	Northeast
Chilliwack	Fraser	Fraser East
Christina Lake	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Clearwater	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Cobble Hill	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Coldstream	Interior	Okanagan
Colwood	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Comox	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Coombs	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Coquitlam	Fraser	Fraser North
Cortes Island	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Courtenay	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Cowichan Bay	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Cranbrook	Interior	East Kootenay
Crescent Valley	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Creston	Interior	East Kootenay
Cultus Lake	Fraser	Fraser East

List of Townships and Corresponding Health Regions

Township Name	Health Authority	Health Services Delivery Area
Cumberland	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Dawson Creek	Northern	Northeast
Dease Lake	Northern	Northwest
Delta	Fraser	Fraser South
Duncan	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Edgewood	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Elkford	Interior	East Kootenay
Enderby	Interior	Okanagan
Errington	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Esquimalt	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Fairmont Hot Springs	Interior	East Kootenay
Falkland	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Fort Nelson	Northern	Northeast
Fort St. James	Northern	Northern Interior
Fort St. John	Northern	Northeast
Gabriola Island	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Galiano Island	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Gibsons	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Gillies Bay	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Gold River	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Golden	Interior	East Kootenay
Grand Forks	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Harrison Hot Springs	Fraser	Fraser East
Hope	Fraser	Fraser East
Horsefly	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Houston	Northern	Northwest
Invermere	Interior	East Kootenay
Isle Pierre	Northern	Northern Interior
Kamloops	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Kaslo	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Kelowna	Interior	Okanagan
Kent	Fraser	Fraser East
Kimberley	Interior	East Kootenay
Kispiox	Northern	Northwest
Kitamaat Village	Northern	Northwest
Kitimat	Northern	Northwest
Kitseguecla (Gitsegukla)	Northern	Northwest
Lac La Hache	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Ladysmith	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Lake Country, District Of	Interior	Okanagan
Lake Cowichan	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island

List of Townships and Corresponding Health Regions

Township Name	Health Authority	Health Services Delivery Area
Langford	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Langley	Fraser	Fraser South
Lantzville	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Lee Creek	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Lillooet	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Lions Bay	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Logan Lake	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Lumby	Interior	Okanagan
Mabel Lake	Interior	Okanagan
Mackenzie	Northern	Northern Interior
Madeira Park	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Malakwa	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Maple Ridge	Fraser	Fraser North
Mayne Island	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Merritt	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Mill Bay	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Mission	Fraser	Fraser East
Nakusp	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Nanaimo	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Nanoose Bay	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Nelson	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
New Denver	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
New Hazelton	Northern	Northwest
New Westminster	Fraser	Fraser North
North Cowichan	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
North Vancouver	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Oak Bay	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Okanagan Falls	Interior	Okanagan
Olalla	Interior	Okanagan
Oliver	Interior	Okanagan
Osoyoos	Interior	Okanagan
Parksville	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Peachland	Interior	Okanagan
Pemberton	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Pender Island	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Penticton	Interior	Okanagan
Pink Mountain	Northern	Northeast
Pitt Meadows	Fraser	Fraser North
Port Alberni	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Port Alice	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Port Coquitlam	Fraser	Fraser North

List of Townships and Corresponding Health Regions

Township Name	Health Authority	Health Services Delivery Area
Port Hardy	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Port McNeill	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Port Moody	Fraser	Fraser North
Powell River	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Prince George	Northern	Northern Interior
Prince Rupert	Northern	Northwest
Princeton	Interior	Okanagan
Prophet River	Northern	Northeast
Quadra Island	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Qualicum Beach	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Queen Charlotte City	Northern	Northwest
Quesnel	Northern	Northern Interior
Radium Hot Springs	Interior	East Kootenay
Revelstoke	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Richmond	Vancouver Coastal	Richmond
Roberts Creek	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Rock Creek	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Saanich	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Salmo	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Salmon Arm	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Salt Spring Island	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Sayward	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Sechelt	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Seton Portage	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Shawnigan Lake	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Sicamous	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Smithers	Northern	Northwest
Sointula	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Sooke	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
South Slokan	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
South Wellington	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Sparwood	Interior	East Kootenay
Squamish	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Sullivan Bay	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Summerland	Interior	Okanagan
Surrey	Fraser	Fraser South
Terrace	Northern	Northwest
Trail	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Tumbler Ridge	Northern	Northeast
Ucluelet	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Vancouver	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver

List of Townships and Corresponding Health Regions

Township Name	Health Authority	Health Services Delivery Area
Vanderhoof	Northern	Northern Interior
Vernon	Interior	Okanagan
Victoria	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
West Kelowna	Interior	Okanagan
West Vancouver	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Whisky Creek	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Whistler	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
White Rock	Fraser	Fraser South
Williams Lake	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Winlaw	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Wonowon	Northern	Northeast
Yale	Fraser	Fraser East
Ymir	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Youbou	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Zeballos	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island