

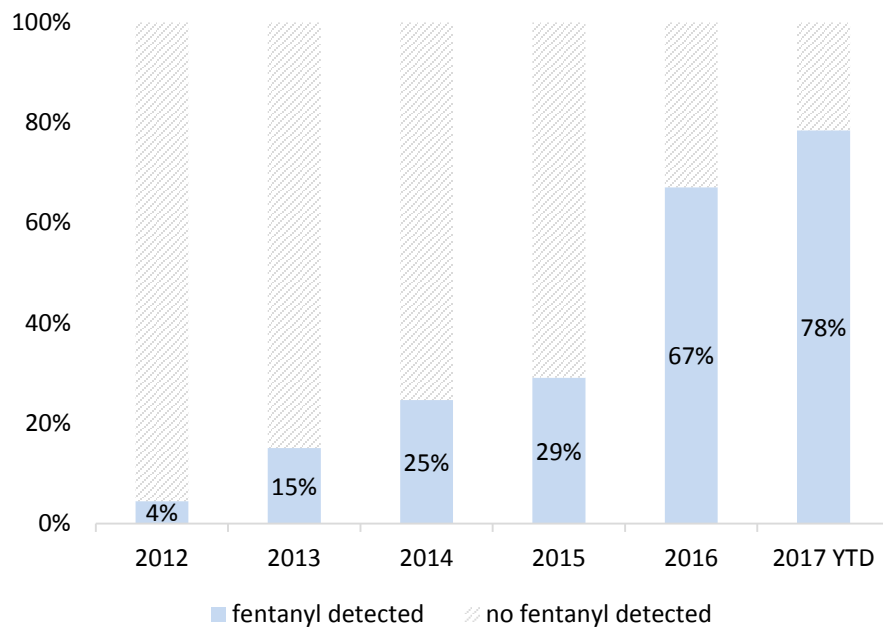
Inclusion Criteria: This report summarizes all deaths that occurred between January 1, 2012 and May 31, 2017 for which fentanyl was detected, whether alone or in combination with other drugs, and the death resulted from illicit drug use^[1]. In the majority of deaths, fentanyl^[2] was detected in combination with other drugs. Deaths were excluded if the fentanyl was known to be prescribed or the death was suspected to be due to intentional self-harm.

This data has been compiled to better understand overall illicit drug overdose trends in British Columbia and to inform other agencies' public safety strategies in a timely manner.^[1] Please see the BC Coroners Service website for a summary of illicit drug overdose deaths: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/death-investigation/statistical-reports>. Note that fentanyl-detected data is subject to change as further analogue testing becomes available.

Summary:

- There were 525 illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected from January through May 2017. This is a 109% increase over the number of deaths (251) occurring during the same period in 2016.
- From January to May 2017, fentanyl was detected in 78% of illicit drug overdose deaths (525 of 669).
- Approximately 31% of those dying from January to May 2017 were aged 30 to 39, with 73% between 30 and 59. Males accounted for 82% of deaths.
- Fraser Health Authority had the highest number (173) of illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected from January through May 2017, followed by Vancouver Coastal Health (160) and Vancouver Island Health Authority (89).^{[3],[4]}
- The Health Service Delivery Areas with the most fentanyl-detected illicit drug overdose deaths from January through May 2017 were Vancouver HSDA (133), Fraser South HSDA (80), and Okanagan HSDA (58). When looking at individual townships over the same time period, the highest numbers of deaths were seen in Vancouver, Surrey, and Victoria.^{[3],[4]}

- Preliminary data for January through May 2017 suggest that the proportion of apparent illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected (alone or in combination with other drugs) is approximately 78%. Proportions from 2012 to 2017 are as follows:
 - 2012 = 4%
 - 2013 = 15%
 - 2014 = 25%
 - 2015 = 29%
 - 2016 = 67%
 - 2017 (Jan.-May) = 78%



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Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Month, 2012-2017^[3]						
Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
January	0	5	5	20	46	101
February	0	3	5	8	29	99
March	0	6	9	8	48	110
April	1	8	8	12	48	115
May	1	3	8	8	37	100
Subtotal	3	27	41	67	251	525
June	1	2	6	11	43	
July	0	1	3	14	40	
August	1	4	8	15	37	
September	1	2	9	15	42	
October	0	4	13	16	53	
November	4	6	6	12	105	
December	3	6	11	12	128	
Total	12	50	91	151	656	525

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Sex, 2012-2017^[3]							
Sex	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Female	2	9	21	25	125	93	275
Male	10	41	70	126	531	432	1210
Total	12	50	91	151	656	525	1485

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Age Group, 2012-2017^[3]							
Age Group	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
10-18	0	1	0	2	12	5	20
19-29	3	19	28	42	151	96	339
30-39	2	10	33	45	197	161	448
40-49	6	13	19	29	151	109	327
50-59	1	5	7	24	115	115	267
60+	0	2	4	9	30	39	84
Total	12	50	91	151	656	525	1485

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Health Authority of Injury, 2012-2017^{[3],[5]}

HA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Vancouver Coastal	1	10	26	40	179	160	416
Fraser	7	16	29	57	203	173	485
Vancouver Island	1	14	17	21	123	89	265
Interior	2	3	9	21	115	80	230
Northern	1	7	10	12	36	23	89
Total	12	50	91	151	656	525	1485

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Month of Death and Health Authority of Injury, 2017^{[3],[5]}

HA	Vancouver Coastal	Fraser	Vancouver Island	Interior	Northern	Total
January	40	30	17	13	1	101
February	27	29	22	16	5	99
March	28	37	22	17	6	110
April	41	36	18	15	5	115
May	24	41	10	19	6	100
Total	160	173	89	80	23	525

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Health Service Delivery Area of Injury, 2012-2017^{[3],[5]}

HSDA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Vancouver	1	5	22	32	148	133	341
Fraser South	5	7	13	19	98	80	222
Okanagan	2	1	4	14	61	58	140
Fraser North	1	6	15	28	69	49	168
Fraser East	1	3	1	10	36	44	95
South Vancouver Island	1	3	2	8	59	41	114
Central Vancouver Island	0	10	13	10	46	35	114
Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	0	1	2	4	44	16	67
Northern Interior	1	3	4	7	14	15	44
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	0	5	4	5	18	14	46
North Vancouver Island	0	1	2	3	18	13	37
Richmond	0	0	0	3	13	13	29
Kootenay Boundary	0	0	1	2	4	5	12
Northeast	0	3	6	4	15	5	33
Northwest	0	1	0	1	7	3	12
East Kootenay	0	1	2	1	6	1	11
Total	12	50	91	151	656	525	1485

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Top Townships of Injury, 2012-2017^{[3],[5]}							
Township	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Vancouver	1	5	22	32	148	133	341
Surrey	3	4	8	11	71	57	154
Victoria	0	3	2	8	53	38	104
Kelowna	0	0	1	6	38	33	78
Abbotsford	0	1	1	6	21	24	53
Nanaimo	0	8	12	9	27	20	76
Burnaby	0	3	0	6	26	19	54
Langley	1	1	5	6	19	15	47
Richmond	0	0	0	3	13	13	29
Maple Ridge	0	3	7	12	20	12	54
Other Township	7	22	33	52	220	161	495
Total	12	50	91	151	656	525	1485

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Notes:

1. The BCCS operates in a live database environment. Some data for more recent years are based on preliminary circumstances and are subject to change as investigations are concluded. Data are not directly comparable to published counts from previous years.
2. Toxicology testing includes acetylfentanyl as of November 2015. Standard testing for carfentanil, 3-methylfentanyl, furanylfentanyl, and W-18 began in June 1, 2017. These results will be reported in the next release.
3. Data for 2017 include cases from January 1 to May 31, 2017.
4. Data are based on location of injury.
5. Death township was used in seven cases where injury township was unknown.
6. More information about the health regions can be found at <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/geographic-data-services/land-use/administrative-boundaries/health-boundaries>