

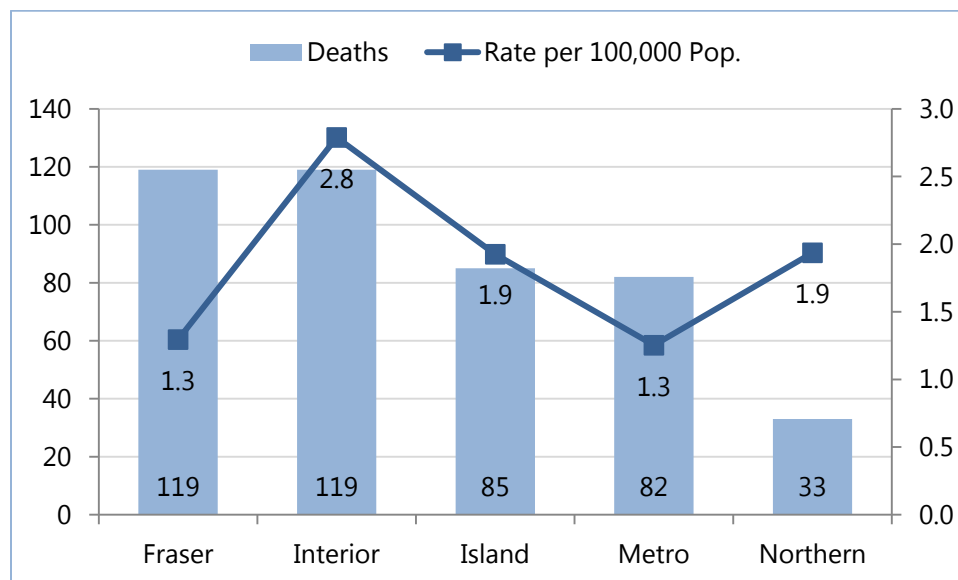
This report summarises prescription opiate-related overdose deaths reported to the BC Coroners Service between 2005 and 2010 with a classification of accidental, suicide, or undetermined. Cases were included if the investigating coroner determined that any of the following drug types were relevant to the death: codeine, fentanyl, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, meperidine, morphine, or oxycodone. The data includes cases where a single drug was used and cases where multiple drugs were taken in combination, but excludes cases involving the illicit use of prescription opiates.

The BCCS operates in a live database environment. The data are considered preliminary until all investigations have been completed. Data are subject to change, and are not directly comparable to published counts from previous years.

Summary

- 61% of deaths were accidental overdoses, and 33.6% were suicide deaths
- 51.1% of decedents were male, and 48.9% were female
- 58.4% of decedents were between 40 and 59 years of age
- The Interior region appears to have the highest rate of prescription opiate-related overdose deaths for 2005-2010, with 2.8 deaths per 100,000. The death rate was 1.9 for both the Island and Northern regions, and 1.3 for both the Fraser and Metro regions.
- The Coroners Service and Interior Health Authority are currently engaged in a further analysis of the Interior data.

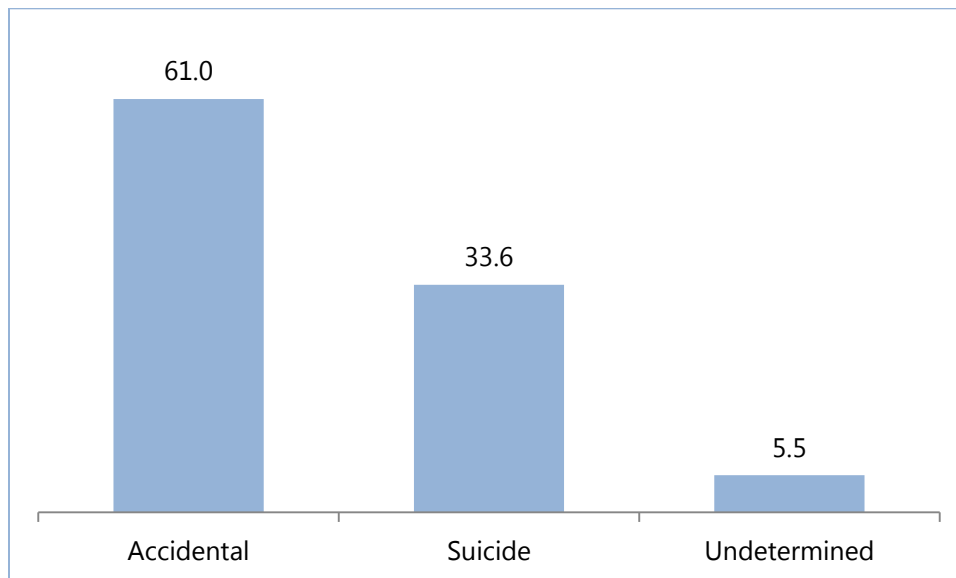
Prescription Opiate-Related Deaths by Region							
Region	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	%
Fraser	18	21	19	23	20	18	27.2
Interior	14	23	17	21	22	22	27.2
Island	9	12	19	21	10	14	19.4
Metro	19	11	11	8	18	15	18.7
Northern	7	8	5	6	4	3	7.5
Total	67	75	71	79	74	72	100



Prescription Opiate-Related Overdose Deaths and Death Rate by Region, 2005-2010

Prescription Opiate-Related Deaths by Classification

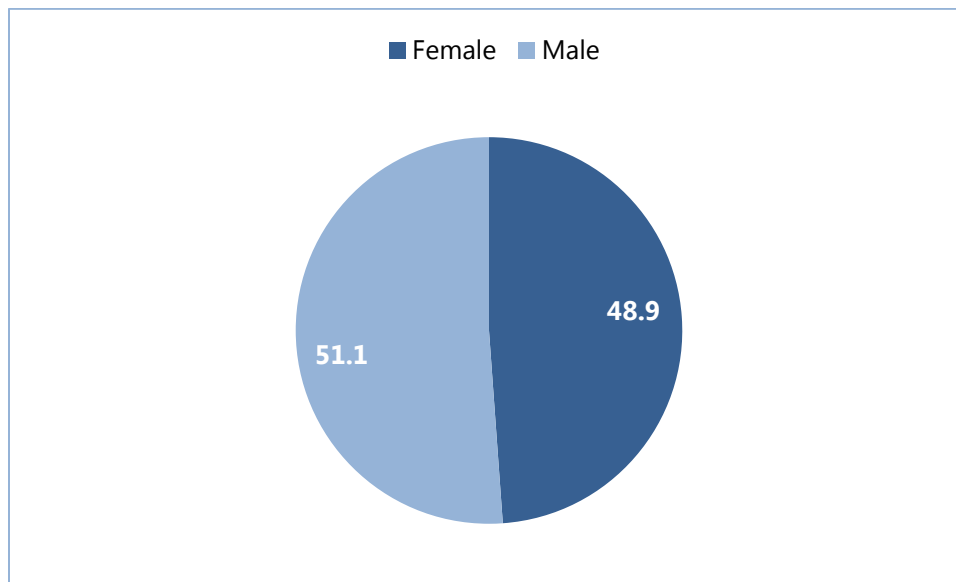
Classification	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Accidental	32	44	45	51	50	45
Suicide	32	26	25	26	20	18
Undetermined	3	5	1	2	4	9
Total	67	75	71	79	74	72



Percentage of Prescription Opiate-Related Deaths by Classification, 2005-2010

Prescription Opiate-Related Deaths by Gender

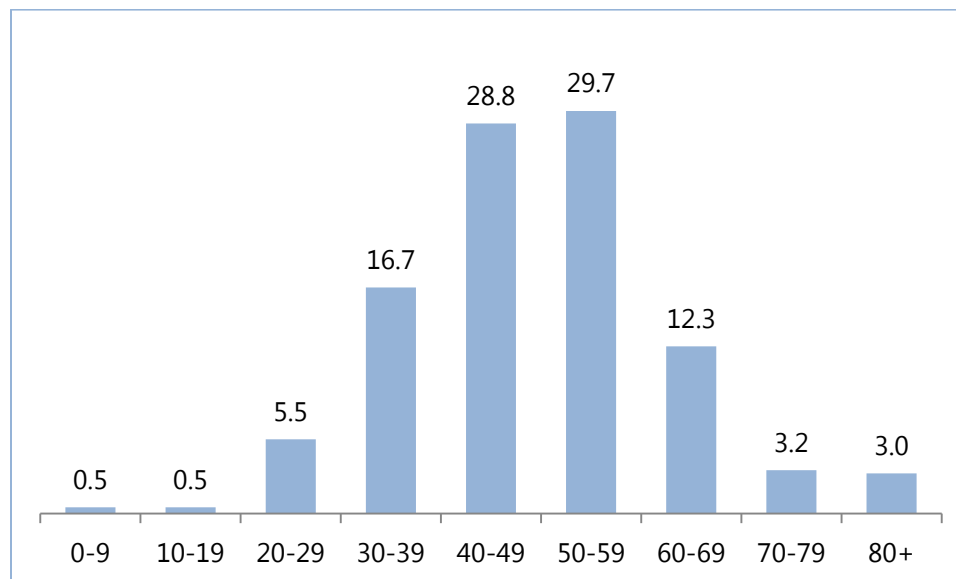
Gender	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Female	29	43	34	40	37	31
Male	38	32	37	39	37	41
Total	67	75	71	79	74	72



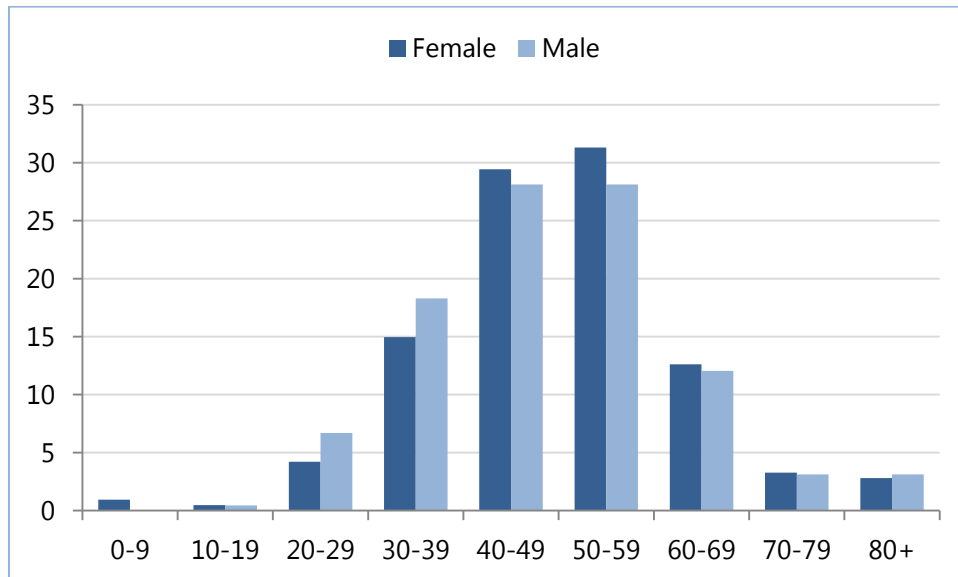
Percentage of Prescription Opiate-Related Deaths by Gender, 2005-2010

Prescription Opiate-Related Deaths by Age Group

Age Group	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
0-9	-	1	1	-	-	-
10-19	1	-	-	1	-	-
20-29	5	2	8	2	4	3
30-39	10	15	11	10	15	12
40-49	26	25	12	25	23	15
50-59	17	19	26	23	22	23
60-69	5	8	10	11	8	12
70-79	1	2	2	5	-	4
80+	2	3	1	2	2	3
Total	67	75	71	79	74	72



Percentage of Prescription Opiate-Related Deaths by Age Group, 2005-2010



Percentage of Prescription Opiate-Related Deaths by Gender and Age Group, 2005-2010