

This report summarizes deaths of individuals experiencing homelessness reported to the BC Coroners Service (BCCS) between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2024. The report does not include the deaths of individuals experiencing homelessness that did not meet the legal criteria of the [Coroners Act](#) for reporting.

Caveats: As the BCCS operates in a live database environment, the data are considered preliminary and subject to change as coroners' investigations conclude. These data were compiled by date of death, which may differ from the date of injury. In some cases, the death may occur days or weeks after injury. The data may be underreported as it is not always possible to determine a person's housing status.

Inclusion Criteria: The data presented in this report are based on suspected homelessness where: 'no fixed address' was given as the decedent's home address; the injury premise was identified as a homeless shelter; or the preliminary circumstances of death suggested homelessness based on the definition below.

Definition: An individual experiencing homelessness is defined as:

- **Unsheltered:** A person living outdoors, in a make-shift shelter, a parked vehicle, a vacant home, or any other structure not intended for habitation.
- **Sheltered:** A person staying at an emergency shelter (overnight) or who is temporarily sheltered (suspected to be for less than 30 days) by friends or family, in a short-term shelter, safe house for youth, or transition house for women and children fleeing violence. Persons residing in short-term shelters, safe houses, or transition houses for an unknown length of time were also included.
- **Unknown:** Includes circumstances where the living situation could not be determined as sheltered or unsheltered based on the available information.

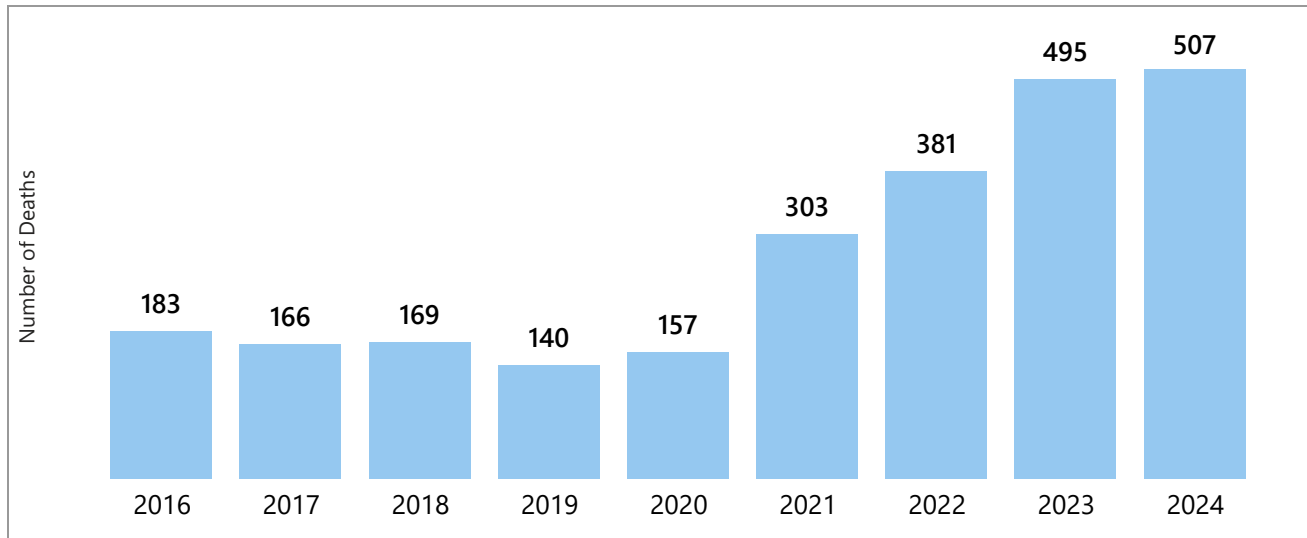
Some individuals who do not meet the above definitions of homelessness may be considered homeless under other definitions. Examples of individuals who were not considered homeless for the purposes of this report include:

- People in correctional institutions, hospitals, or residential drug or alcohol treatment facilities.
- People who have permanent residences but are considered at high risk of homelessness because of unemployment, domestic violence, or other factors.
- People who do not have a permanent residence, but is temporarily residing and paying rent in a motel, hotel, or another form of rental accommodation.
- People residing in recreational vehicles as primary residences.

2024 Summary:

- In 2024, there were 507 reported deaths among individuals experiencing homelessness (*Fig. 1*).
- About 49% of individuals met the criteria for unsheltered homelessness and 30% for sheltered homelessness in 2024. The proportion of unsheltered compared with sheltered individuals has remained relatively consistent over the years (*Fig. 2*).
- Winter months (Dec-Feb) accounted for the highest proportion of deaths at 28%, followed by spring months (Mar-May) at 26% in 2024 (*Fig. 3*).
- In 2024, 75% of the decedents were male. Forty-seven percent (47%) of males were unsheltered, compared with 37% of females (*Fig. 4*).
- Individuals aged 30 to 59 accounted for 75% of deaths (*Fig. 5*).
- Island Health had the highest number of deaths (129), followed by Fraser Health (121) in 2024 (*Table 6*).
- The health service delivery areas with the highest number of deaths were Vancouver (87), Central Vancouver Island (63), and Fraser South (57) (*Table 7*).
- The injury townships with the highest number of deaths were Vancouver (85), Surrey (44), Greater Victoria (36), and Nanaimo (36) (*Table 8*).
- In 2024, 78% (396) of deaths were attributed to accidental unregulated drug toxicity (*Table 8; Fig. 8*).

Figure 1. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Death Year, 2016-2024



Mortality rates were calculated using the population estimates provided through the [‘Preventing and Reducing Homelessness: An Integrated Data Project.’](#) The project provides an estimate of the population experiencing homelessness in B.C. by integrating datasets from the Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) BC Employment and Assistance program, BC Housing Emergency Shelter Program, and the Ministry of Health Medical Services Plan (MSP) client registry. Annual population estimates are available for 2019-2022.

Mortality rates should be interpreted with caution as the BC Coroners Service does not investigate all deaths of individuals experiencing homelessness. The number of deaths in this report excludes individuals experiencing homelessness that did not meet the legal criteria of the Coroners Act for reporting. Furthermore, the population estimates do not account for individuals that did not access shelter services or BC Employment and Assistance services, for which data is not available. For more details on methodology and other limitations, please refer to the [Preventing and Reducing Homelessness: An Integrated Data Project](#) website.

Table 1. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness, 2019-2022^[1]

Year	Number of Deaths	Homelessness Cohort Estimates	Death Rate per 1,000 Individuals Experiencing Homelessness
2019	140	24,717	5.7
2020	157	24,506	6.4
2021	303	26,376	11.5
2022	381	28,710	13.3

Note: Mortality rates are calculated using annual population estimates of individuals experiencing homelessness, which are available for 2019-2022.

Table 2. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Type, 2016-2024

Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Unsheltered	92	73	82	68	90	141	187	223	248
Sheltered	69	53	42	46	46	111	120	171	151
Unknown	22	40	45	26	21	51	74	101	108
Total	183	166	169	140	157	303	381	495	507

Figure 2. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Type of Homelessness as %, 2016-2024

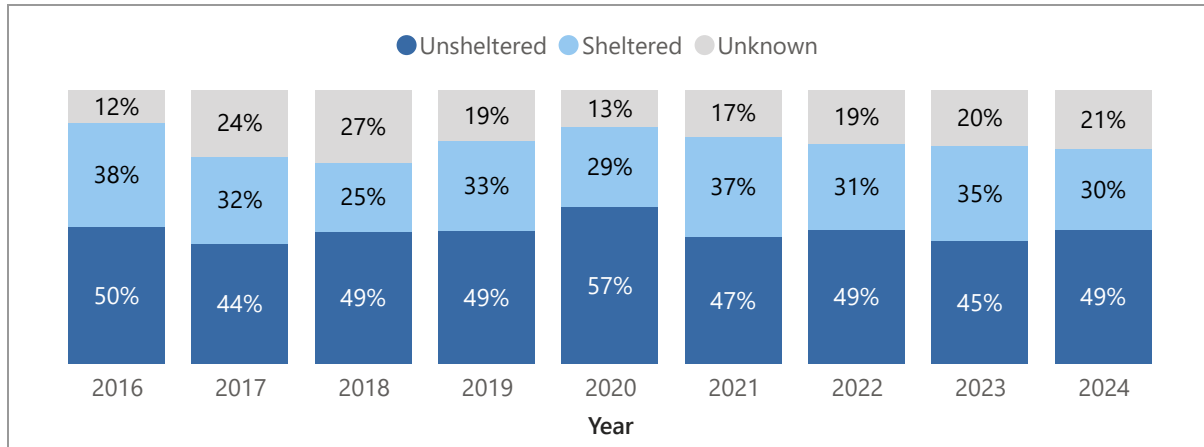


Table 3. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Month, 2016-2024

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	13	21	10	16	11	23	42	50	59
February	13	10	16	12	9	12	28	32	44
March	12	9	11	18	17	16	33	44	41
April	12	16	12	16	17	18	28	52	43
May	14	13	9	11	12	16	24	34	35
June	12	21	16	12	22	23	24	36	41
July	8	10	14	7	11	27	28	37	42
August	17	15	24	7	7	28	33	33	39
September	10	15	16	6	12	28	27	34	45
October	23	10	17	13	8	39	38	45	38
November	26	15	17	11	19	35	31	42	40
December	23	11	7	11	12	38	45	56	40
Total	183	166	169	140	157	303	381	495	507

Figure 3. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Season as %, 2024

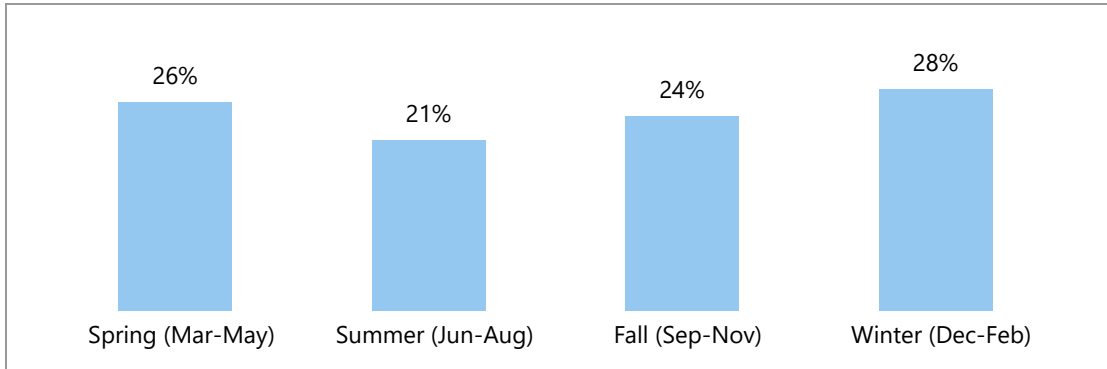


Table 4. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Sex, 2016-2024

Sex	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Female	29	37	31	17	24	65	83	109	125
Male	154	129	138	122	133	238	298	386	381
Unknown	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	183	166	169	140	157	303	381	495	507

Figure 4. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Type of Homelessness and Sex as %, 2024

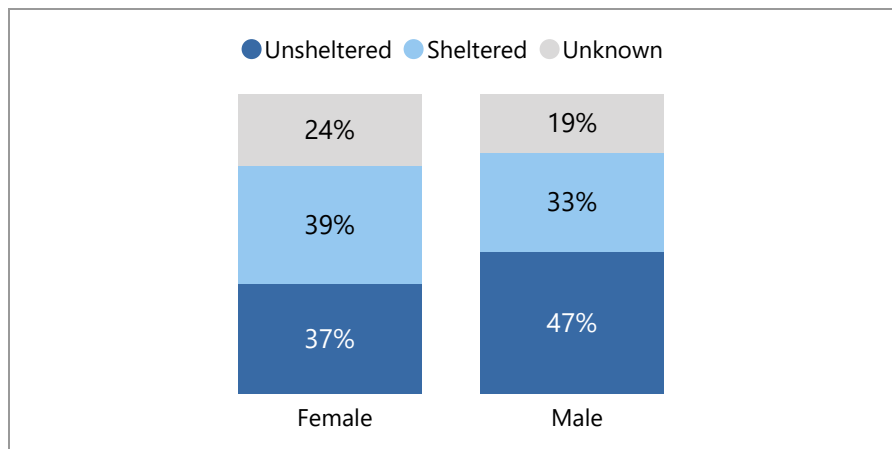


Table 5. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Age Group, 2016-2024

Age Group	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<19	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	2
19-29	35	28	28	19	26	40	52	64	69
30-39	30	36	34	28	39	99	118	138	158
40-49	38	58	35	37	32	59	84	117	126
50-59	57	38	52	33	39	64	86	114	94
60-69	19	4	19	20	15	31	35	53	50
70+	3	1	1	2	5	8	5	8	8
Total	183	166	169	140	157	303	381	495	507

Figure 5. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Age Group as %, 2024

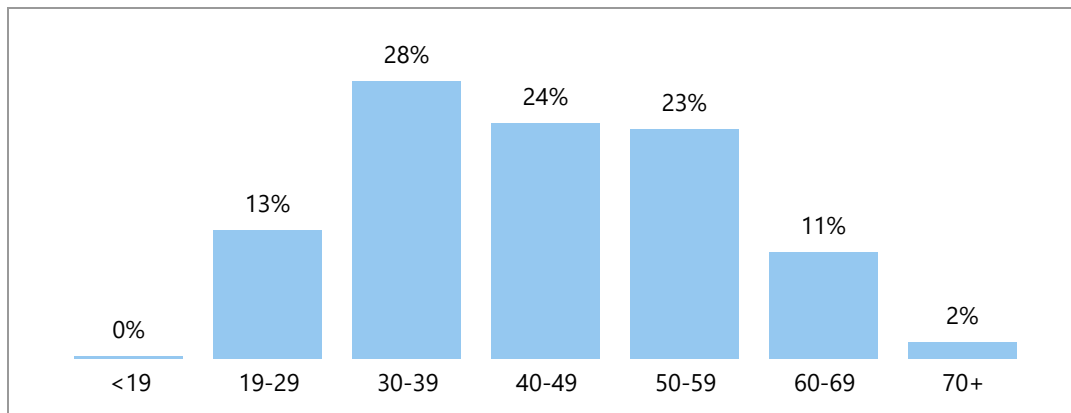


Table 6. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Health Authority (HA) of Injury, 2016-2024^[2,3]

Injury HA	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Interior	35	31	29	24	27	51	79	90	96
Fraser	60	54	50	44	51	101	111	127	121
Vancouver Coastal	52	40	41	31	40	74	83	107	107
Island	27	29	35	32	27	49	75	122	129
Northern	9	12	14	9	12	28	33	49	54
Total	183	166	169	140	157	303	381	495	507

Fig. 6. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Health Authority of Injury as %, 2024^[2,3]

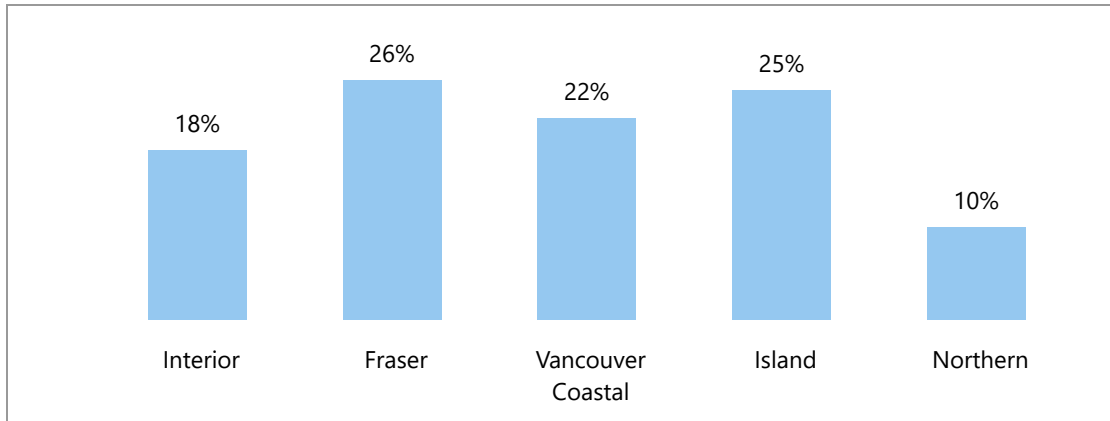


Table 7. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Health Service Delivery Area (HSDA) of Injury, 2016-2024^[2,3]

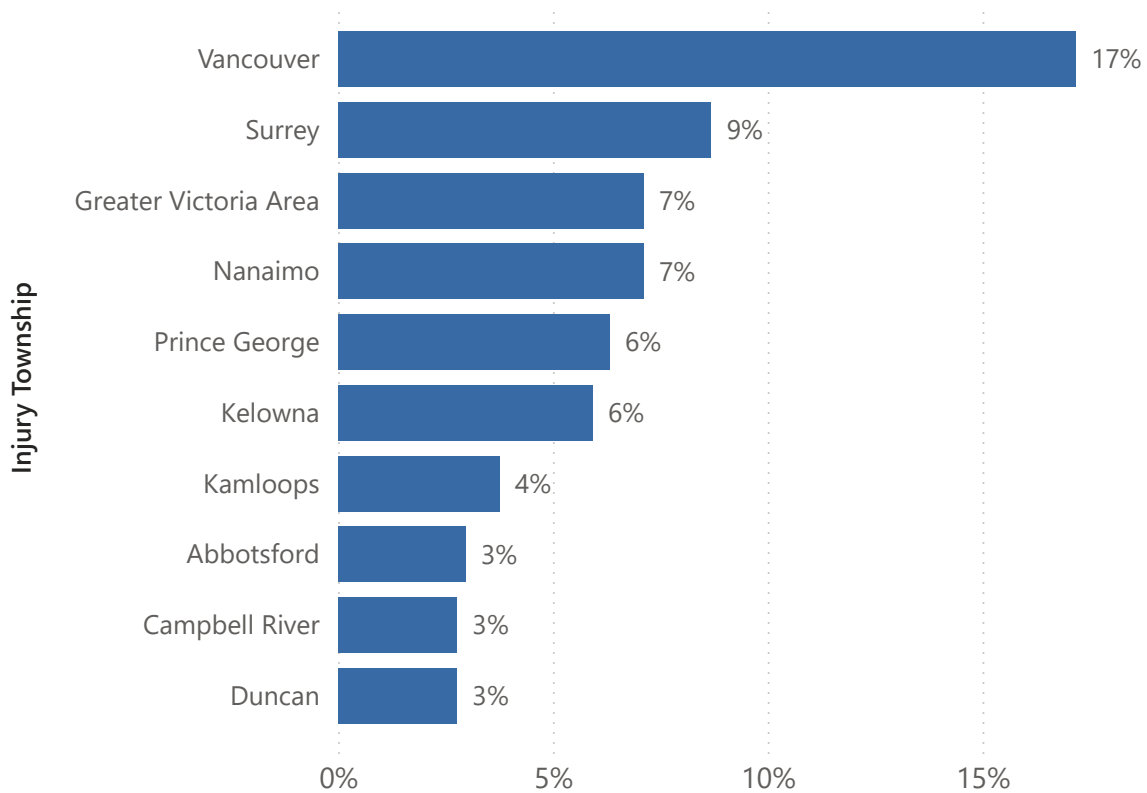
Injury HSDA	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
East Kootenay	1	0	0	0	2	6	7	6	5
Kootenay Boundary	3	2	1	1	3	4	7	7	9
Okanagan	20	18	20	12	9	32	37	44	53
Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	11	11	8	11	13	9	28	33	29
Fraser East	19	22	14	18	21	34	45	55	29
Fraser North	16	8	12	10	11	26	26	21	35
Fraser South	25	24	24	16	19	41	40	51	57
Richmond	0	2	0	0	1	4	3	7	6
Vancouver	45	34	39	27	35	62	77	88	87
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	7	4	2	4	4	8	3	12	14
South Vancouver Island	19	17	12	17	14	22	34	39	36
Central Vancouver Island	4	8	16	10	9	17	28	62	63
North Vancouver Island	4	4	7	5	4	10	13	21	30
Northwest	0	0	0	3	0	6	10	10	16
Northern Interior	6	10	14	5	11	18	19	30	34
Northeast	3	2	0	1	1	4	4	9	4
Total	183	166	169	140	157	303	381	495	507

Table 8. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Top 10 Injury Township, 2016-2024^[2,3]

Township	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Vancouver	45	34	39	27	35	62	77	88	87
Surrey	17	16	19	13	17	36	28	39	44
Greater Victoria Area	19	16	12	16	14	20	34	39	36
Nanaimo	1	5	4	5	5	9	16	42	36
Prince George	5	8	13	3	8	15	14	27	32
Kelowna	10	12	8	4	5	13	16	22	30
Kamloops	8	7	7	6	8	7	21	26	19
Abbotsford	8	13	6	10	11	18	19	25	15
Campbell River	3	1	4	2	1	1	8	10	14
Duncan	0	1	7	1	1	1	7	6	14

Note: Table includes the 10 injury townships with the highest number of deaths in 2024.

Fig 7. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Top 10 Injury Township as %, 2024^[2,3]



Note: Figure includes the 10 injury townships with the highest number of deaths in 2024. Percentages are calculated using total deaths across all townships in 2024.

Table 9. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Classification of Death, 2016-2024

Classification	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Accidental	114	138	139	95	130	267	337	450	437
Accidental Unregulated Drug Toxicity	95	129	122	80	119	247	313	424	396
Other Accidental	19	9	17	15	11	20	24	26	41
Natural	30	11	20	29	11	24	22	29	44
Suicide	20	10	5	11	5	8	7	7	14
Undetermined	14	7	4	2	8	3	5	6	9
Homicide	5	0	1	3	3	1	10	3	3
Total	183	166	169	140	157	303	381	495	507

Figure 8. Deaths of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Year and Classification, 2016-2024

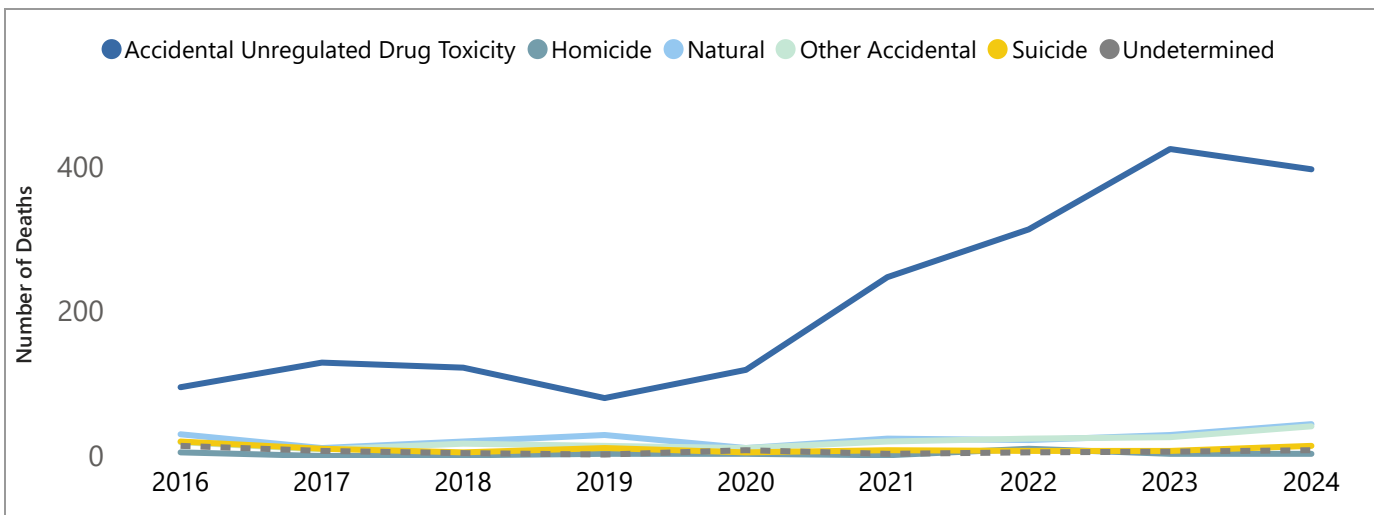
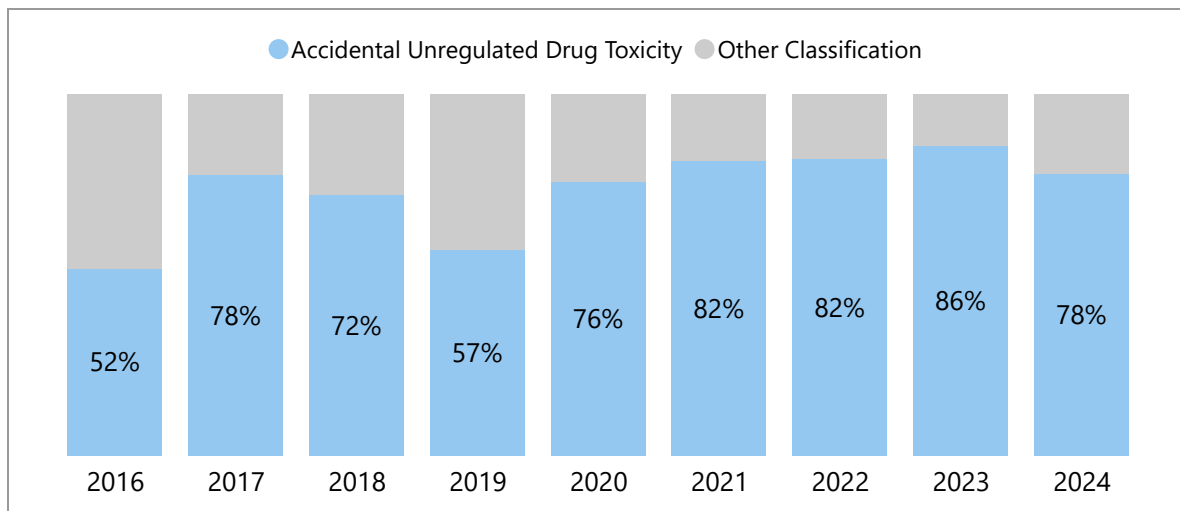


Figure 9. Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths among Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Classification as %, 2016-2024



Notes:

1. Population estimates of individuals experiencing homelessness in British Columbia can be found at: [Preventing and reducing homelessness: An integrated data project - Province of British Columbia](#)
2. Health Region breakdowns can be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/partners/health-authorities/health-boundary-maps>
3. Health authority is derived from injury township. Death township is used in cases of unknown or out-of-province injury township.