

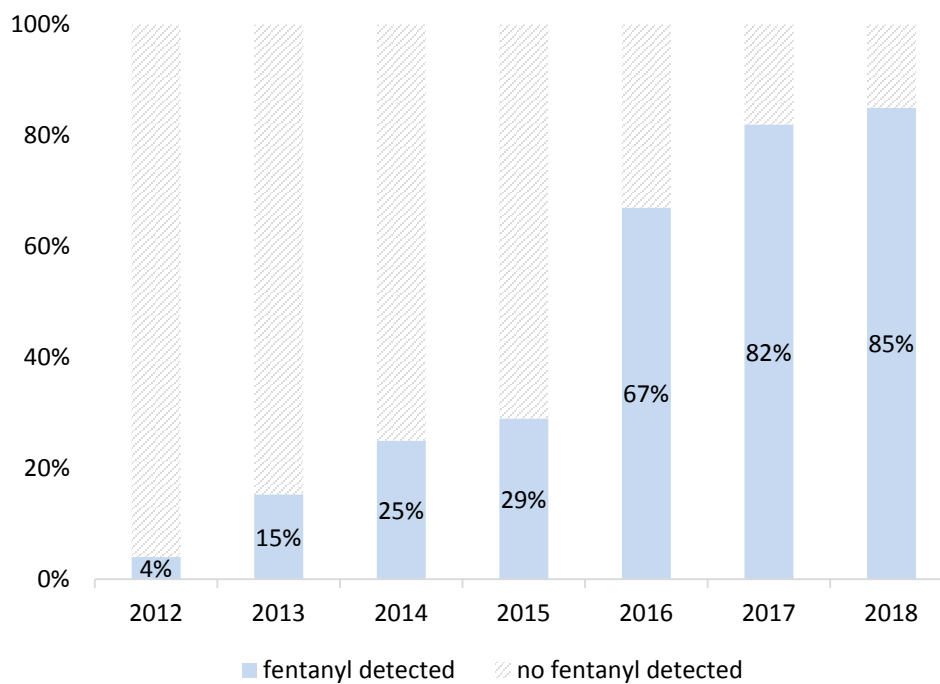
Inclusion Criteria: This report summarizes all deaths that occurred between January 1, 2012 and September 30, 2018 for which fentanyl or its analogues were detected, whether alone or in combination with other drugs, and the death resulted from illicit drug use^[1]. In the majority of deaths, fentanyl or its analogues^[2] were 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: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events/death/coroners-service/statistical-reports>. *Note that fentanyl-detected data is subject to change as further analogue testing becomes available.*

Summary:

- There were 116 illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected in September 2018. This is a 49% increase over the number of deaths occurring in September 2017 (78) and an 8% increase over the number of deaths occurring in August 2018 (107).
- Fentanyl or its analogues were detected in approximately 85% of illicit drug overdose deaths in 2018 and 82% of illicit drug overdose deaths in 2017.
- Carfentanil has been detected in 20 suspected illicit drug overdose deaths in Jan-Sep 2018 and 73 deaths in Jun-Dec 2017. *Note this is subject to change as further toxicology results are received.*
- Approximately 72% of those dying in Jan-Sep 2018 were aged 30 to 59, with 92% between 19 and 59. Males accounted for 80% of all deaths during this period.
- Fraser Health Authority had the highest number (316) of illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected in Jan-Sep 2018, followed by Vancouver Coastal Health (283) and Vancouver Island Health Authority (167).^{[3],[4]}
- The Health Service Delivery Areas with the most fentanyl-detected illicit drug overdose deaths in Jan-Sep 2018 were Vancouver HSDA (250), Fraser South HSDA (166), and Fraser North HSDA (92). 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 2018 suggest that the proportion of apparent illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected (alone or in combination with other drugs) is approximately 85%. Proportions from 2012 to 2018 are as follows:
 - 2012 = 4%
 - 2013 = 15%
 - 2014 = 25%
 - 2015 = 29%
 - 2016 = 67%
 - 2017 = 82%
 - 2018 = 85%



Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Month, 2012-2018 ^[3]							
Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
January	0	5	5	20	46	106	116
February	0	3	5	8	30	106	87
March	0	6	9	8	48	117	136
April	1	8	8	12	48	129	112
May	1	3	8	8	37	113	91
June	1	2	6	11	42	104	89
July	0	1	3	14	41	107	122
August	1	4	8	15	38	110	107
September	1	2	9	15	43	78	116
October	0	4	13	16	53	80	-
November	4	6	6	12	111	89	-
December	3	6	11	13	131	84	-
Total	12	50	91	152	668	1,223	976

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Sex, 2012-2018 ^[3]							
Sex	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Female	2	9	21	26	127	212	196
Male	10	41	70	126	541	1,011	780
Total	12	50	91	152	668	1,223	976

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Age Group, 2012-2018 ^[3]							
Age Group	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
10-18	0	1	0	2	12	15	11
19-29	3	19	28	43	154	243	192
30-39	2	10	33	45	196	351	276
40-49	6	13	19	29	154	282	213
50-59	1	5	7	24	121	246	213
60+	0	2	4	9	31	86	71
Total	12	50	91	152	668	1,223	976

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Health Authority of Injury, 2012-2018^{[3],[5]}

HA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Interior	2	3	9	21	117	207	157
Fraser	7	16	29	57	210	391	316
Vancouver Coastal	1	10	26	40	182	366	283
Vancouver Island	1	14	17	22	123	208	167
Northern	1	7	10	12	36	51	53
Total	12	50	91	152	668	1,223	976

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Health Service Delivery Area of Injury, 2012-2018^{[3],[5]}

HSDA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
East Kootenay	0	1	2	1	6	4	4
Kootenay Boundary	0	0	1	2	5	15	10
Okanagan	2	1	4	14	60	132	88
Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	0	1	2	4	46	56	55
Fraser East	1	3	1	10	37	86	58
Fraser North	1	6	15	28	72	109	92
Fraser South	5	7	13	19	101	196	166
Richmond	0	0	0	3	13	25	9
Vancouver	1	5	22	32	152	305	250
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	0	5	4	5	17	36	24
South Vancouver Island	1	3	2	9	60	94	90
Central Vancouver Island	0	10	13	10	46	82	59
North Vancouver Island	0	1	2	3	17	32	18
Northwest	0	1	0	1	7	6	4
Northern Interior	1	3	4	7	14	30	35
Northeast	0	3	6	4	15	15	14
Total	12	50	91	152	668	1,223	976

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Month of Death and Health Authority of Injury, 2017-2018^{[3],[5]}

Year	HA	Interior	Fraser	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Northern	Total
2017	January	11	34	43	17	1	106
	February	18	30	30	23	5	106
	March	17	40	31	23	6	117
	April	18	38	51	17	5	129
	May	20	42	32	12	7	113
	June	20	29	29	23	3	104
	July	26	34	26	17	4	107
	August	25	33	26	19	7	110
	September	11	25	25	14	3	78
	October	14	31	17	17	1	80
	November	15	34	27	10	3	89
	December	12	21	29	16	6	84
2018	January	17	34	33	27	5	116
	February	19	33	17	14	4	87
	March	14	41	45	25	11	136
	April	16	40	33	15	8	112
	May	20	26	29	10	6	91
	June	21	28	18	17	5	89
	July	16	42	36	18	10	122
	August	19	29	37	20	2	107
	September	15	43	35	21	2	116
Total		364	707	649	375	104	2199

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Top Townships of Injury, 2012-2018^{[3],[5]}

Township	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Vancouver	1	5	22	32	152	305	250
Surrey	3	4	8	11	73	147	132
Victoria	0	3	2	8	53	83	68
Kelowna	0	0	1	6	37	66	38
Prince George	1	3	4	6	13	20	29
Burnaby	0	3	0	6	28	35	28
Kamloops	0	1	2	3	31	31	28
Abbotsford	0	1	1	6	22	41	26
Nanaimo	0	8	12	9	27	45	23
Maple Ridge	0	3	7	12	20	25	20
Langley	1	1	5	6	19	32	19
Chilliwack	1	0	0	2	8	19	19
New Westminster	1	0	0	3	8	16	18
Vernon	0	0	1	2	10	16	16
Coquitlam	0	0	4	4	8	21	15
Other Township	4	18	22	36	159	321	247
Total	12	50	91	152	668	1,223	976

*sorted by 2018 data

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. Fentanyl-detected data is derived from testing conducted by the BC Coroners Service.
3. Data for 2018 include cases from January 1 to September 30, 2018.
4. Data are based on location of injury.
5. Township of death was used in 31 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>