

This report summarizes all unintentional illicit drug toxicity deaths in British Columbia (accidental and undetermined) that occurred between January 1, 2010, and November 30, 2020, inclusive. It includes confirmed and suspected illicit toxicity deaths (inclusion criteria below). *Please note that data is subject to change as investigations are concluded.*<sup>1</sup>

**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: Rates, numbers and percentages are subject to change as investigations are completed.*

## 2020 Summary

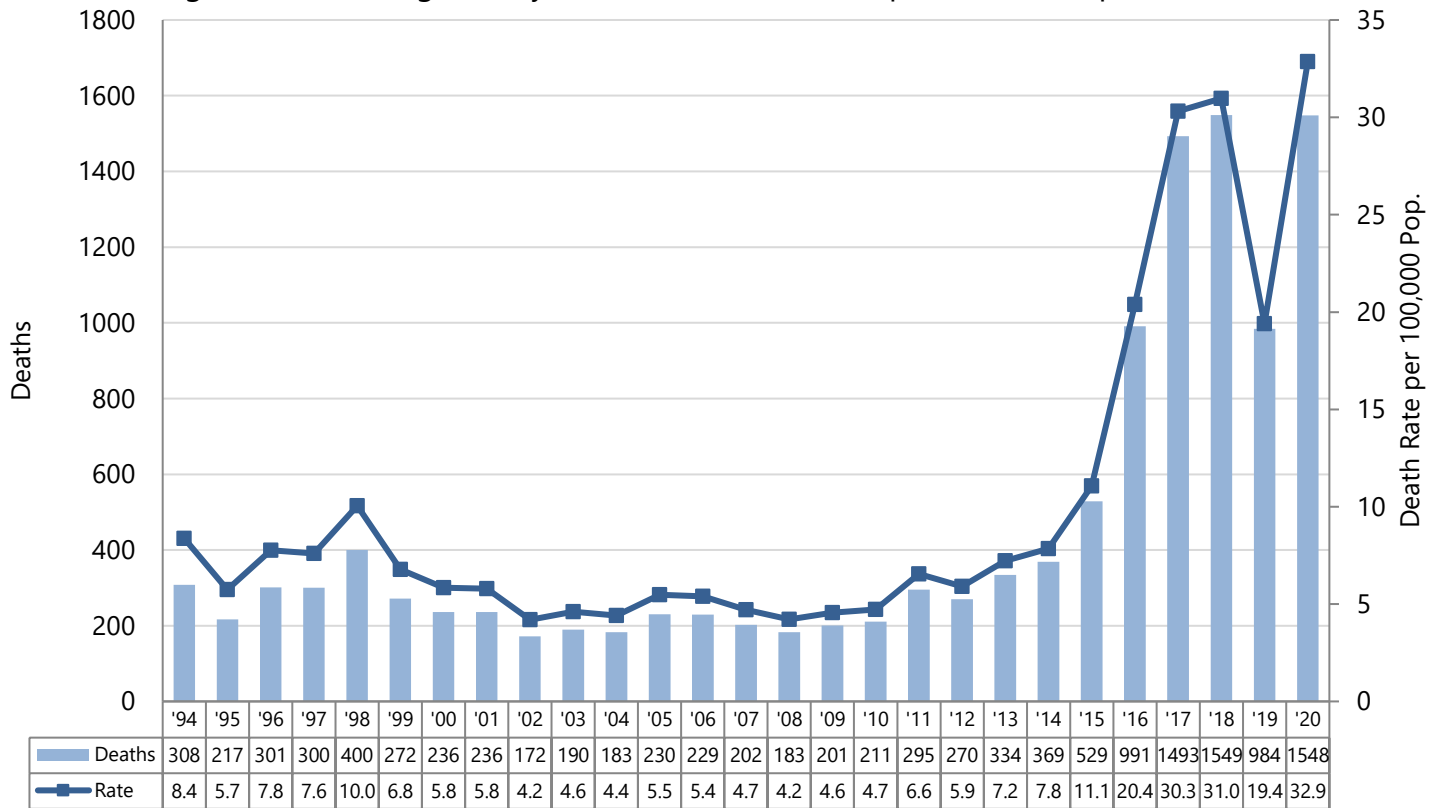
- In November 2020, there were 153 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths. This represents a 89% increase over the number of deaths seen in November 2019 (81) and a 7% decrease over the number of deaths seen in October 2020 (164).
- The number of illicit drug toxicity deaths in November 2020 equates to about 5.1 deaths per day.
- In 2020, 70% of those dying were aged 30 to 59. Males accounted for 81% of deaths in 2020 to date.
- The townships experiencing the highest number of illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2020 are Vancouver, Surrey, and Victoria.
- By Health Authority (HA), in 2020, the highest **number** of illicit drug toxicity deaths were in Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Health Authorities (510 and 424 deaths, respectively), making up 60% of all such deaths during this period.
- By Health Authority (HA), in 2020, the highest **rates** were in Northern Health (44 deaths per 100,000 individuals) and Vancouver Coastal Health (38 per 100,000). Overall, the rate in BC is 33 deaths per 100,000 individuals in 2020, higher than rates in 2017 and 2018.
- By Health Service Delivery Area (HSDA), in 2020, the highest **rates** were in Vancouver, Northern Interior, Northeast, Thompson Cariboo and Fraser East.
- By Local Health Area (LHA), in 2018 to 2020, the highest **rates** were in Hope, Vancouver, Keremeos, Lillooet, and Prince George.

- In 2020, 84% of illicit drug toxicity deaths occurred inside (55% in private residences and 28% in other residences including social and supportive housing, SROs, shelters, and hotels and other indoor locations) and 15% occurred outside in vehicles, sidewalks, streets, parks, etc.
- In Vancouver Coastal, other residences (48%) were the most common place of illicit drug toxicity deaths followed by private residences (36%) between 2017 and 2020 (see Table 3, Page 5).
- No deaths have been reported at supervised consumption or drug overdose prevention sites.<sup>2</sup>

### **Observations of Past Few Months**

- Male illicit drug toxicity death rates have continued to increase in November 2020 while female rates have declined from October (see Figure 4, Page 8).
- Illicit drug toxicity death rates among 19-59 years has been trending downwards over several months; whereas, rates among 60+ years have been trending upwards. Rates among 0-18 years remain low (see Figure 6, Page 10).
- Island Health illicit drug toxicity death rates have been trending downwards over the past several months; however, all other health authority rates remain high (see Figure 7, Page 13).

Figure 1: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths and Death Rate per 100,000 Population <sup>[3,5]</sup>

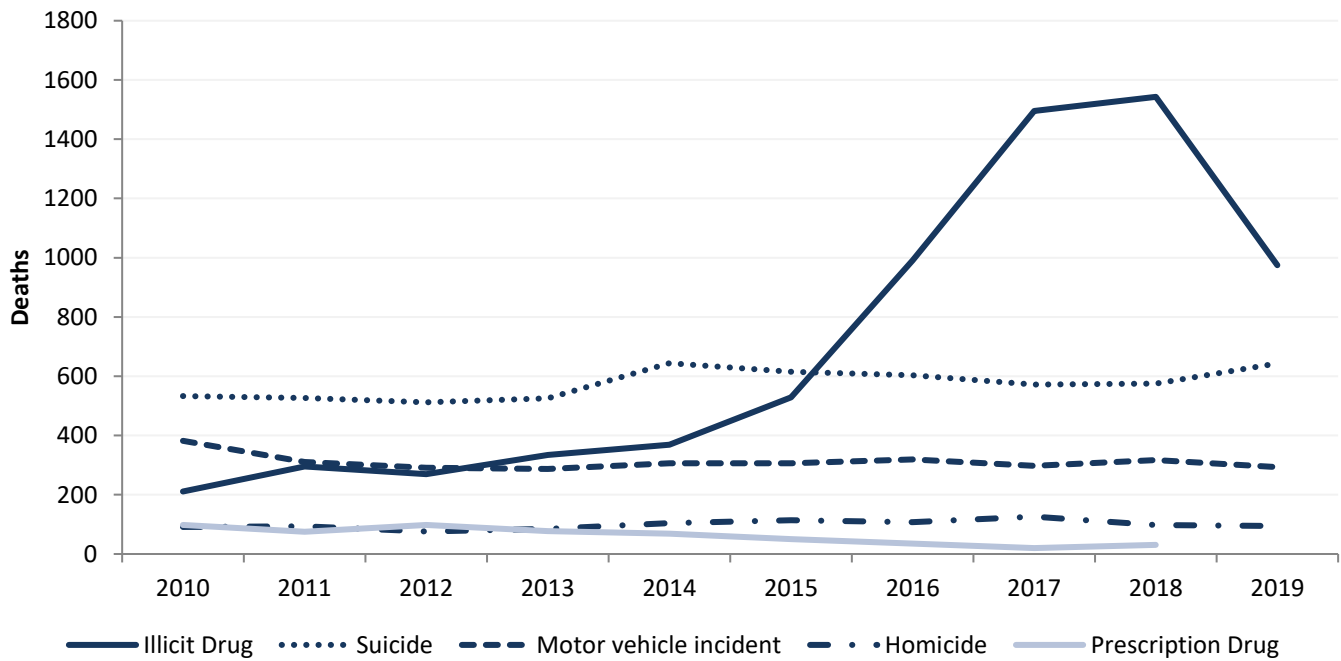


BC CORONERS SERVICE

Table 1: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Month, British Columbia, 2010-2020 <sup>[3]</sup>											
Month	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jan	16	24	20	20	23	43	85	147	134	94	79
Feb	14	24	17	21	38	31	58	124	108	85	75
Mar	15	25	25	33	28	32	76	130	158	116	115
Apr	9	27	31	31	29	34	72	154	136	83	120
May	22	22	19	28	40	41	51	149	119	88	177
Jun	21	22	25	25	29	34	71	128	116	76	185
Jul	23	33	29	39	25	40	74	123	147	75	184
Aug	24	22	20	21	37	53	64	127	123	84	160
Sep	20	22	16	28	32	50	63	97	136	61	136
Oct	18	23	19	19	35	53	76	98	118	75	164
Nov	18	27	28	31	28	52	140	112	132	81	153
Subtotal	200	271	249	296	344	463	830	1,389	1,427	918	1,548
Dec	11	24	21	38	25	66	161	104	122	66	-
Total	211	295	270	334	369	529	991	1,493	1,549	984	1,548
Average	17.6	24.6	22.5	27.8	30.8	44.1	82.6	124.4	129.1	82.0	140.7

**Comparison to Other Common Causes of Unnatural Deaths from 2010 to 2019:**

Figure 2: Major Causes of Unnatural Deaths in BC



\*Prescription drug toxicity deaths (accidental and undetermined) include cases where only a prescription drug is involved and reported for closed investigations only to 2018.

**BC Data by Place of Injury****Table 2: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Place of Injury, BC, 2017-2020<sup>[3]</sup>**

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Inside:				
Private Residence	898 (60.2%)	923 (59.6%)	565 (57.4%)	858 (55.4%)
Other Residence	366 (24.5%)	372 (24.0%)	259 (26.3%)	406 (26.2%)
Correctional facility/police cell	3 (0.2%)	6 (0.4%)	4 (0.4%)	5 (0.3%)
Medical facility	1 (0.1%)	5 (0.3%)	5 (0.5%)	6 (0.4%)
Occupational site	10 (0.7%)	6 (0.4%)	6 (0.6%)	5 (0.3%)
Public building				
Public washroom	26 (1.7%)	23 (1.5%)	11 (1.1%)	5 (0.3%)
Other area of building	7 (0.5%)	11 (0.7%)	7 (0.7%)	12 (0.8%)
Outside	177 (11.9%)	194 (12.5%)	117 (11.9%)	224 (14.5%)
Unknown	5 (0.3%)	9 (0.6%)	10 (1.0%)	27 (1.7%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>1,548</b>

**Table 3: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Place of Injury and Health Authority, BC, 2017-2020<sup>[3]</sup>**

	Interior	Fraser	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Northern
Inside:					
Private Residence	567 (65.6%)	1,322 (71.4%)	574 (35.7%)	546 (60.6%)	235 (67.3%)
Other Residence	155 (17.9%)	216 (11.7%)	766 (47.7%)	204 (22.6%)	62 (17.8%)
Other Inside	32 (3.7%)	62 (3.4%)	41 (2.6%)	19 (2.1%)	10 (2.9%)
Outside	105 (12.1%)	234 (12.6%)	210 (13.1%)	122 (13.5%)	41 (11.8%)
Unknown	6 (0.7%)	18 (1.0%)	16 (1.0%)	10 (1.1%)	1 (0.3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>1,852</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>349</b>

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 83% in 2020 and 85% in 2019. *2020 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 Apr-Nov 2020 compared with previous months (concentrations exceeded >50ug/L (micrograms/litre)). From Apr-Nov 2020, approximately 13% of cases had extreme fentanyl concentrations as compared to 8% from Jan 2019 to Mar 2020.
- Carfentanil has been detected in 132 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2019 and 55 deaths in 2020. There were 49 deaths with carfentanil detected in Jun-Nov 2020. *This is subject to change as further toxicology results are received.*
- A review of completed cases from 2017-20 indicates that the top four detected drugs relevant to illicit drug toxicity deaths were fentanyl (87%), cocaine (49%), methamphetamine/amphetamine (35%), and other opioids (30%).
- Among the drug types involved in completed illicit drug toxicity death investigations, illicit fentanyl has increased from 5% in 2012 to 87% in 2019. Methamphetamine has also increased from 14% in 2012 to 39% in 2019. Cocaine and other opioids have steadily declined from 2012 to 2019; however, cocaine remains involved in 48% of illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2019.

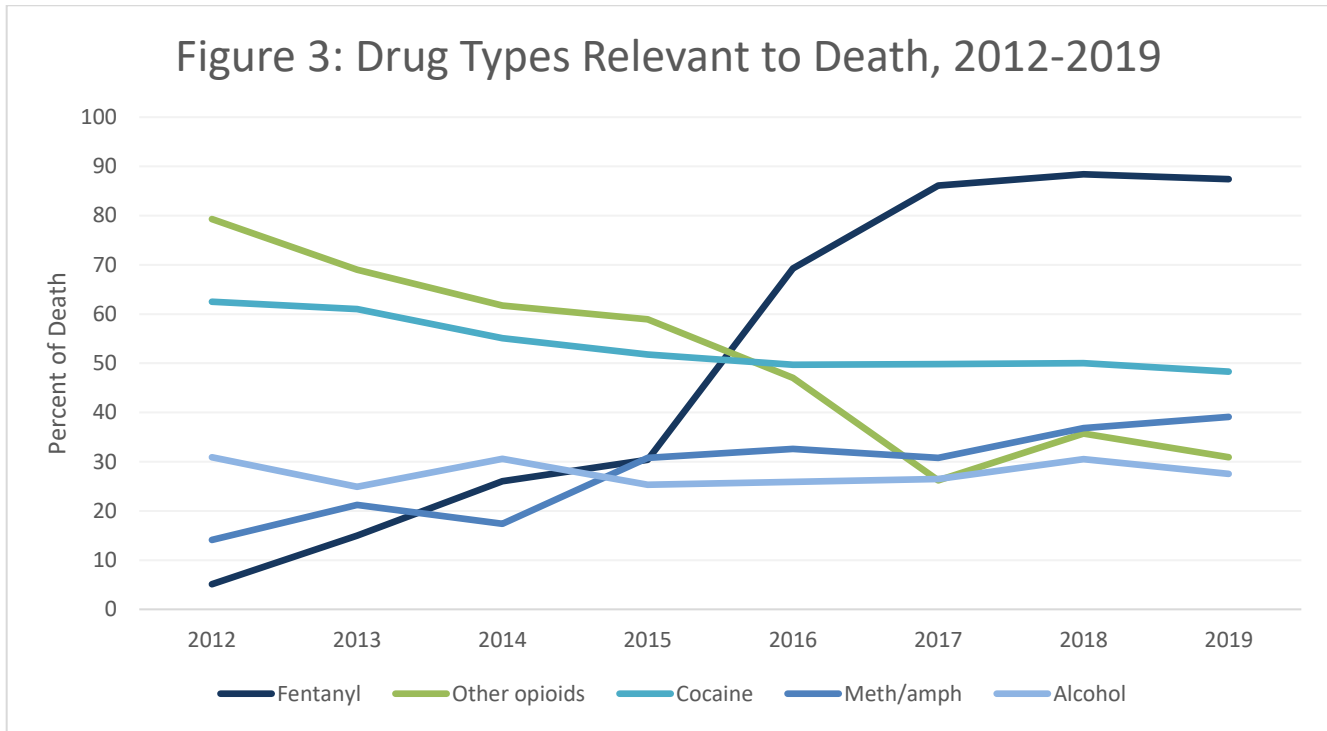
**Table 5: Top Drugs Involved Among Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths, 2017-20**

Drug Detected	BC (n=3,188)
Illicit fentanyl & analogues	86.8%
Cocaine	49.4%
Methamphetamine/amphetamine	35.1%
Other opioids	29.9%
Ethyl alcohol	28.1%
Benzodiazepines	4.1%
Other stimulants	2.7%

**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.*



**Income Assistance Week:**

**Table 4: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths per day by Income Assistance Payment Week, 2019-2020<sup>[3,4]</sup>**

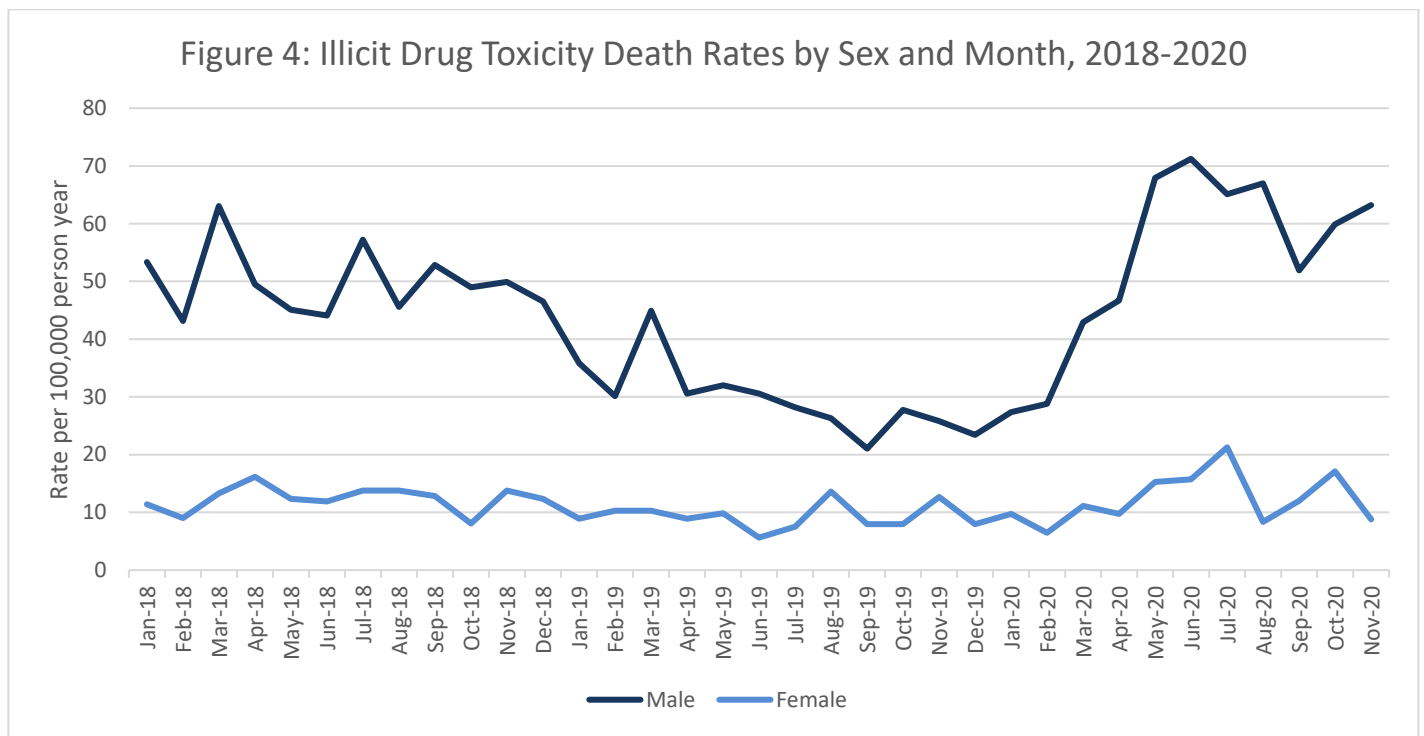
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Avg
Income Assistance Payment Week (Wed-Sun)	3.2	2.8	3.4	7.2	3.4	7.4	8.6	6.0	4.4	5.0	6.4	7.0	5.4
All other days of the month	1.9	2.5	2.4	3.0	4.1	5.4	5.7	5.9	5.3	4.4	5.1	4.7	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.4</b>

- More illicit drug toxicity deaths occurred during the days following income assistance payment (Wed-Sun) than all other days in 2019-20. 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, 2010-2020<sup>[3]</sup>**

Sex	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Female	49	82	76	79	86	106	199	269	313	238	293
Male	162	213	194	255	283	423	792	1,223	1,236	746	1,255
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>1,548</b>



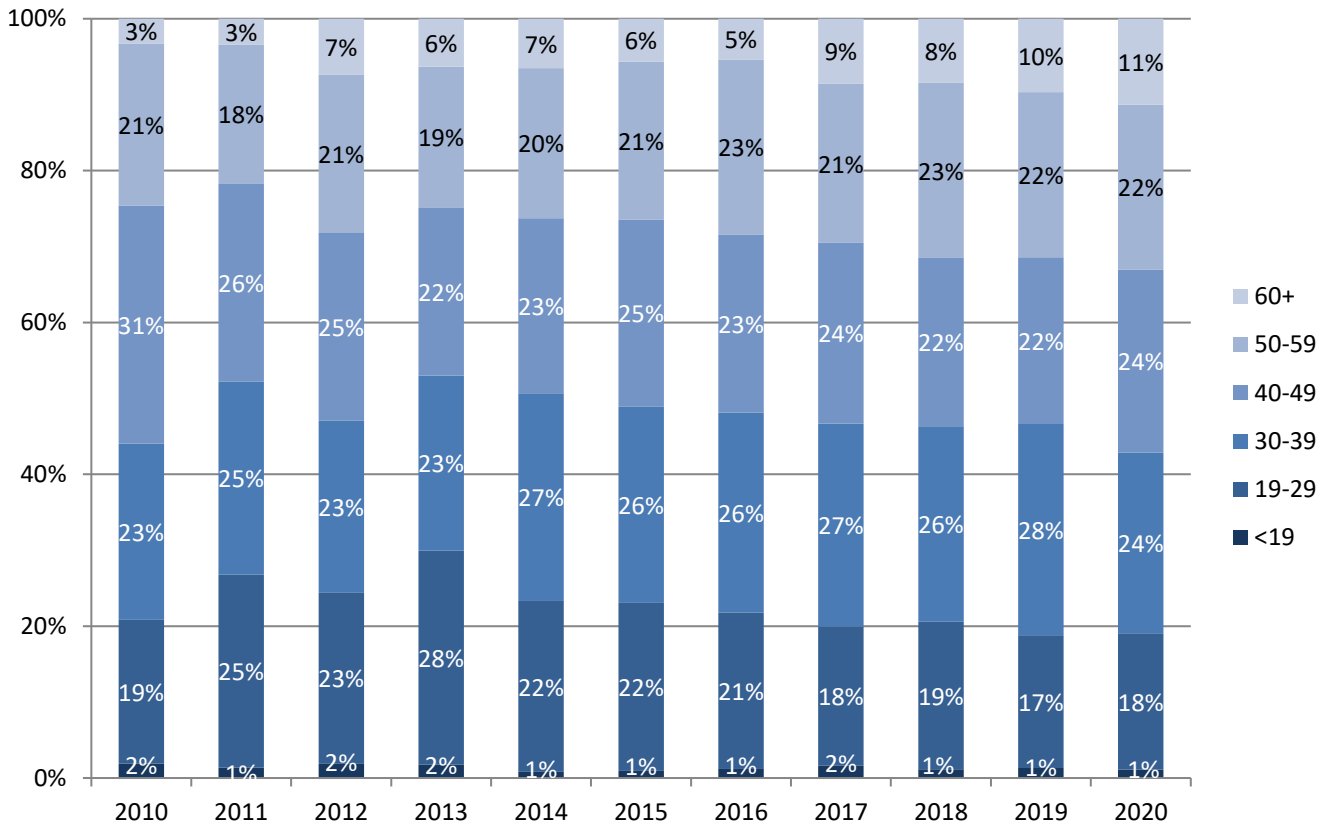
**Table 7: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Age Group, 2010-2020<sup>[3]</sup>**

Age Group	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<19	4	4	5	6	3	5	12	25	18	13	17
19-29	40	75	61	94	83	117	204	273	301	172	278
30-39	49	75	61	77	101	137	261	399	399	274	369
40-49	66	77	67	74	85	130	232	355	343	216	372
50-59	45	54	56	62	73	110	229	313	357	214	337
60-69	7	10	19	21	24	29	50	121	123	91	161
70-79	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	7	8	4	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>1,548</b>



Table 8: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Age Group and Month, 2020 <sup>[3]</sup>											
Age Group	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
<19	1	0	4	1	0	4	3	1	0	0	3
19-29	17	19	21	26	33	36	31	29	15	29	22
30-39	24	16	27	29	43	36	45	37	37	40	35
40-49	19	26	25	24	44	44	36	40	35	43	36
50-59	8	9	29	27	40	40	49	36	36	31	32
60-69	9	5	8	12	17	20	19	16	13	20	22
70-79	1	0	1	1	0	5	1	1	0	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>153</b>

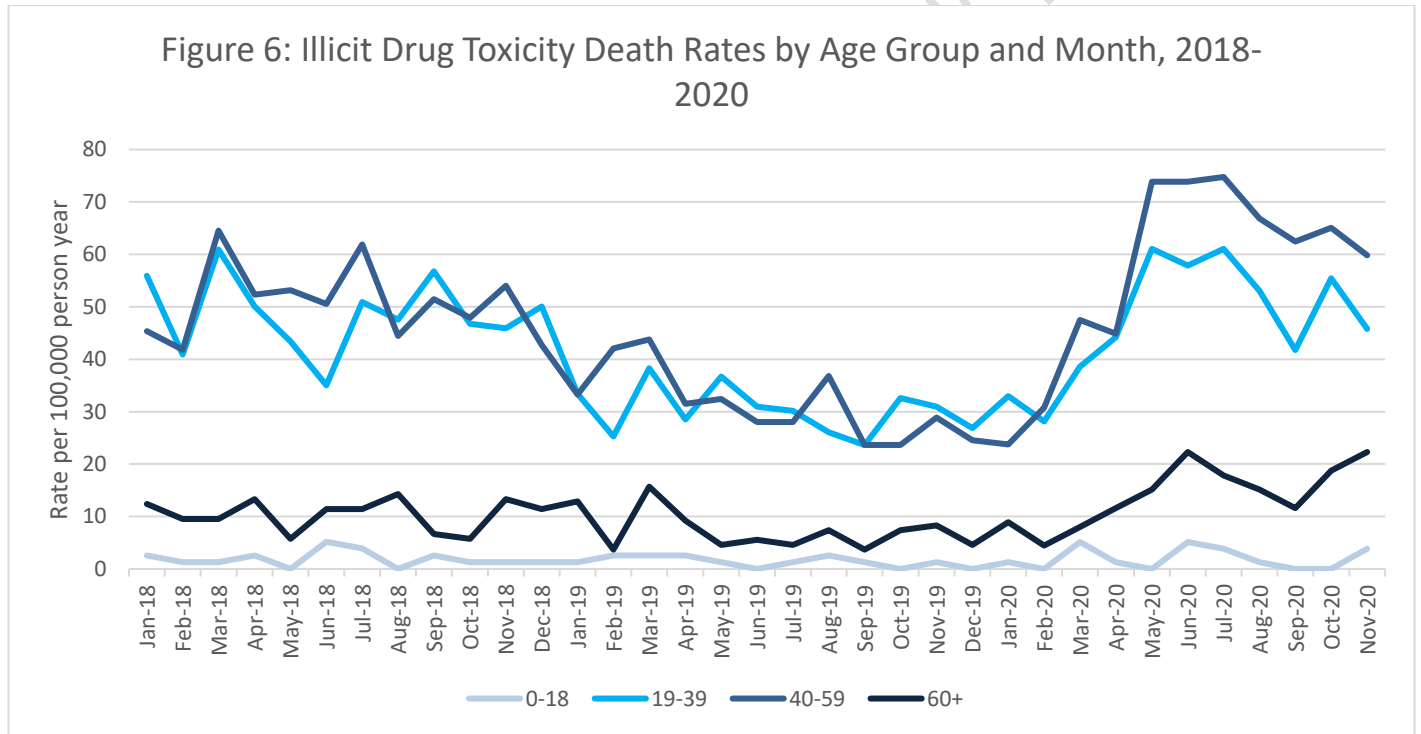
Figure 5: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Age Group, 2010-2020



**Table 9: Age-Specific Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates per 100,000, 2010-2020<sup>[3,5]</sup>**

Age Group	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<19	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.6	1.3	2.7	1.9	1.4	2.0
19-29	5.9	11.1	8.8	13.5	11.7	16.5	28.5	37.7	40.5	22.8	40.0
30-39	8.3	12.6	10.1	12.6	16.1	21.4	39.7	59.2	57.4	38.2	54.8
40-49	9.7	11.4	10.0	11.1	12.9	19.9	35.5	54.6	52.9	33.4	62.8
50-59	6.8	8.0	8.1	8.8	10.1	15.0	30.9	42.6	49.0	29.6	51.2
60-69	1.5	2.0	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.9	8.1	19.2	19.1	13.8	26.1
70-79	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.9	1.9	2.0	1.0	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>32.9</b>

**Figure 6: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Age Group and Month, 2018-2020**



**BC Data by Township of Injury:**

**Table 10: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Top Townships of Injury in 2020, 2010-2020<sup>[3]</sup>**

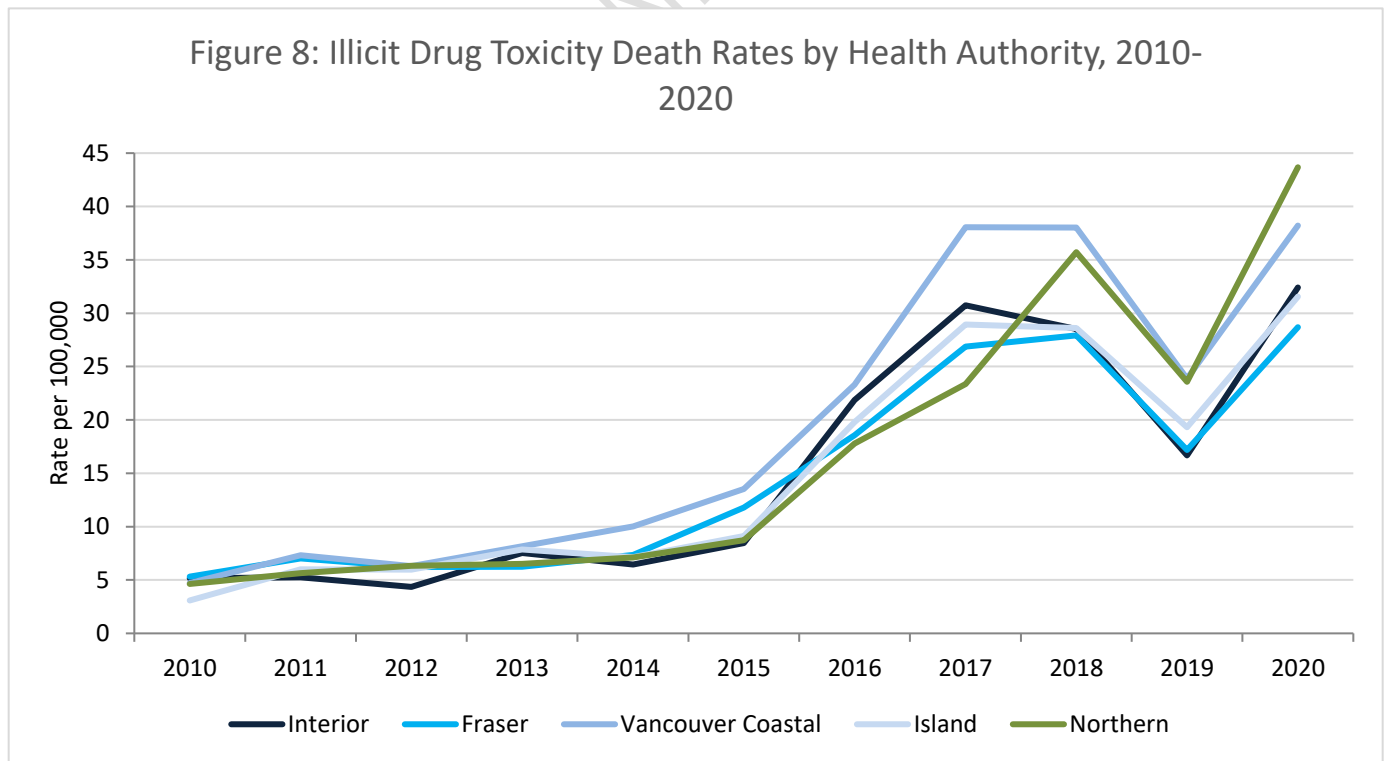
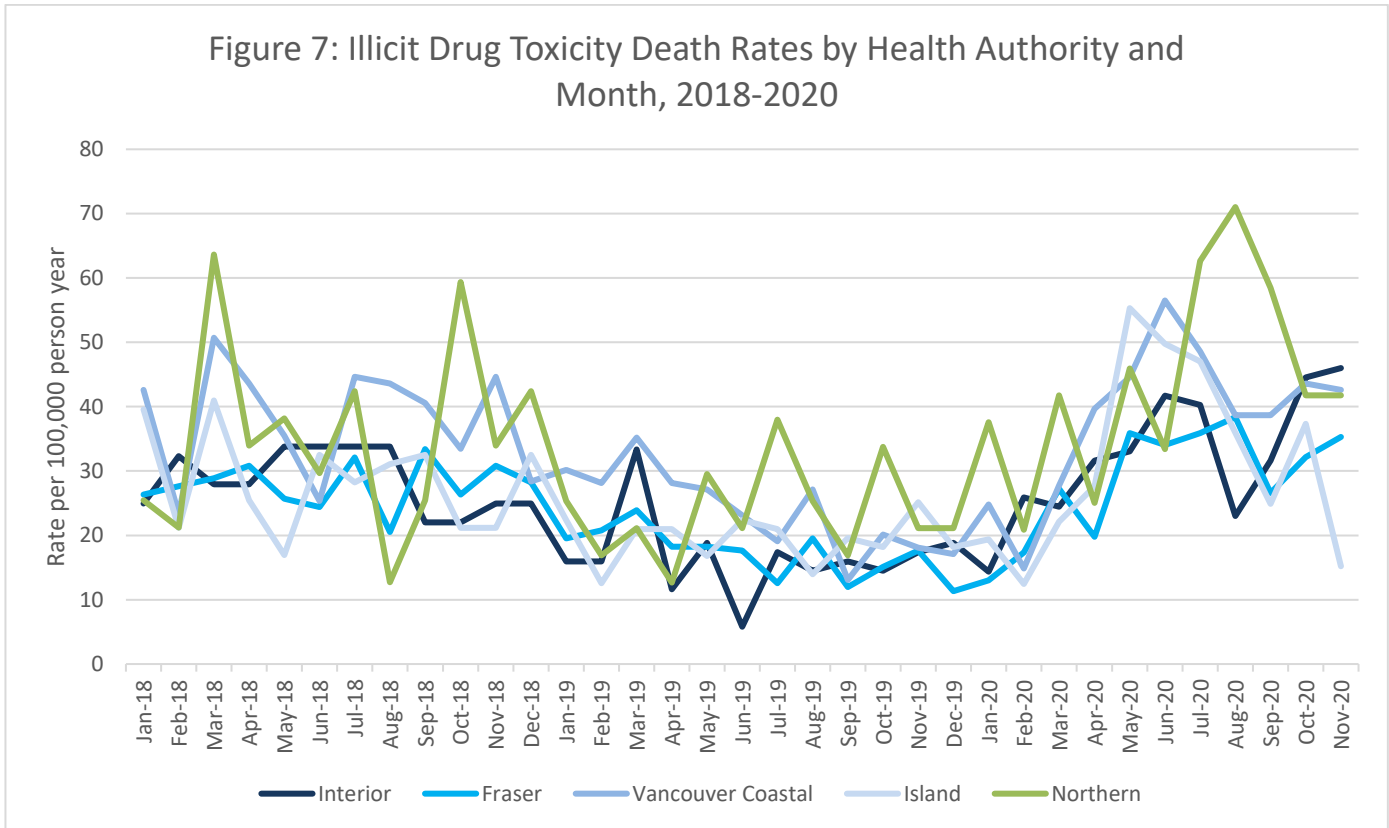
Township	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Vancouver	42	69	65	80	102	138	231	375	396	246	367
Surrey	33	42	44	36	44	76	118	181	214	118	189
Victoria	13	17	18	25	20	23	68	94	97	62	118
Abbotsford	10	16	7	10	7	27	40	52	41	45	59
Kamloops	10	2	5	8	7	7	44	38	46	25	55
Kelowna	9	14	8	12	12	20	47	73	56	34	53
Burnaby	9	10	10	13	11	15	40	44	48	31	49
Prince George	1	6	10	7	10	12	18	24	51	25	47
Nanaimo	4	8	6	20	16	18	29	56	37	27	37
Langley	3	10	5	10	10	10	31	36	33	22	35
Chilliwack	2	8	8	6	6	10	13	21	37	21	34
Maple Ridge	4	4	5	10	14	29	28	33	29	13	31
New Westminster	6	6	3	5	9	12	10	24	36	20	31
Coquitlam	2	3	6	1	10	11	15	30	21	11	26
Vernon	6	7	1	11	6	8	12	24	24	14	23
Other Township	57	73	69	80	85	113	247	388	383	270	394
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>1,548</b>

**Health Authority Data:****Table 11: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Health Authority, 2010-2020<sup>[3,6]</sup>**

HA	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Interior	37	38	31	54	47	64	168	246	233	138	248
Fraser	86	115	104	106	126	208	334	492	522	328	510
Vancouver Coastal	52	81	72	95	120	160	276	448	450	285	424
Island	23	45	45	60	55	72	161	241	243	166	251
Northern	13	16	18	19	21	25	52	66	101	67	115
BC	211	295	270	334	369	529	991	1,493	1,549	984	1,548

**Table 12: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Health Authority per 100,000, 2010-2020<sup>[3,5,6]</sup>**

HA	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Interior	5.2	5.3	4.4	7.5	6.5	8.5	21.9	30.7	28.5	16.7	32.4
Fraser	5.3	7.0	6.2	6.3	7.3	11.8	18.6	26.9	27.9	17.2	28.7
Vancouver Coastal	4.7	7.3	6.3	8.2	10.0	13.5	23.3	38.1	38.0	23.9	38.2
Island	3.1	6.0	6.0	7.9	7.2	9.1	19.8	28.9	28.6	19.3	31.6
Northern	4.6	5.6	6.3	6.5	7.1	8.7	17.8	23.4	35.7	23.6	43.7
BC	4.7	6.6	5.9	7.2	7.8	11.1	20.4	30.3	31.0	19.4	32.9



**Table 13: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Month of Death and Health Authority and Township, 2019-2020<sup>[3,6]</sup>**

Year	Month	Health Authorities					Township		
		Interior	Fraser	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Northern	Vancouver	Surrey	Victoria
2019	Jan	11	31	30	16	6	24	9	5
	Feb	11	33	28	9	4	24	14	2
	Mar	23	38	35	15	5	33	14	7
	Apr	8	29	28	15	3	25	10	4
	May	13	29	27	12	7	24	10	6
	June	4	28	23	16	5	20	13	5
	Jul	12	20	19	15	9	17	8	5
	Aug	10	31	27	10	6	21	5	3
	Sep	11	19	13	14	4	12	12	7
	Oct	10	24	20	13	8	15	9	6
	Nov	12	28	18	18	5	17	7	6
	Dec	13	18	17	13	5	14	7	6
2020	Jan	10	21	25	14	9	22	9	8
	Feb	18	28	15	9	5	13	11	3
	Mar	17	44	28	16	10	22	16	8
	Apr	22	32	40	20	6	34	15	10
	May	23	58	45	40	11	39	25	22
	Jun	29	55	57	36	8	53	19	16
	Jul	28	58	49	34	15	44	21	18
	Aug	16	62	39	26	17	33	17	11
	Sep	22	43	39	18	14	32	16	7
	Oct	31	52	44	27	10	39	21	13
	Nov	32	57	43	11	10	36	19	2
Total		386	838	709	417	182	613	307	180
Average		16.8	36.4	30.8	18.1	7.9	26.7	13.3	7.8

HSDA	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
East Kootenay	0	1	2	4	4	2	13	7	6	1	18
Kootenay Boundary	3	4	4	2	3	6	11	17	14	13	16
Okanagan	18	28	16	33	27	43	77	155	129	84	121
Thompson Cariboo	16	5	9	15	13	13	67	67	84	40	93
Fraser East	22	31	20	20	16	42	67	104	98	86	109
Fraser North	26	25	30	35	51	73	105	148	151	87	158
Fraser South	38	59	54	51	59	93	162	240	273	155	243
Richmond	4	4	1	3	3	6	14	28	12	13	15
Vancouver	42	69	65	80	102	138	231	375	396	246	367
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	6	8	6	12	15	16	31	45	42	26	42
South Vancouver Island	13	17	21	26	23	26	78	105	122	74	131
Central Vancouver Island	6	17	20	25	25	33	56	99	91	63	90
North Vancouver Island	4	11	4	9	7	13	27	37	30	29	30
Northwest	3	1	0	6	2	6	10	8	14	15	17
Northern Interior	7	8	12	8	11	15	24	35	63	34	70
Northeast	3	7	6	5	8	4	18	23	24	18	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>1,548</b>

HSDA	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
East Kootenay	2	2	0	0	3	3	2	1	1	3	1
Kootenay Boundary	0	3	2	1	0	4	1	2	1	0	2
Okanagan	5	6	9	10	9	14	13	8	12	17	18
Thompson Cariboo	3	7	6	11	11	8	12	5	8	11	11
Fraser East	2	8	9	5	8	13	12	14	9	12	17
Fraser North	7	7	13	10	17	18	16	24	14	14	18
Fraser South	12	13	22	17	33	24	30	24	20	26	22
Richmond	2	2	1	1	0	2	2	1	2	0	2
Vancouver	22	13	22	34	39	53	44	33	32	39	36
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	1	0	5	5	6	2	3	5	5	5	5
South Vancouver Island	8	3	9	12	24	18	19	13	8	14	3
Central Vancouver Island	5	4	6	5	11	16	11	8	9	9	6
North Vancouver Island	1	2	1	3	5	2	4	5	1	4	2
Northwest	1	0	3	2	0	1	3	3	1	2	1
Northern Interior	4	2	5	4	8	3	9	13	12	5	5
Northeast	4	3	2	0	3	4	3	1	1	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>153</b>



**Table 16: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Health Services Delivery Area per 100,000, 2010-2020<sup>[3,5,6]</sup>**

HSDA	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
East Kootenay	0.0	1.3	2.6	5.2	5.1	2.4	15.7	8.1	6.8	1.1	22.0
Kootenay Boundary	3.9	5.1	5.2	2.6	3.8	7.5	13.5	19.9	16.1	14.9	19.8
Okanagan	5.2	8.0	4.7	9.6	7.7	11.7	20.5	40.0	32.6	20.9	32.5
Thompson Cariboo	7.4	2.3	4.2	6.9	5.9	5.8	29.3	27.8	34.1	16.1	40.4
Fraser East	7.8	10.9	7.0	6.9	5.5	13.9	21.6	32.7	30.2	26.0	35.5
Fraser North	4.3	4.0	4.8	5.5	7.9	11.1	15.7	21.9	22.1	12.5	24.4
Fraser South	5.3	8.0	7.1	6.6	7.6	11.6	19.7	28.6	31.7	17.6	29.5
Richmond	2.0	2.0	0.5	1.5	1.4	2.9	6.7	13.6	5.8	6.2	7.6
Vancouver	6.6	10.9	9.9	12.0	14.8	20.4	34.0	55.7	58.6	36.0	57.8
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	2.2	2.9	2.1	4.1	5.0	5.4	10.4	15.1	14.0	8.7	15.1
South Vancouver Island	3.5	4.6	5.6	6.8	6.0	6.7	19.4	25.5	29.1	17.4	33.1
Central Vancouver Island	2.3	6.5	7.6	9.4	9.4	12.0	19.8	34.0	30.6	21.0	32.4
North Vancouver Island	3.4	9.2	3.4	7.6	5.9	10.6	21.2	28.7	22.8	21.8	24.5
Northwest	4.1	1.4	0.0	7.7	2.5	7.9	13.4	10.8	19.0	20.2	24.7
Northern Interior	5.0	5.6	8.4	5.4	7.4	10.4	16.3	24.3	43.5	23.3	51.9
Northeast	4.5	10.4	9.3	7.5	11.9	6.0	25.4	35.7	37.4	28.0	47.0
Total	4.7	6.6	5.9	7.2	7.8	11.1	20.4	30.3	31.0	19.4	32.9

**Table 17: Top 15 Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates (per 100,000 person-years) in 2018-2020 by Local Health Area (LHA)<sup>[3,5,6]</sup>**

	2014-16	2015-17	2016-18	2017-19	2018-20	Number of Deaths 2018-20
Hope	12.3	27.7	38.5	49.1	57.7	15
Vancouver	23.0	36.7	49.4	50.0	50.8	1009
Keremeos	12.8	31.0	36.6	47.7	48.6	8
Lillooet	23.7	29.8	27.6	32.2	46.9	7
Prince George	13.6	19.4	33.4	35.4	44.5	131
Peace River North	19.2	17.5	28.9	24.7	42.3	43
North Thompson	8.0	15.7	23.5	31.2	40.3	5
Grand Forks	0.0	14.4	41.5	49.9	40.1	12
Terrace	12.4	15.7	20.8	25.7	40.0	24
Powell River	19.3	24.0	32.2	30.3	39.4	24
Princeton	6.7	44.7	64.9	66.6	39.1	7
New Westminster	14.3	20.7	30.9	34.6	37.9	87
Penticton	10.2	19.7	29.0	39.6	37.9	51
Kamloops	17.9	26.9	37.5	31.3	37.7	139
Quesnel	4.0	13.6	19.2	26.1	37.4	26

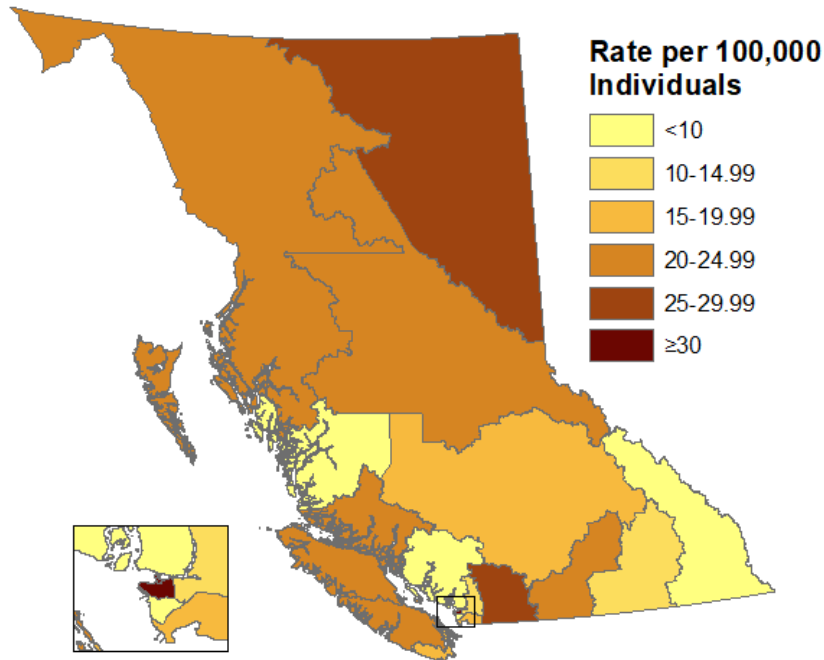
Note that for this table, Vancouver includes 6 LHAs. Surrey includes 2 LHAs. Victoria, Sooke, and Saanich LHAs were aggregated. Both Surrey and Victoria aggregate did not rank in the top 15.

**Notes:**

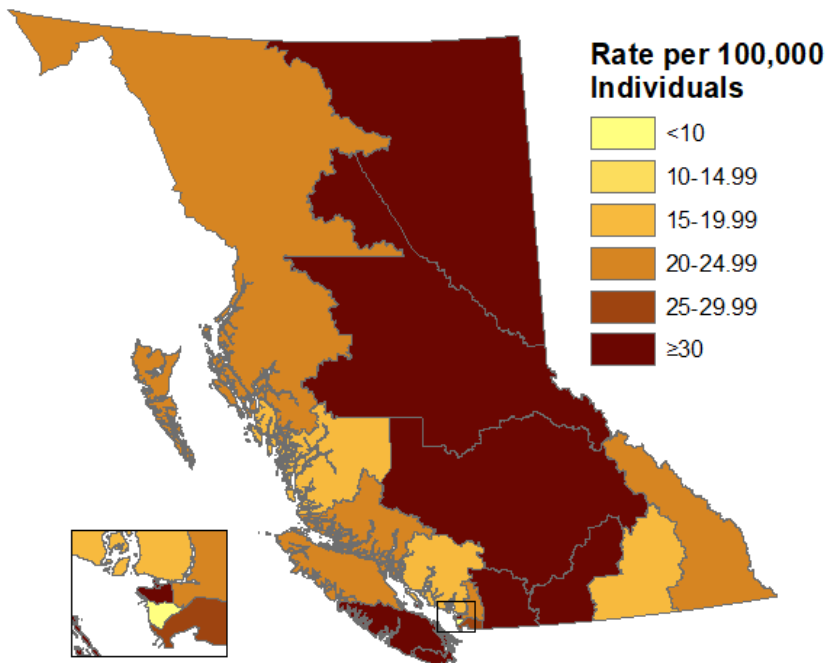
1. The BCCS operates in a live database environment. Some data for more recent years is based on preliminary circumstances and is subject to change as investigations are concluded. Data are not directly comparable to published counts from previous years.
2. This does not include circumstances where the injury event occurred at an overdose prevention site and death occurred in hospital.
3. 2020 data includes January 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020.
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

2019 Illicit Drug Overdose Death Rates by Health Services Delivery Area



2020 Illicit Drug Overdose 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
Kitsegucla (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