

# Illicit Drug Deaths with Methamphetamine Involved

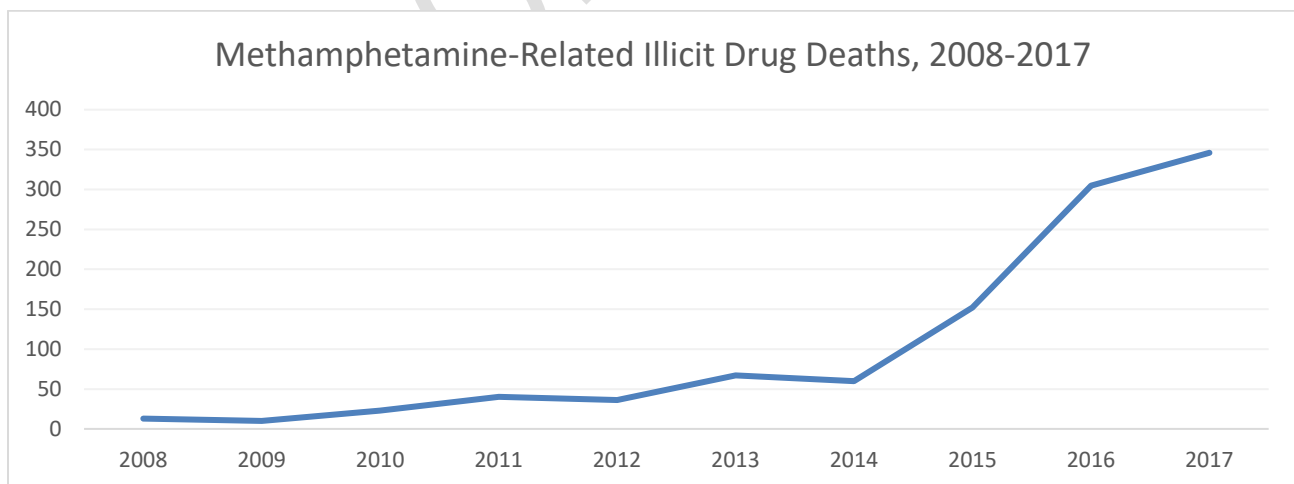
## 2008-2017

This report summarizes all cases from 2008 to 2017 for which toxicological testing was positive for methamphetamines/amphetamines, and for which the investigating coroner determined that methamphetamines/amphetamines were one of the substances involved in the death. *The presence of methamphetamines/amphetamines may indicate prior use and may or may not have contributed to death.*

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. This summary includes data on completed investigations only.

### Summary

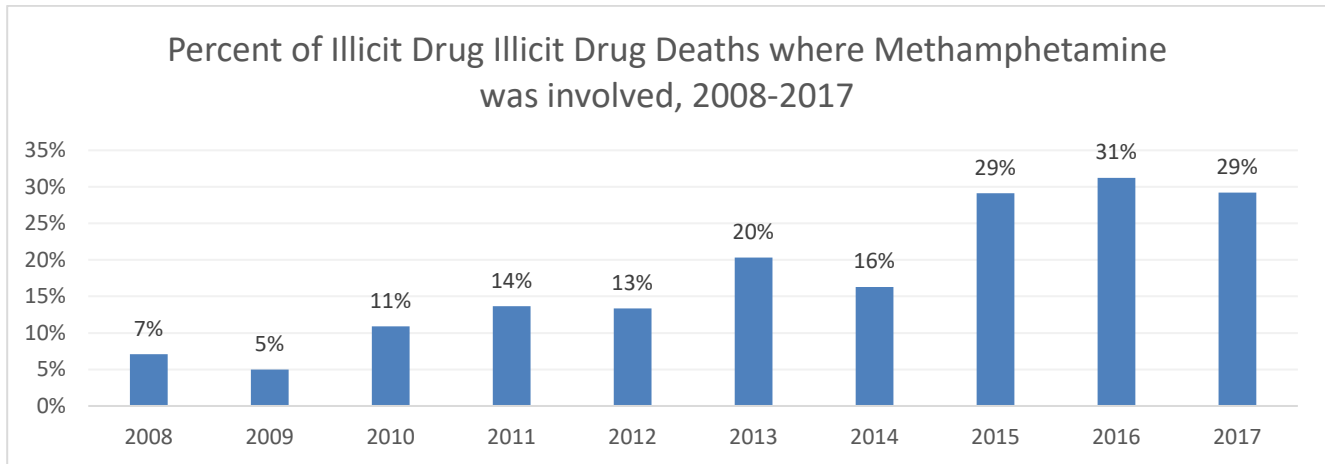
- In 2017, there were 346 illicit drug deaths in which methamphetamines/amphetamines were found to be involved in the death (29% of illicit drug deaths). The number of deaths has increased over 5 times in three years from 60 deaths in 2014.
- In 2017, 79% of illicit drug deaths in which methamphetamines/amphetamines were found were among males and 58% were among 30-49-year old decedents.
- The largest proportion of deaths occurred in Vancouver Coastal (36%) and Fraser (26%) Health Authorities in 2017.
- Fentanyl was also found to be relevant in 87% of illicit deaths where methamphetamines/amphetamines were involved in the death. Cocaine and heroin were found relevant in 31% and 11% of deaths, respectively.



*\*Data on completed cases only.*

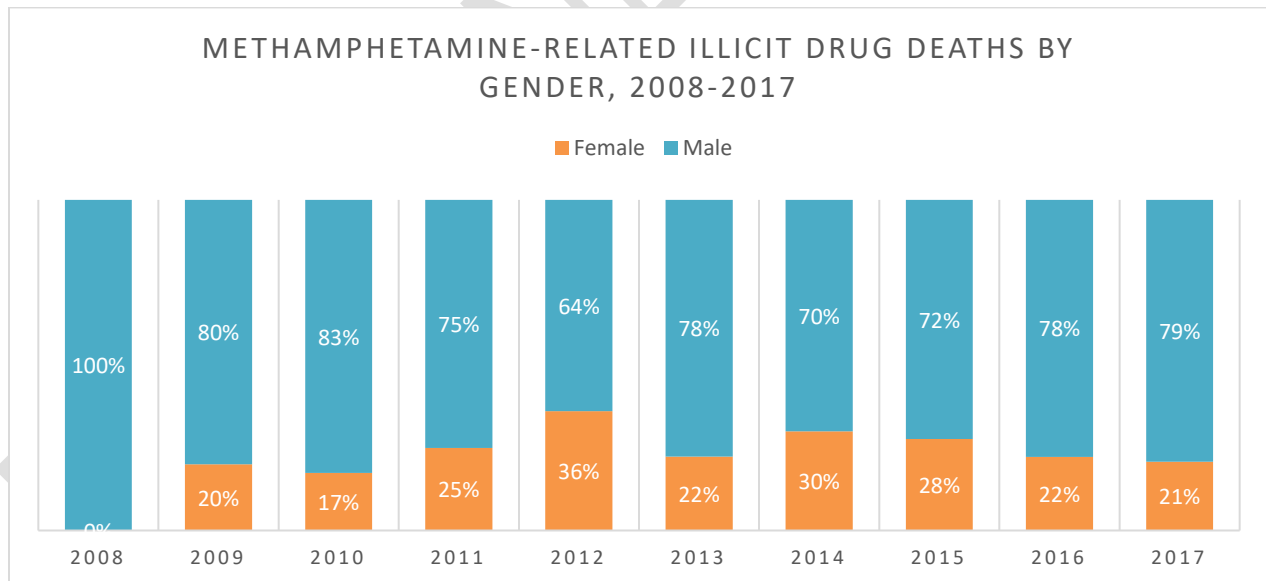
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## 2008-2017



### Methamphetamine-Related Illicit Drug Deaths by Gender, 2008-2017\*

Gender	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Male	13	8	19	30	23	52	42	110	237	274
Female	0	2	4	10	13	15	18	42	68	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>346</b>

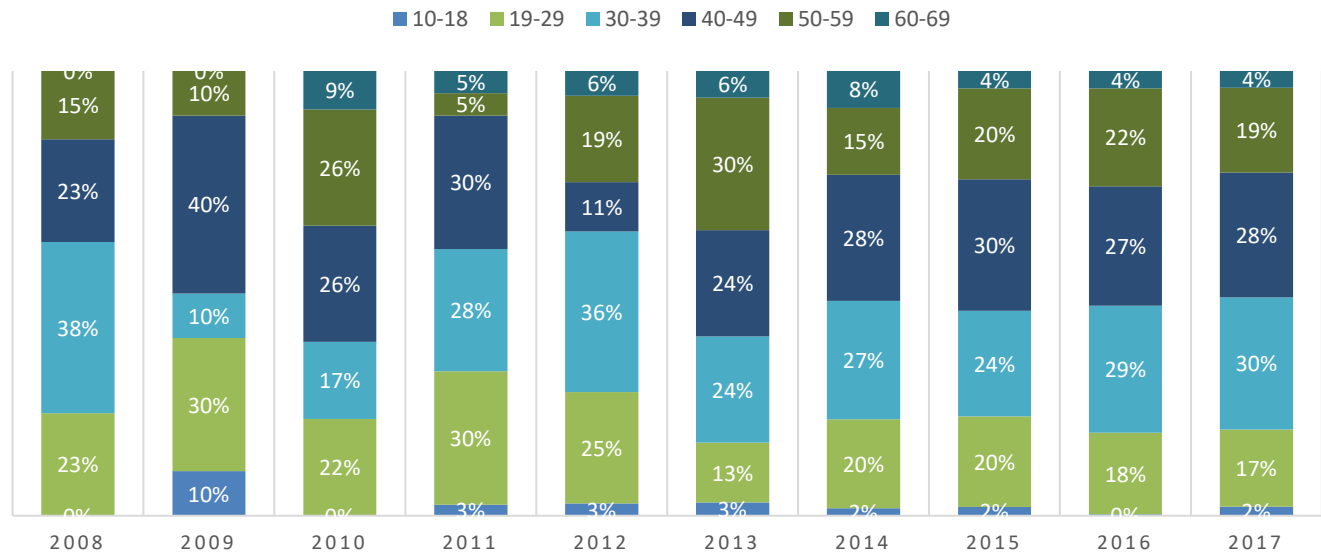


# Illicit Drug Deaths with Methamphetamine Involved 2008-2017

## Methamphetamine-Related Illicit Drug Deaths by Age Group, 2008-2017\*

Age Group	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
10-18	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	3	1	7
19-29	3	3	5	12	9	9	12	31	56	60
30-39	5	1	4	11	13	16	16	36	87	103
40-49	3	4	6	12	4	16	17	45	82	97
50-59	2	1	6	2	7	20	9	31	67	66
60+	0	0	2	2	2	4	5	6	12	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>346</b>

METHAMPHETAMINE-RELATED ILLICIT DRUG DEATHS BY AGE GROUP,  
2008-2017



# Illicit Drug Deaths with Methamphetamine Involved

2008-2017

## Methamphetamine-Related Deaths by Injury Health Authority, 2008-2017\*

HA	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Interior	1	1	5	4	2	6	5	14	52	56
Fraser	7	2	11	16	15	23	17	55	92	90
Vancouver Coastal	4	4	4	12	13	27	27	50	100	125
Vancouver Island	1	1	3	6	3	10	9	28	48	58
Northern	0	2	0	2	3	1	2	5	13	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>346</b>

## Methamphetamine-Related Deaths by Injury, Health Service Delivery Area, 2008-2017

HSDA	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
East Kootenay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Kootenay Boundary	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	5
Okanagan	1	0	3	2	0	2	3	11	25	31
Thompson Cariboo	0	0	2	1	1	3	2	3	22	17
Fraser East	3	0	4	3	4	6	1	12	17	20
Fraser North	2	1	2	5	4	8	7	20	25	21
Fraser South	2	1	5	8	7	9	9	23	50	49
Richmond	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	4
Vancouver	3	3	4	12	13	26	26	48	87	115
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8	6
South Vancouver Island	1	1	1	2	2	6	6	11	26	24
Central Vancouver Island	0	0	2	3	1	4	2	16	17	29
North Vancouver Island	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	5	5
Northwest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Northern Interior	0	2	0	2	3	1	2	5	12	15
Northeast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>346</b>

# Illicit Drug Deaths with Methamphetamine Involved

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## Other Drugs found Relevant to Death (%) in Methamphetamine-Related Illicit Drug Deaths, 2015-2017 \*\*

	2015	2016	2017
Fentanyl	26.3%	73.4%	86.7%
Cocaine	34.9%	31.2%	31.2%
Heroin	38.2%	30.8%	10.7%
Other Opioids	26.7%	20.3%	9.0%
Alcohol	11.8%	13.4%	16.8%
Methadone	9.9%	7.5%	5.5%
Benzodiazepines & Z-drugs	4.6%	2.3%	2.9%
Total Number of Cases	152	305	346

*\*\*Data should be interpreted with caution. Other drugs found in toxicology do not necessarily indicate that these drugs were taken together or were contaminated. The presence of methamphetamines/amphetamines may indicate prior use and may or may not have contributed to death.*

Data available for closed cases only. All cases include methamphetamine or amphetamine.

Fentanyl – Includes fentanyl and fentanyl analogues.

Cocaine - Includes benzoylecgonine, cocaethylene, cocaine, cocaine metabolites, and levamisole.

Heroin - Includes 6-monoacetyl morphine.

Other opioids - Includes codeine, hydromorphone, morphine, oxycodone, and tramadol. Excludes 6-monoacetyl morphine, methadone, buprenorphine, fentanyl and fentanyl analogues.

Ethyl alcohol - Includes cocaethylene and ethyl alcohol.

Methadone– Includes EDDP (methadone metabolite), methadone.

Benzodiazepines & Z-drugs - Includes alprazolam, aminoclonazepam, benzodiazepines [unspecified], bromazepam, clonazepam, desmethyldiazepam, diazepam, etizolam, lorazepam, midazolam, oxazepam, temazepam, and zopiclone.

Note: 6-monoacetyl morphine (heroin) is unstable in biological fluids and can degrade during storage; therefore, the occurrence of heroin in cases may be underestimated.