

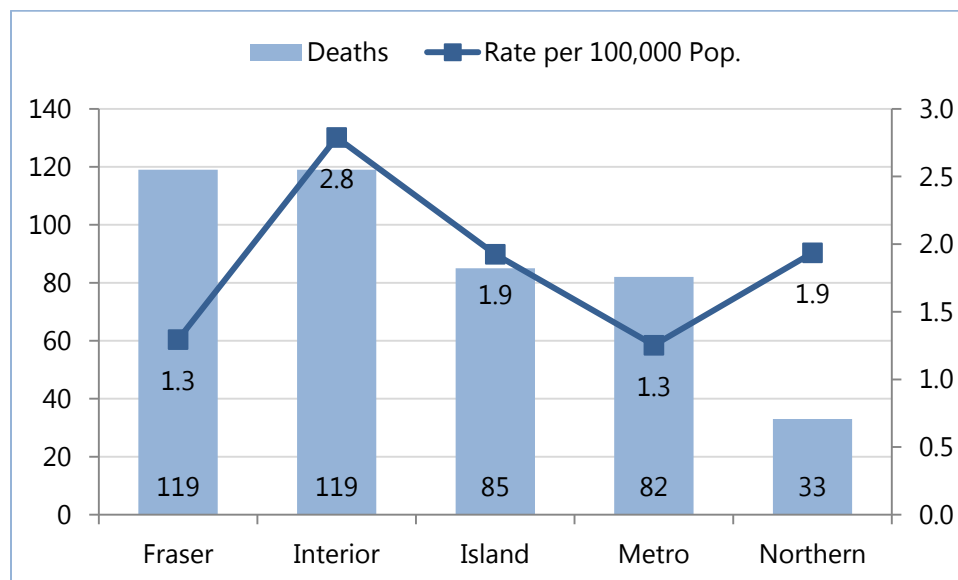
This report summarises prescription opiate-related overdose deaths reported to the BC Coroners Service between 2005 and 2010 with a classification of accidental, suicide, or undetermined. Cases were included if the investigating coroner determined that any of the following drug types were relevant to 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.

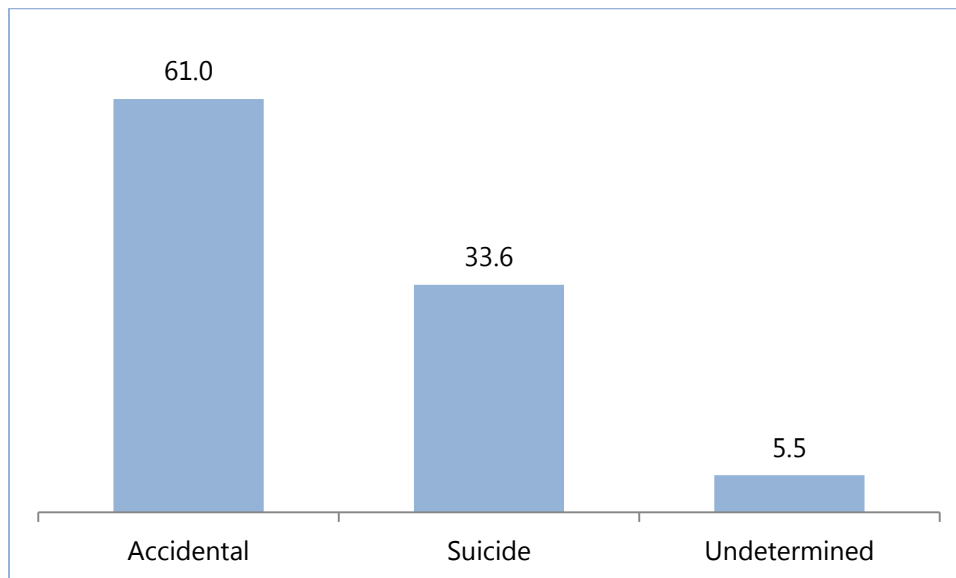
Prescription Opiate-Related Deaths by Region							
Region	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	%
Fraser	18	21	19	23	20	18	27.2
Interior	14	23	17	21	22	22	27.2
Island	9	12	19	21	10	14	19.4
Metro	19	11	11	8	18	15	18.7
Northern	7	8	5	6	4	3	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>72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



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

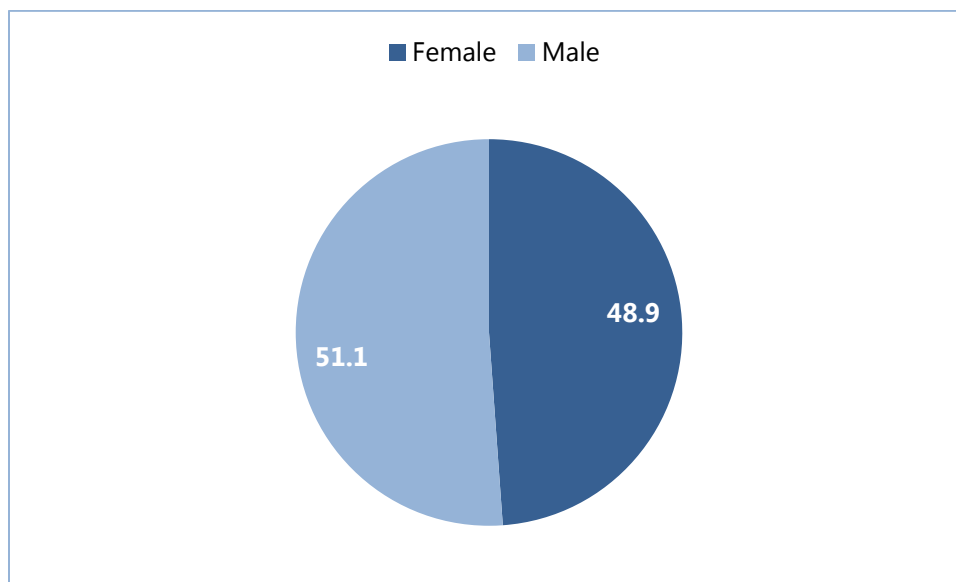
**Prescription Opiate-Related Deaths by Classification**

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>72</b>



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

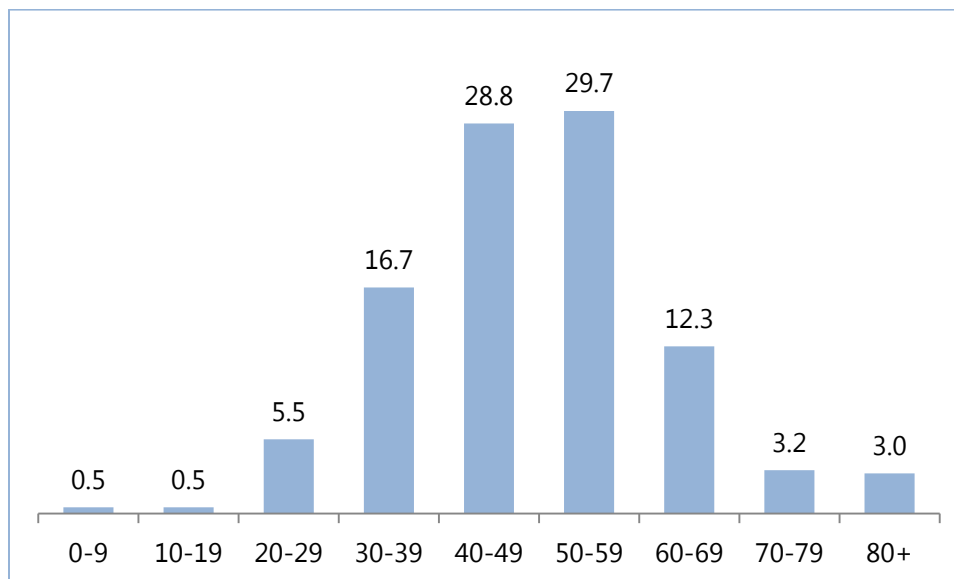
Prescription Opiate-Related Deaths by Gender						
Gender	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Female	29	43	34	40	37	31
Male	38	32	37	39	37	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>72</b>



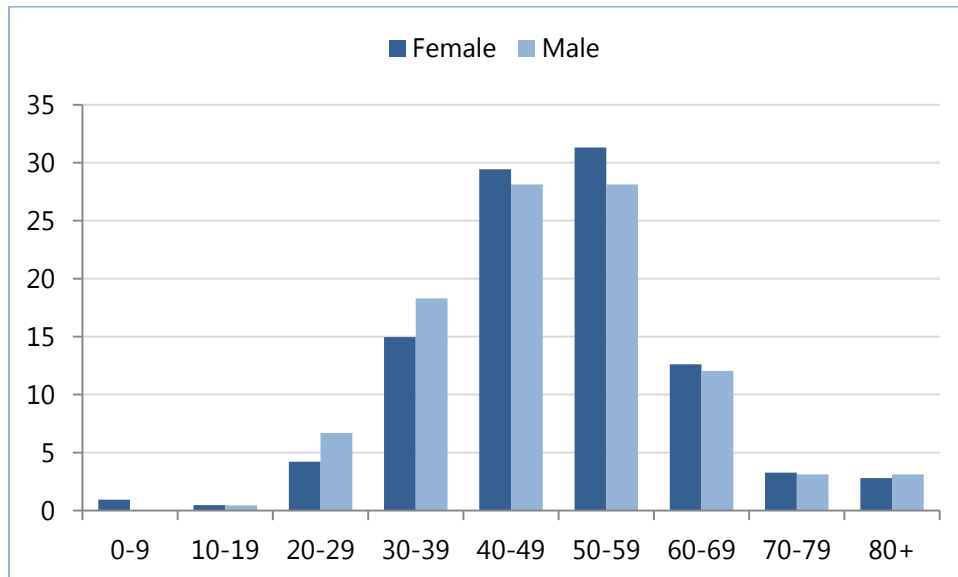
Percentage of Prescription Opiate-Related Deaths by Gender, 2005-2010

**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
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>72</b>



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



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