

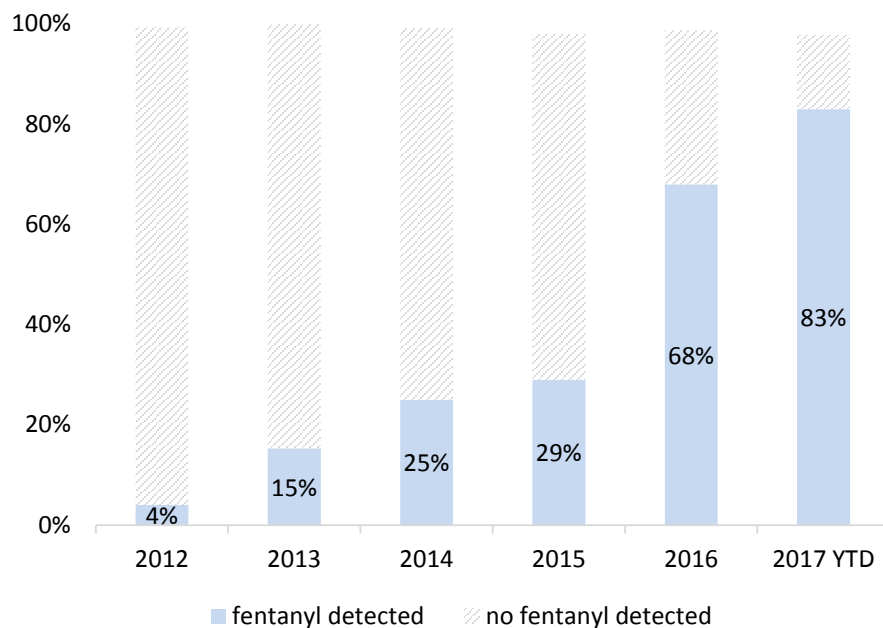
Inclusion Criteria: This report summarizes all deaths that occurred between January 1, 2012 and October 31, 2017 for which fentanyl or its analogues were detected, whether alone or in combination with other drugs, and the death resulted from illicit drug use^[1]. In the majority of deaths, fentanyl or 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: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/death-investigation/statistical-reports>. Note that fentanyl-detected data is subject to change as further analogue testing becomes available.

Summary:

- There were 999 illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected from January through October 2017. This is a 136% increase over the number of fentanyl detected deaths (423) occurring during the same period in 2016.
- From January to October 2017, fentanyl was detected in approximately 83% of illicit drug overdose deaths.
- Carfentanil has been detected in 48 suspected illicit drug overdose deaths in June-October 2017. Note this is subject to change as further toxicology results are received.
- Approximately 28% of those dying from January to October 2017 were aged 30 to 39, with 92% between 19 and 59. Males accounted for 83% of all deaths during this period.
- Fraser Health Authority had the highest number (324) of illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected from January through October 2017, followed by Vancouver Coastal Health (289) and Vancouver Island Health Authority (174).^{[3],[4]}
- The Health Service Delivery Areas with the most fentanyl-detected illicit drug overdose deaths from January through October 2017 were Vancouver HSDA (239), Fraser South HSDA (161), and Okanagan HSDA (109). 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 January through October 2017 suggest that the proportion of apparent illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected (alone or in combination with other drugs) is approximately 83%. Proportions from 2012 to 2017 are as follows:
 - 2012 = 4%
 - 2013 = 15%
 - 2014 = 25%
 - 2015 = 29%
 - 2016 = 68%
 - 2017 (Jan.-Oct.) = 83%



Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Month, 2012-2017^[3]

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
January	0	5	5	20	46	107
February	0	3	5	8	29	104
March	0	6	9	8	48	116
April	1	8	8	12	48	127
May	1	3	8	8	37	108
June	1	2	6	11	42	100
July	0	1	3	14	40	99
August	1	4	8	15	38	100
September	1	2	9	15	42	64
October	0	4	13	16	53	74
Subtotal	5	38	74	127	423	999
November	4	6	6	12	112	
December	3	6	11	13	133	
Total	12	50	91	152	668	999

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Sex, 2012-2017^[3]

Sex	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Female	2	9	21	26	126	172	356
Male	10	41	70	126	542	827	1,616
Total	12	50	91	152	668	999	1,972

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Age Group, 2012-2017^[3]

Age Group	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
10-18	0	1	0	2	12	13	28
19-29	3	19	28	43	153	196	442
30-39	2	10	33	45	198	283	571
40-49	6	13	19	29	154	233	454
50-59	1	5	7	24	120	204	361
60+	0	2	4	9	31	70	116
Total	12	50	91	152	668	999	1,972

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Health Authority of Injury, 2012-2017^{[3],[5]}

HA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Interior	2	3	9	21	117	170	322
Fraser	7	16	29	57	209	324	642
Vancouver Coastal	1	10	26	40	183	289	549
Vancouver Island	1	14	17	22	123	174	351
Northern	1	7	10	12	36	42	108
Total	12	50	91	152	668	999	1,972

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Health Service Delivery Area of Injury, 2012-2017^{[3],[5]}

HSDA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
East Kootenay	0	1	2	1	6	4	14
Kootenay Boundary	0	0	1	2	4	11	18
Okanagan	2	1	4	14	62	109	192
Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	0	1	2	4	45	46	98
Fraser East	1	3	1	10	37	74	126
Fraser North	1	6	15	28	71	89	210
Fraser South	5	7	13	19	101	161	306
Richmond	0	0	0	3	13	19	35
Vancouver	1	5	22	32	153	239	452
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	0	5	4	5	17	31	62
South Vancouver Island	1	3	2	9	60	80	155
Central Vancouver Island	0	10	13	10	46	67	146
North Vancouver Island	0	1	2	3	17	27	50
Northwest	0	1	0	1	7	4	13
Northern Interior	1	3	4	7	14	27	56
Northeast	0	3	6	4	15	11	39
Total	12	50	91	152	668	999	1,972

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

HA	Interior	Fraser	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Northern	Total
January	13	34	41	18	1	107
February	17	30	30	22	5	104
March	17	39	31	23	6	116
April	18	39	47	18	5	127
May	20	42	28	11	7	108
June	20	29	26	22	3	100
July	24	33	24	14	4	99
August	21	30	24	17	8	100
September	7	21	21	12	3	64
October	13	27	17	17	0	74
Total	170	324	289	174	42	999

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Top Townships of Injury, 2012-2017^{[3],[5]}

Township	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Vancouver	1	5	22	32	153	239	452
Surrey	3	4	8	11	74	117	217
Victoria	0	3	2	8	54	70	137
Kelowna	0	0	1	6	38	58	103
Nanaimo	0	8	12	9	27	36	92
Abbotsford	0	1	1	6	22	34	64
Burnaby	0	3	0	6	27	29	65
Kamloops	0	1	2	3	30	29	65
Langley	1	1	5	6	19	29	61
Maple Ridge	0	3	7	12	20	21	63
Other Township	7	21	31	53	204	337	653
Total	12	50	91	152	668	999	1,972

*sorted by 2017 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 2017 include cases from January 1 to October 31, 2017.
4. Data are based on location of injury.
5. Death township was used in seven 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>