

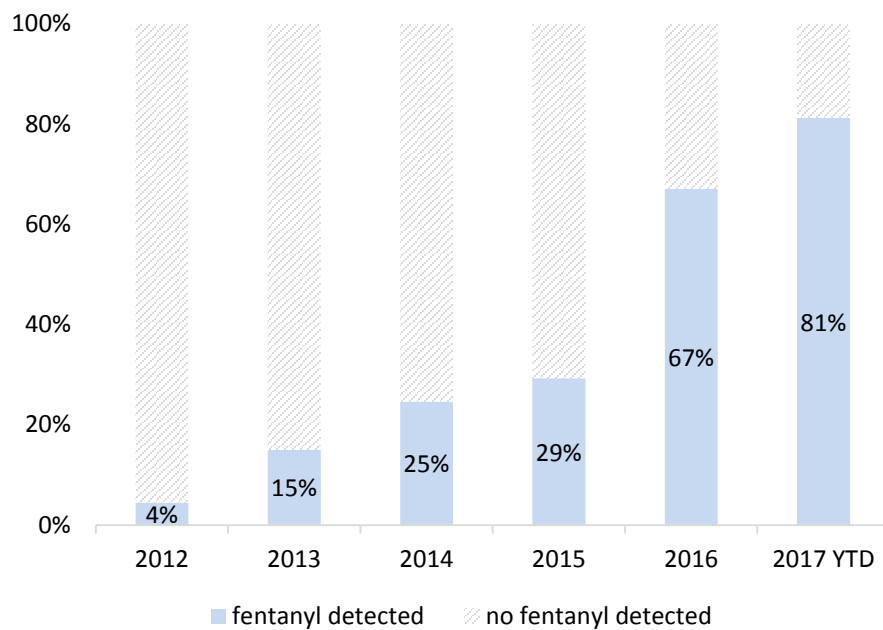
**Inclusion Criteria:** This report summarizes all deaths that occurred between January 1, 2012 and August 31, 2017 for which fentanyl was detected, whether alone or in combination with other drugs, and the death resulted from illicit drug use<sup>[1]</sup>. In the majority of deaths, fentanyl<sup>[2]</sup> was 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.<sup>[1]</sup> 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 823 illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected from January through August 2017. This is a 151% increase over the number of fentanyl detected deaths (328) occurring during the same period in 2016.
- From January to August 2017, fentanyl was detected in approximately 81% of illicit drug overdose deaths.
- Carfentanil has been detected in 24 suspected illicit drug overdose deaths in June-August 2017. Note this is subject to change as further toxicology results are received.
- Approximately 30% of those dying from January to August 2017 were aged 30 to 39, with 92% between 19 and 59. Males accounted for 82.5% of all deaths during this period.
- Fraser Health Authority had the highest number (270) of illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected from January through August 2017, followed by Vancouver Coastal Health (238) and Vancouver Island Health Authority (141).<sup>[3],[4]</sup>
- The Health Service Delivery Areas with the most fentanyl-detected illicit drug overdose deaths from January through August 2017 were Vancouver HSDA (196), Fraser South HSDA (132), and Okanagan HSDA (93). When looking at individual townships over the same time period, the highest numbers of deaths were seen in Vancouver, Surrey, and Victoria.<sup>[3],[4]</sup>

- Preliminary data for January through August 2017 suggest that the proportion of apparent illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected (alone or in combination with other drugs) is approximately 81%. Proportions from 2012 to 2017 are as follows:
  - 2012 = 4%
  - 2013 = 15%
  - 2014 = 25%
  - 2015 = 29%
  - 2016 = 67%
  - 2017 (Jan.-Aug) = 81%



**Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Month, 2012-2017<sup>[3]</sup>**

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
January	0	5	5	20	46	105
February	0	3	5	8	29	101
March	0	6	9	8	48	113
April	1	8	8	12	48	120
May	1	3	8	8	37	106
June	1	2	6	11	43	100
July	0	1	3	14	40	93
August	1	4	8	15	37	85
Subtotal	4	32	52	96	328	823
September	1	2	9	15	41	
October	0	4	13	16	53	
November	4	6	6	12	107	
December	3	6	11	13	130	
Total	12	50	91	152	659	823

**Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Sex, 2012-2017<sup>[3]</sup>**

Sex	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Female	2	9	21	26	126	144	328
Male	10	41	70	126	533	679	1,459
Total	12	50	91	152	659	823	1,787

**Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Age Group, 2012-2017<sup>[3]</sup>**

Age Group	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
10-18	0	1	0	2	12	9	24
19-29	3	19	28	43	152	157	402
30-39	2	10	33	45	197	247	534
40-49	6	13	19	29	150	193	410
50-59	1	5	7	24	117	162	316
60+	0	2	4	9	30	51	96
Total	12	50	91	152	659	823	1,787

**Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Health Authority of Injury, 2012-2017<sup>[3],[5]</sup>**

HA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Interior	2	3	9	21	116	140	291
Fraser	7	16	29	57	205	270	584
Vancouver Coastal	1	10	26	40	179	238	494
Vancouver Island	1	14	17	22	123	141	318
Northern	1	7	10	12	36	34	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>1,787</b>

**Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Health Service Delivery Area of Injury, 2012-2017<sup>[3],[5]</sup>**

HSDA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
East Kootenay	0	1	2	1	6	2	12
Kootenay Boundary	0	0	1	2	4	10	17
Okanagan	2	1	4	14	61	93	175
Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	0	1	2	4	45	35	87
Fraser East	1	3	1	10	36	62	113
Fraser North	1	6	15	28	70	76	196
Fraser South	5	7	13	19	99	132	275
Richmond	0	0	0	3	13	17	33
Vancouver	1	5	22	32	149	196	405
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	0	5	4	5	17	25	56
South Vancouver Island	1	3	2	9	59	64	138
Central Vancouver Island	0	10	13	10	46	54	133
North Vancouver Island	0	1	2	3	18	23	47
Northwest	0	1	0	1	7	4	13
Northern Interior	1	3	4	7	14	20	49
Northeast	0	3	6	4	15	10	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>1,787</b>

**Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Month of Death and Health Authority of Injury, 2017<sup>[3],[5]</sup>**

HA	Interior	Fraser	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Northern	Total
January	13	32	41	18	1	105
February	16	30	28	22	5	101
March	17	39	29	22	6	113
April	16	37	44	18	5	120
May	20	42	26	11	7	106
June	20	29	26	22	3	100
July	22	31	22	14	4	93
August	16	30	22	14	3	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>823</b>

**Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Top Townships of Injury, 2012-2017<sup>[3],[5]</sup>**

Township	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Vancouver	1	5	22	32	149	196	405
Surrey	3	4	8	11	71	100	197
Victoria	0	3	2	8	53	58	124
Kelowna	0	0	1	6	38	51	96
Nanaimo	0	8	12	9	27	29	85
Abbotsford	0	1	1	6	21	28	57
Burnaby	0	3	0	6	26	27	62
Kamloops	0	1	2	3	30	24	60
Langley	1	1	5	6	20	22	55
Maple Ridge	0	3	7	12	20	20	62
Other Township	7	21	31	53	204	268	584
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>1,787</b>

**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 August 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>