

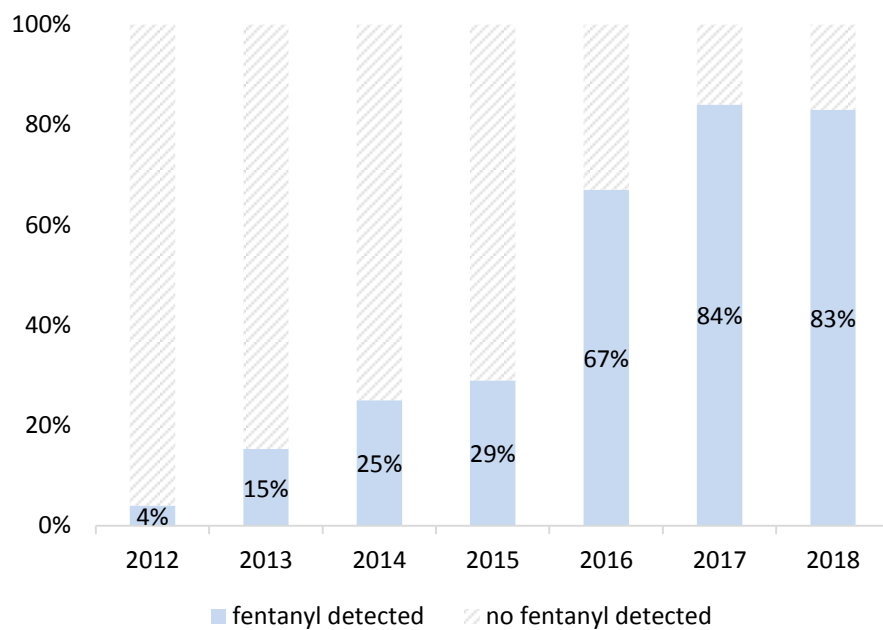
**Inclusion Criteria:** This report summarizes all deaths that occurred between January 1, 2012 and March 31, 2018 for which fentanyl or its analogues were detected, whether alone or in combination with other drugs, and the death resulted from illicit drug use<sup>[1]</sup>. In the majority of deaths, fentanyl or its analogues<sup>[2]</sup> 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.<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 129 illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected in March 2018. This is a 10% increase over the number of deaths occurring in March 2017 (117) and a 57% increase over the number of deaths occurring in February 2018 (82).
- Fentanyl or its analogues were detected in approximately 83% of illicit drug overdose deaths in 2018 and 84% of illicit drug overdose deaths in 2017.
- Carfentanil has been detected in 81 suspected illicit drug overdose deaths in June 2017-Mar 2018. Note this is subject to change as further toxicology results are received.
- Approximately 26% of those dying in Jan-Mar 2018 were aged 30 to 39, with 92% between 19 and 59. Males accounted for 82% of all deaths during this period.
- Fraser Health Authority had the highest number (98) of illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected in Jan-Mar 2018, followed by Vancouver Coastal Health (94) and Vancouver Island Health Authority (63).<sup>[3],[4]</sup>
- The Health Service Delivery Areas with the most fentanyl-detected illicit drug overdose deaths in Jan-Mar 2018 were Vancouver HSDA (86), Fraser South HSDA (57), and South Vancouver Island HSDA (37). 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 2018 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 2018 are as follows:
  - 2012 = 4%
  - 2013 = 15%
  - 2014 = 25%
  - 2015 = 29%
  - 2016 = 67%
  - 2017 = 84%
  - 2018 = 83%



**Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Month, 2012-2018<sup>[3]</sup>**

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
January	0	5	5	20	46	107	112
February	0	3	5	8	29	106	82
March	0	6	9	8	48	117	129
April	1	8	8	12	48	130	-
May	1	3	8	8	37	112	-
June	1	2	6	11	42	104	-
July	0	1	3	14	41	107	-
August	1	4	8	15	38	105	-
September	1	2	9	15	43	76	-
October	0	4	13	16	53	78	-
November	4	6	6	12	111	90	-
December	3	6	11	13	131	78	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>323</b>

**Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Sex, 2012-2018<sup>[3]</sup>**

Sex	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Female	2	9	21	26	127	211	57
Male	10	41	70	126	540	999	266
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>323</b>

**Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Age Group, 2012-2018<sup>[3]</sup>**

Age Group	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
10-18	0	1	0	2	12	15	4
19-29	3	19	28	43	154	239	76
30-39	2	10	33	45	196	351	85
40-49	6	13	19	29	153	275	70
50-59	1	5	7	24	121	244	66
60+	0	2	4	9	31	86	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>323</b>

**Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Health Authority of Injury, 2012-2018<sup>[3],[5]</sup>**

HA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Interior	2	3	9	21	117	208	48
Fraser	7	16	29	57	208	388	98
Vancouver Coastal	1	10	26	40	183	357	94
Vancouver Island	1	14	17	22	123	206	63
Northern	1	7	10	12	36	51	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>323</b>

**Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Health Service Delivery Area of Injury, 2012-2018<sup>[3],[5]</sup>**

HSDA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
East Kootenay	0	1	2	1	6	4	0
Kootenay Boundary	0	0	1	2	4	15	4
Okanagan	2	1	4	14	61	134	26
Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	0	1	2	4	46	55	18
Fraser East	1	3	1	10	37	85	13
Fraser North	1	6	15	28	71	110	28
Fraser South	5	7	13	19	100	193	57
Richmond	0	0	0	3	13	24	3
Vancouver	1	5	22	32	153	298	86
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	0	5	4	5	17	35	5
South Vancouver Island	1	3	2	9	60	94	37
Central Vancouver Island	0	10	13	10	46	80	20
North Vancouver Island	0	1	2	3	17	32	6
Northwest	0	1	0	1	7	6	1
Northern Interior	1	3	4	7	14	30	15
Northeast	0	3	6	4	15	15	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>323</b>

**Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Month of Death and Health Authority of Injury, 2017-2018<sup>[3],[5]</sup>**

Year	HA	Interior	Fraser	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Northern	Total
2017	January	12	34	43	17	1	107
	February	18	30	30	23	5	106
	March	17	40	31	23	6	117
	April	18	38	51	18	5	130
	May	20	42	31	12	7	112
	June	20	29	29	23	3	104
	July	26	35	25	17	4	107
	August	25	31	25	17	7	105
	September	11	25	23	14	3	76
	October	14	29	17	17	1	78
	November	15	36	26	10	3	90
	December	12	19	26	15	6	78
2018	January	17	30	33	27	5	112
	February	19	29	18	12	4	82
	March	12	39	43	24	11	129
<b>Total</b>		<b>256</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>1533</b>

**Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Top Townships of Injury, 2012-2018<sup>[3],[5]</sup>**

Township	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Vancouver	1	5	22	32	153	298	86
Surrey	3	4	8	11	73	144	43
Victoria	0	3	2	8	53	82	28
Prince George	1	3	4	6	13	20	13
Kamloops	0	1	2	3	31	31	11
Kelowna	0	0	1	6	38	68	9
Burnaby	0	3	0	6	27	35	9
Langley	1	1	5	6	19	32	9
Nanaimo	0	8	12	9	27	43	8
Abbotsford	0	1	1	6	22	41	6
Maple Ridge	0	3	7	12	20	26	6
Coquitlam	0	0	4	4	8	21	6
Chilliwack	1	0	0	2	8	19	5
New Westminster	1	0	0	3	8	16	5
Penticton	1	1	0	0	4	11	5
Other Township	3	17	23	38	163	323	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>323</b>

\*sorted by 2018 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 2018 include cases from January 1 to March 31, 2018.
4. Data are based on location of injury.
5. Death township was used in 9 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>