

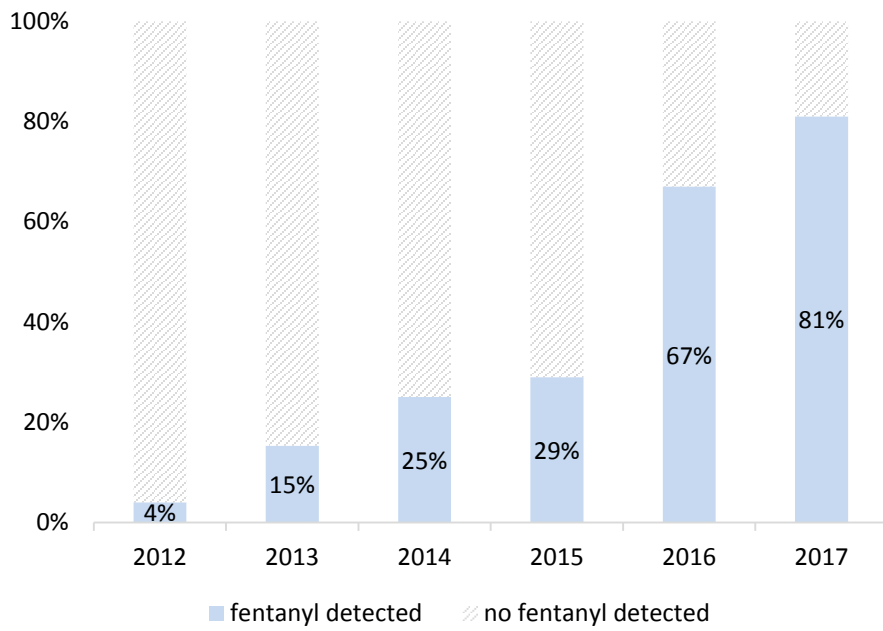
Inclusion Criteria: This report summarizes all deaths that occurred between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2017 for which fentanyl or its analogues were detected, whether alone or in combination with other drugs, and the death resulted from illicit drug use^[1]. In the majority of deaths, fentanyl 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 1,156 illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected in 2017. This is a 73% increase over the number of fentanyl detected deaths (670) occurring in 2016.
- In 2017, fentanyl or its analogues were detected in approximately 81% of illicit drug overdose deaths.
- Carfentanil has been detected in 64 suspected illicit drug overdose deaths in June-December 2017. Note this is subject to change as further toxicology results are received.
- Approximately 28% of those dying in 2017 were aged 30 to 39, with 91% between 19 and 59. Males accounted for 83% of all deaths during this period.
- Fraser Health Authority had the highest number (377) of illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected in 2017, followed by Vancouver Coastal Health (337) and Interior Health Authority (200).^{[3],[4]}
- The Health Service Delivery Areas with the most fentanyl-detected illicit drug overdose deaths in 2017 were Vancouver HSDA (280), Fraser South HSDA (187), and Okanagan HSDA (128). 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 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 = 81%



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	106
March	0	6	9	8	48	116
April	1	8	8	12	48	129
May	1	3	8	8	37	111
June	1	2	6	11	42	100
July	0	1	3	14	41	101
August	1	4	8	15	38	105
September	1	2	9	15	42	67
October	0	4	13	16	54	75
November	4	6	6	12	112	84
December	3	6	11	13	133	55
Total	12	50	91	152	670	1,156

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Sex, 2012-2017 ^[3]							
Sex	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Female	2	9	21	26	126	196	380
Male	10	41	70	126	544	960	1,751
Total	12	50	91	152	670	1,156	2,131

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	15	30
19-29	3	19	28	43	154	232	479
30-39	2	10	33	45	198	327	615
40-49	6	13	19	29	154	263	484
50-59	1	5	7	24	121	233	391
60+	0	2	4	9	31	86	132
Total	12	50	91	152	670	1,156	2,131

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	118	200	353
Fraser	7	16	29	57	210	377	696
Vancouver Coastal	1	10	26	40	183	337	597
Vancouver Island	1	14	17	22	123	193	370
Northern	1	7	10	12	36	49	115
Total	12	50	91	152	670	1,156	2,131

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	16	23
Okanagan	2	1	4	14	62	128	211
Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	0	1	2	4	46	52	105
Fraser East	1	3	1	10	37	84	136
Fraser North	1	6	15	28	71	106	227
Fraser South	5	7	13	19	102	187	333
Richmond	0	0	0	3	13	23	39
Vancouver	1	5	22	32	153	280	493
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	0	5	4	5	17	34	65
South Vancouver Island	1	3	2	9	60	89	164
Central Vancouver Island	0	10	13	10	46	74	153
North Vancouver Island	0	1	2	3	17	30	53
Northwest	0	1	0	1	7	5	14
Northern Interior	1	3	4	7	14	30	59
Northeast	0	3	6	4	15	14	42
Total	12	50	91	152	670	1,156	2,131

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	12	34	42	18	1	107
February	18	30	30	23	5	106
March	17	39	31	23	6	116
April	18	39	49	18	5	129
May	20	42	31	11	7	111
June	20	29	26	22	3	100
July	24	34	24	15	4	101
August	24	31	25	17	8	105
September	9	22	21	12	3	67
October	13	27	17	17	1	75
November	16	34	23	8	3	84
December	9	16	18	9	3	55
Total	200	377	337	193	49	1,156

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	280	493
Surrey	3	4	8	11	75	139	240
Victoria	0	3	2	8	53	77	143
Kelowna	0	0	1	6	38	67	112
Nanaimo	0	8	12	9	27	40	96
Abbotsford	0	1	1	6	22	40	70
Burnaby	0	3	0	6	27	32	68
Langley	1	1	5	6	19	32	64
Kamloops	0	1	2	3	31	31	68
Maple Ridge	0	3	7	12	20	26	68
Other Township	7	21	31	53	205	392	709
Total	12	50	91	152	670	1,156	2,131

*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 December 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>