

This report summarizes all accidental and undetermined illicit drug overdose deaths in British Columbia that occurred between January 1, 2007 and February 29, 2016, inclusive.

**Inclusion Criteria:** The illicit drug overdose category includes the following:

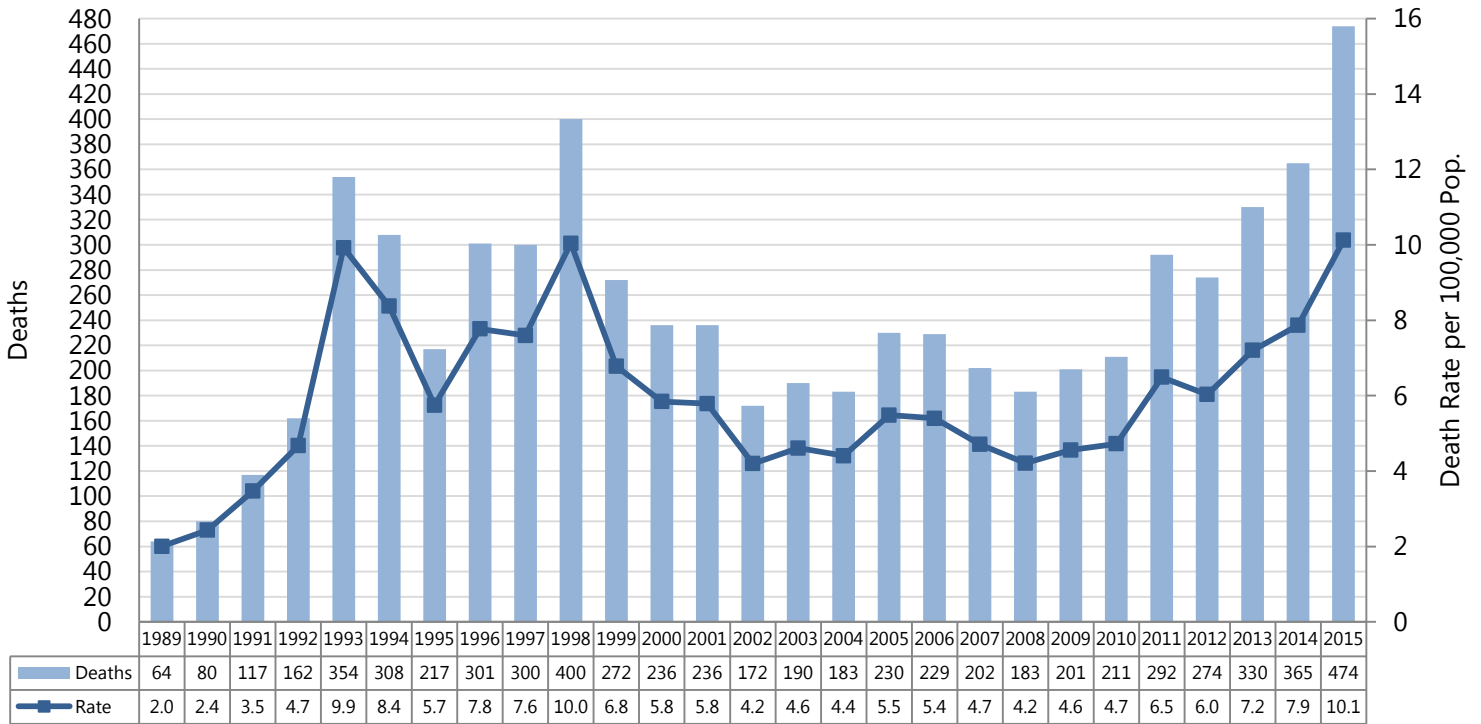
- Street drugs (heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, etc)
- Medications that were not prescribed to the deceased
- Combinations of the above, with prescribed medications
- Origin of drug not known

**Caveat:** The BCCS operates in a live database environment. Some data for more recent years is based on preliminary circumstances and is subject to change as investigations are concluded. Data are not directly comparable to published counts from previous years.

### Summary

- There were 474 apparent illicit drug overdose deaths in 2015, a 30% increase in deaths from 2014 (365 deaths).
- In 2015 the illicit drug overdose death rate increased to 10.1 deaths per 100,000 population. Similar rates were previously seen in 1998 (10.0 deaths) and 1993 (9.9 deaths).
- There were 76 deaths in January 2016; the largest number of deaths in a single month for the examined period (January 1, 2007 to February 29, 2016).
- Preliminary data suggests that the proportion of illicit drug overdose deaths for which fentanyl was detected (alone or in combination with other drugs) increased to approximately 31% in 2015. In previous years, the proportion was:
  - 2012 = 5%
  - 2013 = 15%
  - 2014 = 25%

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths and Death Rate per 100,000 Population, British Columbia



Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths by Month, British Columbia, 2007-2016\*

Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Jan	15	18	23	16	24	20	20	23	41	76
Feb	14	8	15	14	24	17	21	39	31	56
Subtotal	29	26	38	30	48	37	41	62	72	132
Mar	19	17	10	15	25	25	32	28	29	-
Apr	24	18	8	9	26	31	31	29	33	-
May	10	18	19	22	21	20	28	42	41	-
Jun	18	18	16	21	22	25	25	28	30	-
Jul	11	24	19	23	33	30	37	26	31	-
Aug	21	16	27	24	22	20	20	35	51	-
Sep	14	12	16	20	22	17	28	31	36	-
Oct	15	10	13	18	23	20	19	35	50	-
Nov	19	9	18	18	26	28	31	25	39	-
Dec	22	15	17	11	24	21	38	24	62	-
Total	202	183	201	211	292	274	330	365	474	132
Average	16.8	15.3	16.8	17.6	24.3	22.8	27.5	30.4	39.5	66.0

\* 2016 data is to February 29<sup>th</sup>

**Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths by Region, 2007-2016\***

Region	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Metro	75	60	77	63	93	88	112	130	157	38
Fraser	45	51	49	74	99	90	88	111	169	35
Interior	32	20	33	35	37	31	49	44	60	27
Island	36	44	34	24	47	46	59	56	60	27
Northern	14	8	8	15	16	19	22	24	28	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>132</b>

\* 2016 data is to February 29<sup>th</sup>**Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths by Age Group, 2007-2016\***

Age Group	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
10-19	6	6	4	7	8	6	12	7	11	1
20-29	32	36	44	37	70	60	87	81	107	38
30-39	53	48	51	49	74	62	78	99	128	42
40-49	70	42	57	66	76	67	73	87	114	24
50-59	36	43	33	45	54	59	59	67	92	22
60-69	4	8	12	7	10	19	21	24	21	5
70-79	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>132</b>

\* 2016 data is to February 29<sup>th</sup>**Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths by Gender, 2007-2016\***

Gender	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Female	47	49	55	49	81	77	78	83	99	24
Male	155	134	146	162	211	197	252	282	375	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>132</b>

\* 2016 data is to February 29<sup>th</sup>

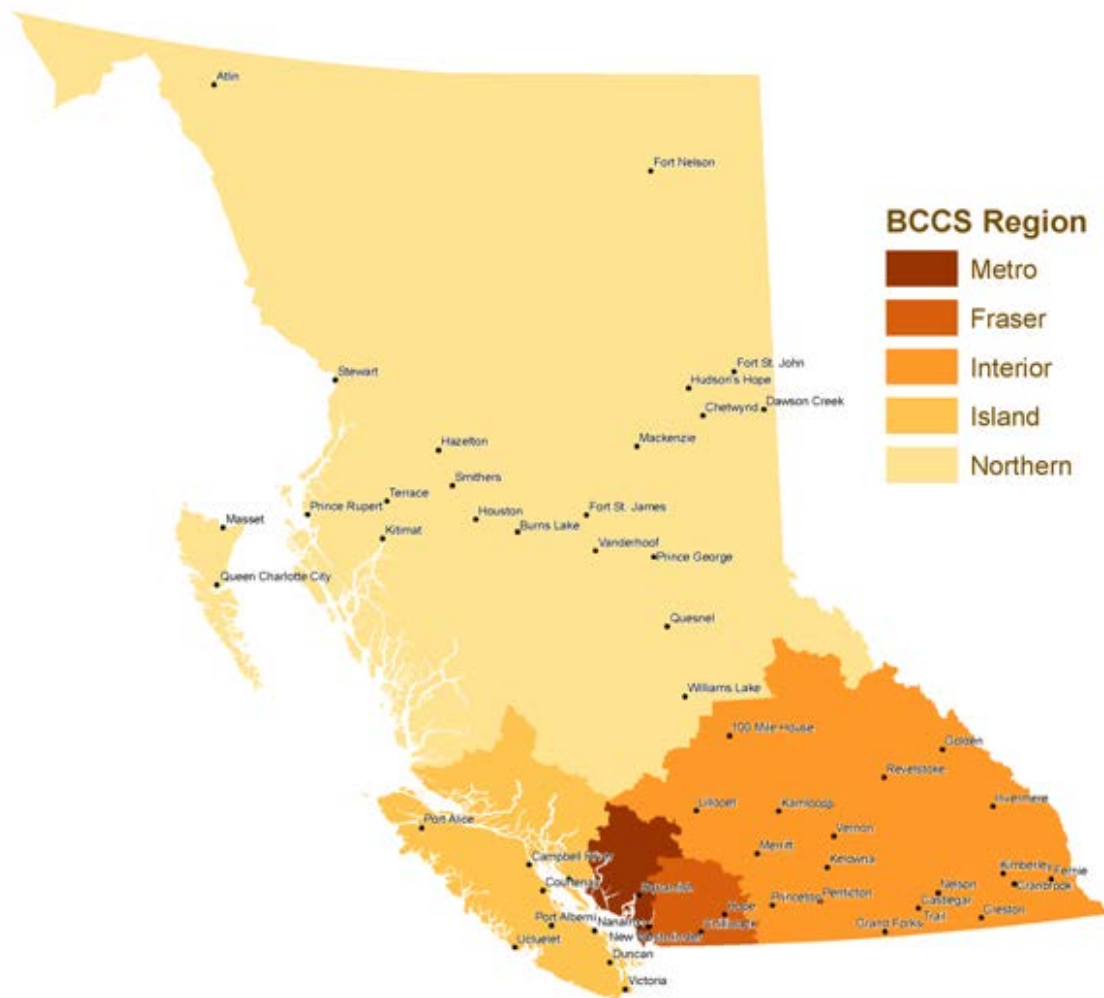
**Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths by Township, 2007-2016\***

Township†	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Vancouver	59	38	60	42	68	68	80	101	119	30
Surrey	22	20	23	32	42	44	36	42	68	16
Abbotsford	3	4	4	10	16	7	9	7	24	2
Maple Ridge	5	2	6	3	4	5	10	14	23	5
Kelowna	6	2	5	9	14	8	11	12	18	8
Nanaimo	2	2	6	4	8	6	20	15	18	7
Victoria	19	29	13	13	17	17	25	19	17	10
Burnaby	9	12	8	9	10	10	13	11	16	3
Prince George	5	2	4	1	6	10	7	10	13	2
Coquitlam	2	2	5	2	3	6	1	10	11	1
New Westminster	1	4	2	6	6	3	5	9	11	1
Langley	3	5	2	3	9	5	10	10	10	4
Chilliwack	3	4	2	2	8	8	6	6	9	1
Vernon	3	1	4	6	7	1	11	6	8	1
Kamloops	11	7	7	10	2	5	8	8	7	9
North Vancouver	2	3	1	3	2	2	4	9	6	-
Richmond	-	1	3	4	4	1	3	3	5	1

\* 2016 data is to February 29<sup>th</sup>

† Table only includes townships with five or more deaths in 2015.

# BC CORONERS SERVICE REGIONS



Northern Region: Includes the region north, east and west from 100 Mile House to all Provincial borders, and Haida Gwaii.

Metro Region: Sunshine Coast, Sea to Sky Corridor, North Shore, Vancouver, UBC, Burnaby, Richmond, and Delta.

Fraser Region: Includes Coquitlam and Surrey to the Coquihalla Highway summit, east to Manning Park and north to Jackass Mountain bordering Merritt.

Interior Region: Includes the region north to 100 Mile House and Blue River, east to the Alberta border, south to the USA border and west to the Manning Park gate, including Ashcroft, Lytton and Lillooet.

Island Region: All of Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, and Powell River.