

This report summarizes all illicit drug overdose deaths in British Columbia (accidental and undetermined) that occurred between January 1, 2007 and July 31, 2016, inclusive. It includes completed cases where the cause of death has been determined by the coroner and cases still under investigation where the evidence indicates an apparent illicit drug overdose.

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

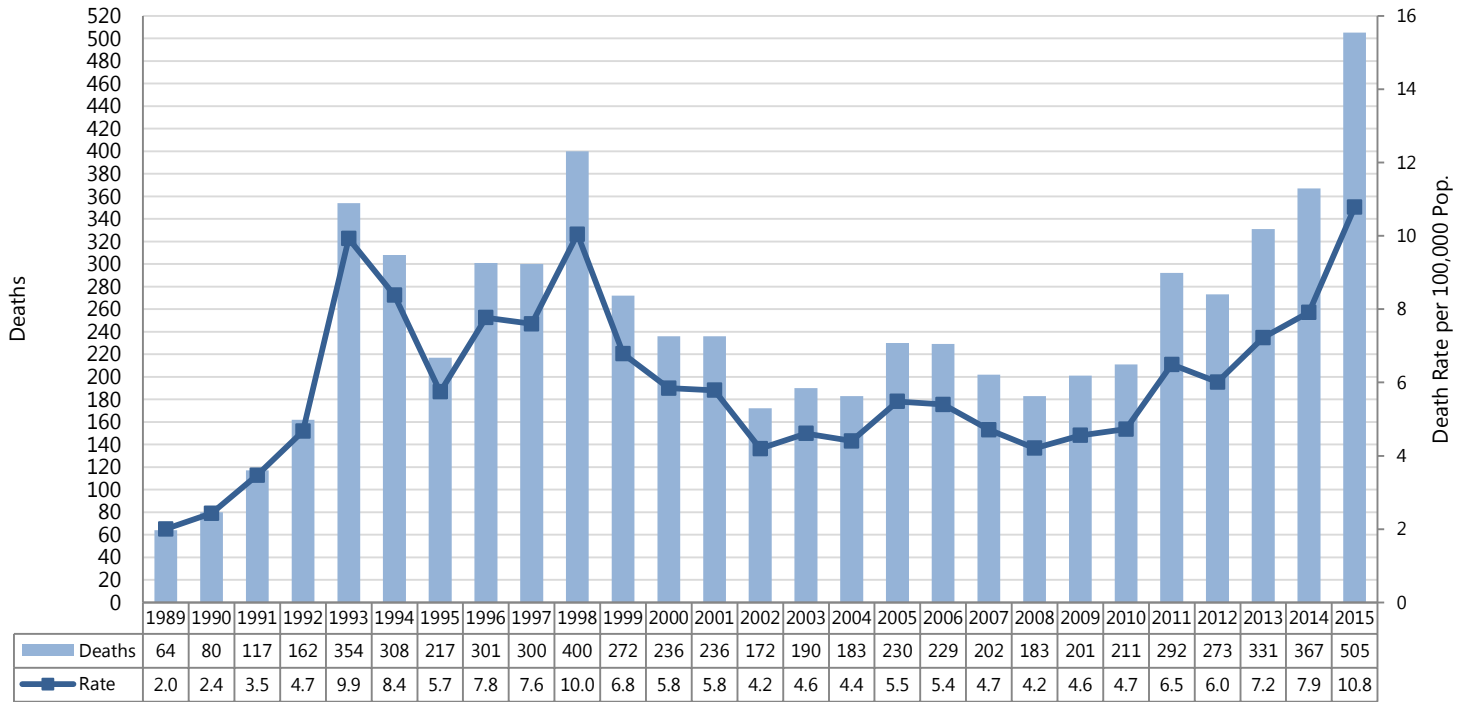
- Street drugs (heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, etc.)
- Medications that were not prescribed to the deceased
- Combinations of the above, with prescribed medications
- Origin of drug not known

Caveat: The BCCS operates in a live database environment. Some data for more recent years are 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 433 apparent illicit drug overdose deaths from January to July 2016. This is a 73.9% increase over the number of death occurring during the same period in 2015 (249)
- From January to July 2016, an average of 61.9 apparent illicit drug overdose death occurred each month
- Preliminary data suggest that individuals aged 20-29 and 30-39 have accounted for the largest percentage of illicit drug overdose deaths in January – July 2016 (23.6% and 30.7%, respectively). Males accounted for 80.4% of apparent illicit drug overdose deaths in January – July 2016
- Top three townships where fatal illicit drug overdoses occurred in 2007-2016, were Vancouver, Surrey, and Victoria
- Preliminary data for January 01 – May 31, 2016, suggest that the proportion of illicit drug overdose deaths for which fentanyl was detected (alone or in combination with other drugs) increased to approximately 62% in 2016. In previous years, the proportion was:
 - 2012 = 5%
 - 2013 = 15%
 - 2014 = 25%
 - 2015 = 30%

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



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	80
Feb	14	8	15	14	24	17	21	39	30	57
Mar	19	17	10	15	25	25	32	28	30	74
Apr	24	18	8	9	26	31	31	30	35	64
May	10	18	19	22	21	20	28	41	43	45
Jun	18	18	16	21	22	25	25	27	35	61
Jul	11	24	19	23	33	29	37	25	35	52
Subtotal	111	121	110	120	175	167	194	213	249	433
Aug	21	16	27	24	22	20	21	36	52	
Sep	14	12	16	20	22	17	28	31	44	
Oct	15	10	13	18	23	20	19	35	51	
Nov	19	9	18	18	26	28	31	27	45	
Dec	22	15	17	11	24	21	38	25	64	
Total	202	183	201	211	292	273	331	367	505	433
Average	16.8	15.3	16.8	17.6	24.3	22.8	27.6	30.6	42.1	61.9

* 2016 data include Jan-July

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	87	112	129	174	105
Fraser	45	51	49	74	99	90	88	114	178	139
Interior	32	20	33	35	37	31	50	45	62	71
Island	36	44	34	24	47	46	59	56	61	87
Northern	14	8	8	15	16	19	22	23	30	31
Total	202	183	201	211	292	273	331	367	505	433

* 2016 data include Jan-July

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths by Month of Death and Region, 2016*						
Month	Metro	Fraser	Interior	Island	Northern	Total
Jan	21	24	15	14	6	80
Feb	18	15	11	12	1	57
Mar	16	21	14	16	7	74
Apr	14	23	7	15	5	64
May	5	16	9	11	4	45
Jun	19	21	8	8	5	61
Jul	12	19	7	11	3	52
Total	105	139	71	87	31	433

* 2016 data include Jan-July

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	13	7	11	11
20-29	32	36	44	37	70	60	87	80	110	102
30-39	53	48	51	49	74	61	78	101	134	133
40-49	70	42	57	66	76	67	73	86	118	93
50-59	36	43	33	45	54	59	59	69	105	80
60-69	4	8	12	7	10	19	21	24	26	12
70-79	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Total	202	183	201	211	292	273	331	367	505	433

* 2016 data include Jan-July

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	79	83	100	85
Male	155	134	146	162	211	196	252	284	405	348
Total	202	183	201	211	292	273	331	367	505	433

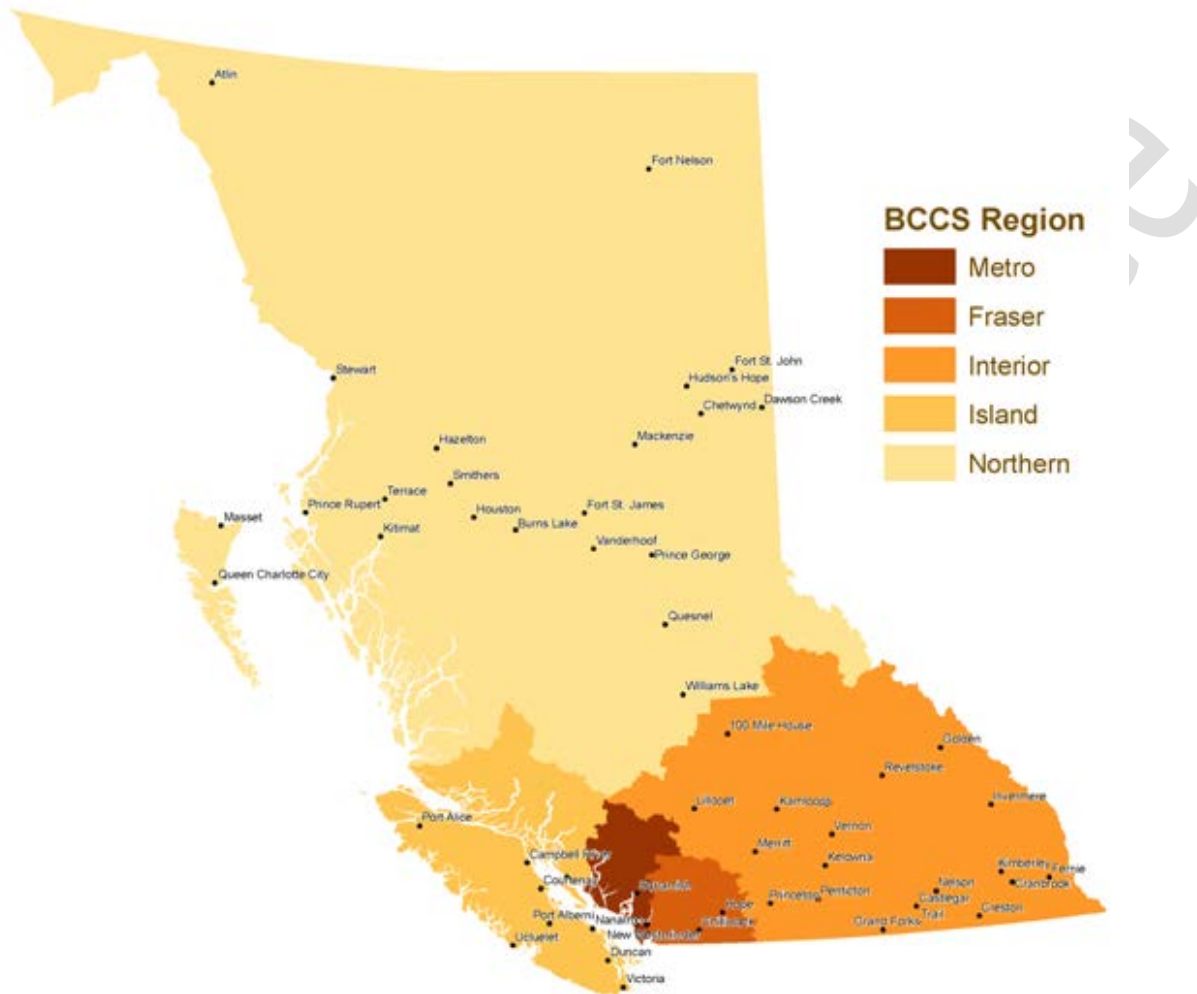
* 2016 data include Jan-July

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths by Top Townships of Injury, 2007-2016*

Township	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Vancouver	59	38	60	42	68	67	80	100	133	78
Surrey	22	20	23	32	42	44	36	44	72	55
Victoria	19	29	13	13	17	17	25	19	17	34
Burnaby	9	12	8	9	10	10	13	11	16	13
Kelowna	6	2	5	9	14	8	12	12	20	23
Abbotsford	3	4	4	10	16	7	9	7	25	21
Nanaimo	2	2	6	4	8	6	20	16	19	19
Maple Ridge	5	2	6	4	4	5	10	14	27	19
Kamloops	11	7	7	10	2	5	8	8	7	22
Langley	3	5	2	3	9	5	10	10	10	17
Unknown Township	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Other Township	63	62	67	75	102	99	108	126	157	130
Total	202	183	201	211	292	273	331	367	505	433

* 2016 data include Jan-July

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.