

This report summarizes all illicit drug overdose deaths in British Columbia (accidental and undetermined) that occurred between January 1, 2007 and June 30, 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:

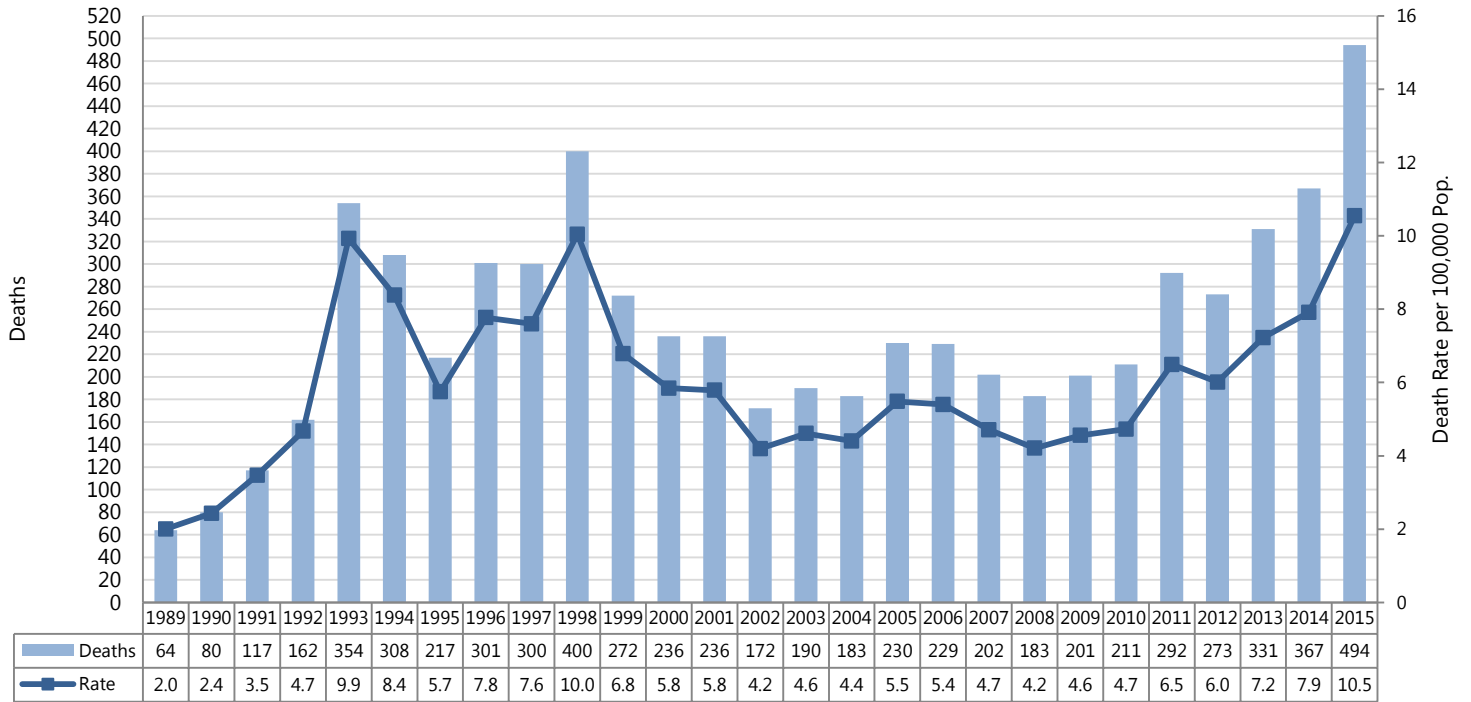
- Street drugs (heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, etc.)
- Medications that were not prescribed to the deceased
- Combinations of the above, with prescribed medications
- Origin of drug not known

**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 371 apparent illicit drug overdose deaths from January to June 2016. This is a 74.2% increase over the number of death occurring during the same period in 2015 (213)
- From January to June 2016, an average of 61.8 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 – June 2016 (23.2% and 31.3%, respectively). Males accounted for 81.1% of apparent illicit drug overdose deaths in January – June 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 60% in 2016. In previous years, the proportion was:
  - 2012 = 5%
  - 2013 = 15%
  - 2014 = 25%
  - 2015 = 31%

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	78
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	34	63
May	10	18	19	22	21	20	28	41	43	43
Jun	18	18	16	21	22	25	25	27	35	56
Subtotal	100	97	91	97	142	138	157	188	213	371
Jul	11	24	19	23	33	29	37	25	33	
Aug	21	16	27	24	22	20	21	36	51	
Sep	14	12	16	20	22	17	28	31	42	
Oct	15	10	13	18	23	20	19	35	50	
Nov	19	9	18	18	26	28	31	27	42	
Dec	22	15	17	11	24	21	38	25	63	
Total	202	183	201	211	292	273	331	367	494	371
Average	16.8	15.3	16.8	17.6	24.3	22.8	27.6	30.6	41.2	61.8

\* 2016 data include Jan-June

<b>Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths by Region, 2007-2016*</b>										
Region	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Metro	75	60	77	63	93	87	112	129	166	92
Fraser	45	51	49	74	99	90	88	114	176	114
Interior	32	20	33	35	37	31	50	45	62	64
Island	36	44	34	24	47	46	59	56	61	76
Northern	14	8	8	15	16	19	22	23	29	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>371</b>

\* 2016 data include Jan-June

<b>Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths by Age Group, 2007-2016*</b>										
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	109	86
30-39	53	48	51	49	74	61	78	101	131	116
40-49	70	42	57	66	76	67	73	86	116	81
50-59	36	43	33	45	54	59	59	69	103	65
60-69	4	8	12	7	10	19	21	24	23	11
70-79	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>371</b>

\* 2016 data include Jan-June

<b>Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths by Gender, 2007-2016*</b>										
Gender	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Female	47	49	55	49	81	77	79	83	100	70
Male	155	134	146	162	211	196	252	284	394	301
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>371</b>

\* 2016 data include Jan-June

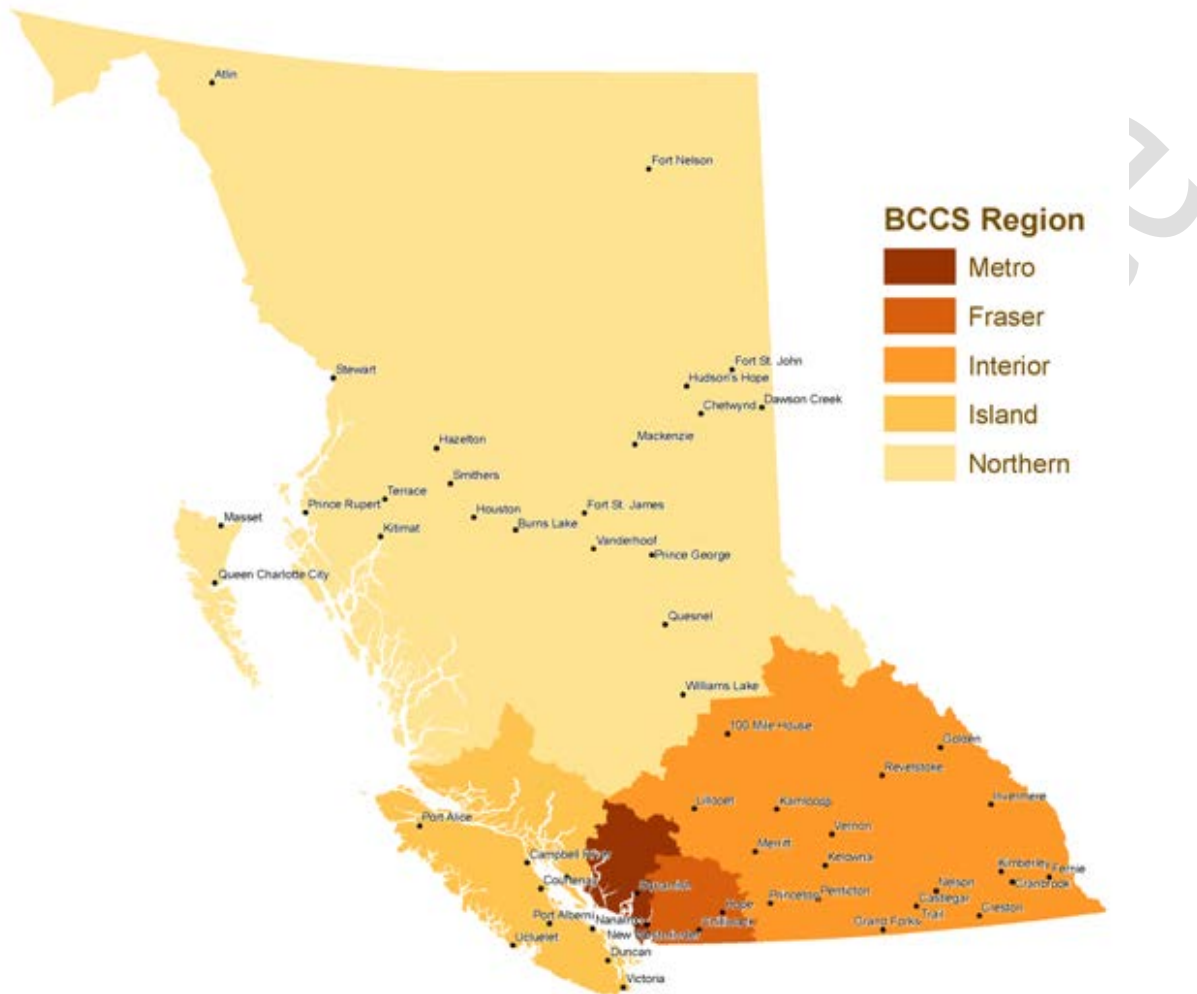
Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths by Township of Injury, 2007-2016*										
Township <sup>†</sup>	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Vancouver	59	38	60	42	68	67	80	100	126	69
Surrey	22	20	23	32	42	44	36	44	71	44
Victoria	19	29	13	13	17	17	25	19	17	29
Burnaby	9	12	8	9	10	10	13	11	16	11
Kelowna	6	2	5	9	14	8	12	12	20	19
Abbotsford	3	4	4	10	16	7	9	7	24	16
Nanaimo	2	2	6	4	8	6	20	16	19	15
Maple Ridge	5	2	6	3	4	5	10	14	26	15
Kamloops	11	7	7	10	2	5	8	8	7	22
Langley	3	5	2	3	9	5	10	10	10	13
Prince George	5	2	4	1	6	10	7	10	13	8
New Westminster	1	4	2	6	6	3	5	9	12	6
Chilliwack	3	4	2	2	8	8	6	6	9	2
Vernon	3	1	4	6	7	1	11	6	8	3
Coquitlam	2	2	5	2	3	6	1	10	11	6
Mission	3	6	2	9	5	3	3	3	4	3
North Vancouver	2	3	1	3	2	2	4	9	7	4
Delta	3	2	1	2	6	3	3	2	4	2
Campbell River	2	1	1	2	6	3	-	5	3	3
Richmond	-	1	3	4	4	1	3	3	5	2
Penticton	1	2	4	1	3	2	4	3	3	1
Port Coquitlam	1	1	1	5	-	4	3	3	2	3
Courtenay	1	1	2	1	2	1	4	2	3	3
Fort St John	1	1	-	-	3	1	3	4	1	6
Port Alberni	1	-	1	1	4	3	-	3	3	2
Powell River	1	1	1	1	3	-	2	2	2	5
West Kelowna	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	3	2	3
Williams Lake	3	1	2	2	-	1	2	1	2	-
Pitt Meadows	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	3	2
Quesnel	1	-	-	5	2	2	1	-	2	-
White Rock	1	1	-	-	1	2	1	4	1	2
Duncan	2	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	3	2
Cranbrook	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	2	1
Merritt	1	1	2	-	-	2	1	1	-	2
Parksville	-	-	-	-	3	3	1	-	2	1
Castlegar	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	3
Dawson Creek	-	-	1	-	1	3	1	2	-	1
Prince Rupert	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	5
Whistler	1	2	2	1	-	1	1	1	-	-

Qualicum Beach	-	1	4	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Terrace	-	2	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	2
West Vancouver	1	1	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	-
Port Moody	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	1
Sooke	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	2	2
Lake Country	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	2	-
Saanich	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Salmon Arm	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	2
Chase	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Chetwynd	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	1	-
Port Hardy	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Princeton	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	1	-
Sechelt	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	-
Trail	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-
U/k Township	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other Township	17	17	14	13	18	15	25	21	35	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>371</b>

\* 2016 data include Jan-June

† Table only includes townships with five or more deaths in 2007-2016 combined. All other townships are grouped into "other"

## 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.