

This report summarizes all unintentional illicit drug toxicity deaths in British Columbia (accidental and undetermined) that occurred between January 1, 2011, and May 31, 2021, inclusive. It includes confirmed and suspected illicit toxicity deaths (inclusion criteria below). *Please note that data is subject to change as investigations are concluded.* <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events/death/coroners-service/statistical-reports>

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

- Street drugs (Controlled and illegal drugs: heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, illicit fentanyl etc.).
- Medications not prescribed to the decedent but obtained/purchased on the street, from unknown means or where origin of drug not known.
- Combinations of the above with prescribed medications.

**Note: 2021 data is up to the month of May. Due to the short time frame, rates, numbers, and percentages should be interpreted with caution and are subject to change as investigations are completed.**

## 2021 Summary

- In May 2021, there were 160 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths. This is the second largest number of suspected deaths ever recorded in the month of May (May 2020 had 177 deaths).
- The 160 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths represent a 10% decrease over the number of deaths occurring in May 2020 (177) and a 9% decrease over the number of deaths occurring in April 2021 (176).
- The number of illicit drug toxicity deaths in May 2021 equates to about 5.2 deaths per day.
- In 2021, 70% of those dying were aged 30 to 59. Males accounted for 80% of deaths in 2021.
- The townships experiencing the highest number of illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2021 are Vancouver, Surrey, and Victoria.
- By Health Authority (HA), in 2021, the highest **number** of illicit drug toxicity deaths were in Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Health Authorities (291 and 233 deaths, respectively), making up 62% of all such deaths during this period.
- By Health Authority (HA), in 2021, the highest **rates** were in Northern Health (48 deaths per 100,000 individuals) and Vancouver Coastal Health (46 per 100,000). Overall, the rate in BC is 39 deaths per 100,000 individuals in 2021.

- By Health Service Delivery Area (HSDA), in 2021, the highest **rates** were in Vancouver, Northeast, Thompson Cariboo, North Vancouver Island, and Northern Interior.
- By Local Health Area (LHA), in **2021**, the highest **rates** were in Merritt, Powell River, Enderby, Peace River South, and Hope. **Note: LHA rates will be updated every four months.**
- In 2021, 85% of illicit drug toxicity deaths occurred inside (56% in private residences and 29% in other residences including social and supportive housing, SROs, shelters, and hotels and other indoor locations) and 14% occurred outside in vehicles, sidewalks, streets, parks, etc.
- In Vancouver Coastal, other residences (48%) were the most common place of illicit drug toxicity deaths followed by private residences (35%) between 2018 and 2021 (see Table 3, Page 5).
- No deaths have been reported at supervised consumption or drug overdose prevention sites.<sup>2</sup>

## Trends

- Male illicit drug toxicity death rates have remained at a high rate, while female rates have remained relatively stable (see Figure 4, Page 8).
- Illicit drug toxicity death rates among 19+ years have remained high, while rates among 0-18 years remain stable (see Figure 6, Page 10).
- The proportion of deaths that are 50+ years of age has steadily increased year after year for the past 6 years. In 2021, 39% of deaths were 50 years or over (see Figure 5, Page 9).
- Illicit drug toxicity death rates for all health authority rates remain high (see Figure 7, Page 13).

Figure 1: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths and Death Rate per 100,000 Population <sup>[3,5]</sup>

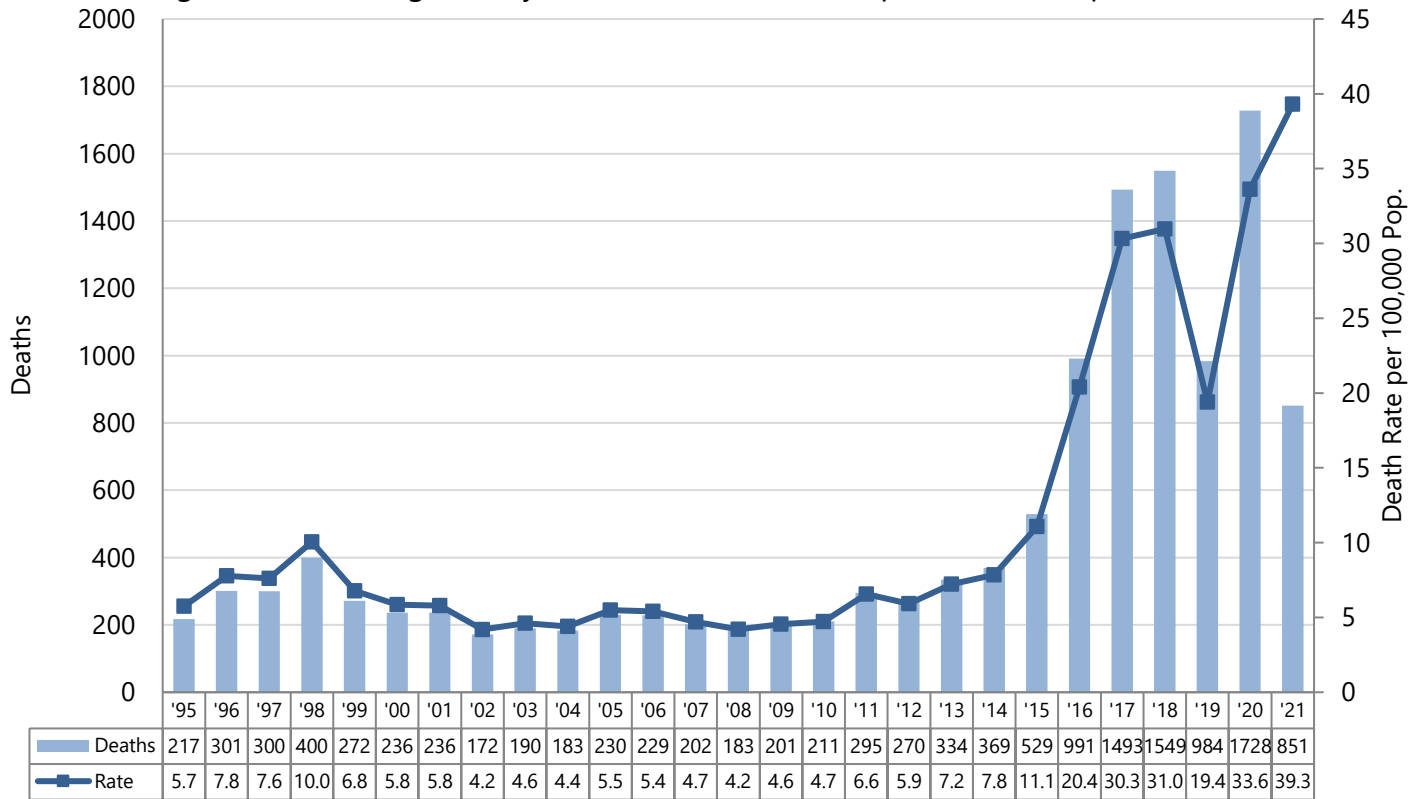
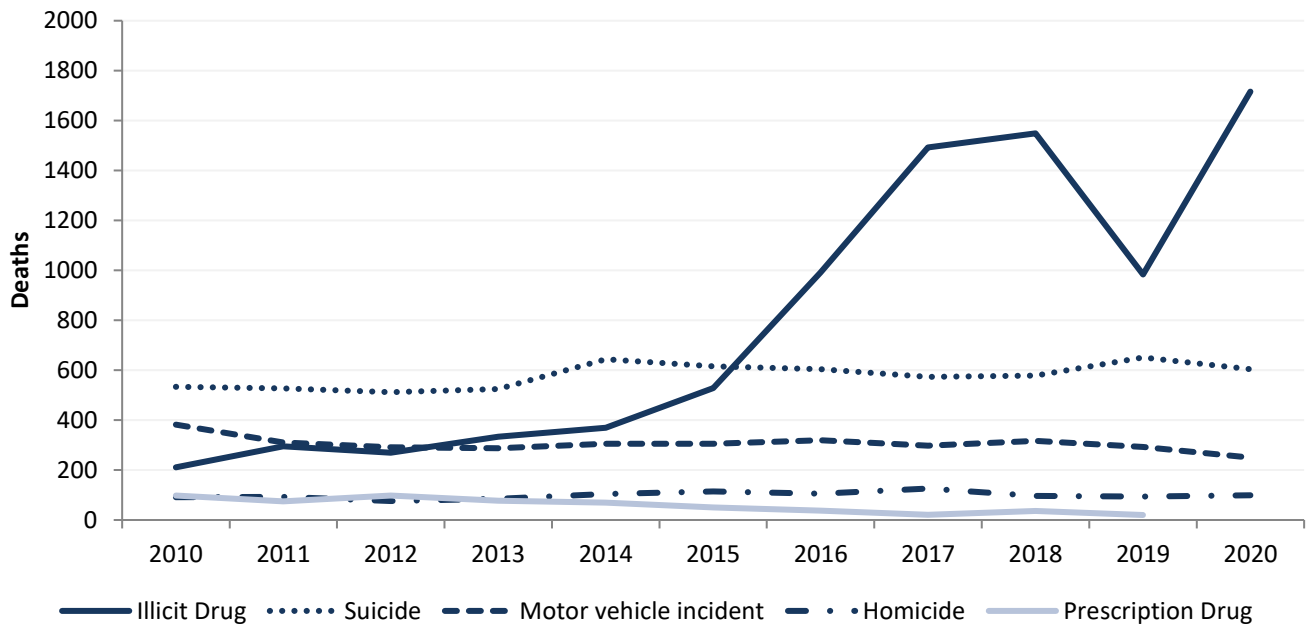


Table 1: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Month, British Columbia, 2011-2021 <sup>[3]</sup>											
Month	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Jan	24	20	20	23	43	85	147	134	94	80	185
Feb	24	17	21	38	31	58	124	108	85	76	164
Mar	25	25	33	28	32	76	130	158	117	112	166
Apr	27	31	31	29	34	72	154	135	83	124	176
May	22	19	28	40	41	51	149	119	88	177	160
Subtotal	122	112	133	158	181	342	704	654	467	569	851
Jun	22	25	25	29	34	71	128	116	74	185	-
Jul	33	29	39	25	40	74	123	147	74	182	-
Aug	22	20	21	37	53	64	127	123	84	159	-
Sep	22	16	28	32	50	63	97	136	61	138	-
Oct	23	19	19	35	53	76	98	118	79	173	-
Nov	27	28	31	28	52	140	112	131	82	163	-
Dec	24	21	38	25	66	161	104	124	63	159	-
Total	295	270	334	369	529	991	1,493	1,549	984	1,728	851
Average	24.6	22.5	27.8	30.8	44.1	82.6	124.4	129.1	82.0	144.0	170.2

**Comparison to Other Common Causes of Unnatural Deaths from 2010 to 2020:**

Figure 2: Major Causes of Unnatural Deaths in BC



*\*Data is preliminary and subject to change. Prescription drug toxicity deaths (accidental and undetermined) include cases where only a prescription drug is involved and reported for closed investigations only to 2019.*

**BC Data by Place of Injury****Table 2: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Place of Injury, BC, 2018-2021<sup>[3]</sup>**

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Inside:				
Private Residence	925 (59.7%)	567 (57.6%)	973 (56.3%)	473 (55.6%)
Other Residence	371 (23.9%)	259 (26.3%)	453 (26.2%)	228 (26.8%)
Correctional facility/police cell	5 (0.3%)	4 (0.4%)	5 (0.3%)	3 (0.4%)
Medical facility	5 (0.3%)	5 (0.5%)	5 (0.3%)	6 (0.7%)
Occupational site	6 (0.4%)	5 (0.5%)	5 (0.3%)	5 (0.6%)
Public building				
Public washroom	23 (1.5%)	11 (1.1%)	6 (0.4%)	2 (0.3%)
Other area of building	11 (0.7%)	7 (0.7%)	13 (0.8%)	8 (0.9%)
Outside	193 (12.5%)	118 (12.0%)	248 (14.4%)	118 (13.9%)
Unknown	10 (0.7%)	8 (0.8%)	20 (1.2%)	8 (0.9%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>851</b>

**Table 3: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Place of Injury and Health Authority, BC, 2018-2021<sup>[3]</sup>**

	Interior	Fraser	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Northern
Inside:					
Private Residence	519 (66.0%)	1,214 (70.9%)	498 (34.5%)	476 (58.4%)	231 (65.1%)
Other Residence	153 (19.4%)	206 (12.0%)	689 (47.8%)	197 (24.2%)	66 (18.6%)
Other Inside	24 (3.1%)	55 (3.2%)	37 (2.6%)	14 (1.7%)	10 (2.8%)
Outside	85 (10.8%)	222 (13.0%)	206 (14.3%)	119 (14.6%)	45 (12.7%)
Unknown	6 (0.8%)	15 (0.9%)	13 (0.9%)	9 (1.1%)	3 (0.9%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>1,443</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>355</b>

Private Residence – includes driveways garages, trailer homes and either decedent's own or another's residence.

Other Residence – includes hotels, motels, rooming houses, SRO (single room occupancy, shelters, social/supportive housing etc.)

Medical facility – includes hospitals, community care facilities, etc

Occupational site – includes locations where the decedent was at their place of work.

Public buildings – includes restaurants, community centres, businesses, clinics, etc.

Outside – includes vehicles, streets, sidewalks, parking lots, public parks, wooded areas, and campgrounds

**BC Data by Drugs Involved:**

- Preliminary data suggests that the proportion of illicit drug toxicity deaths for which illicit fentanyl was detected (alone or in combination with other drugs) was approximately 85% in 2021 and 86% in 2020. *2021 data will change as further toxicology results are received.*
- Post-mortem toxicology results suggest that there has been a greater number of cases with extreme fentanyl concentrations after Apr 2020 compared with previous months (concentrations exceeded >50ug/L (micrograms/litre)).
  - From Apr 2020 – May 2021, approximately 14% of cases had extreme fentanyl concentrations as compared to 8% from Jan 2019 to Mar 2020.
- Carfentanil has been detected in 75 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2021 (Jan-May) and 65 deaths in 2020. *This is subject to change as further toxicology results are received.*
- A review of completed cases from 2018-20 indicates that the top four detected drugs relevant to illicit drug toxicity deaths were fentanyl (87%), cocaine (49%), methamphetamine/amphetamine (39%), and other opioids (31%).
- Among the drug types involved in completed illicit drug toxicity death investigations, illicit fentanyl has increased from 5% in 2012 to 85% in 2020. Methamphetamine has also increased from 14% in 2012 to 43% in 2020. Cocaine and other opioids have steadily declined from 2012 to 2020; however, cocaine was involved in 46% of illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2020.

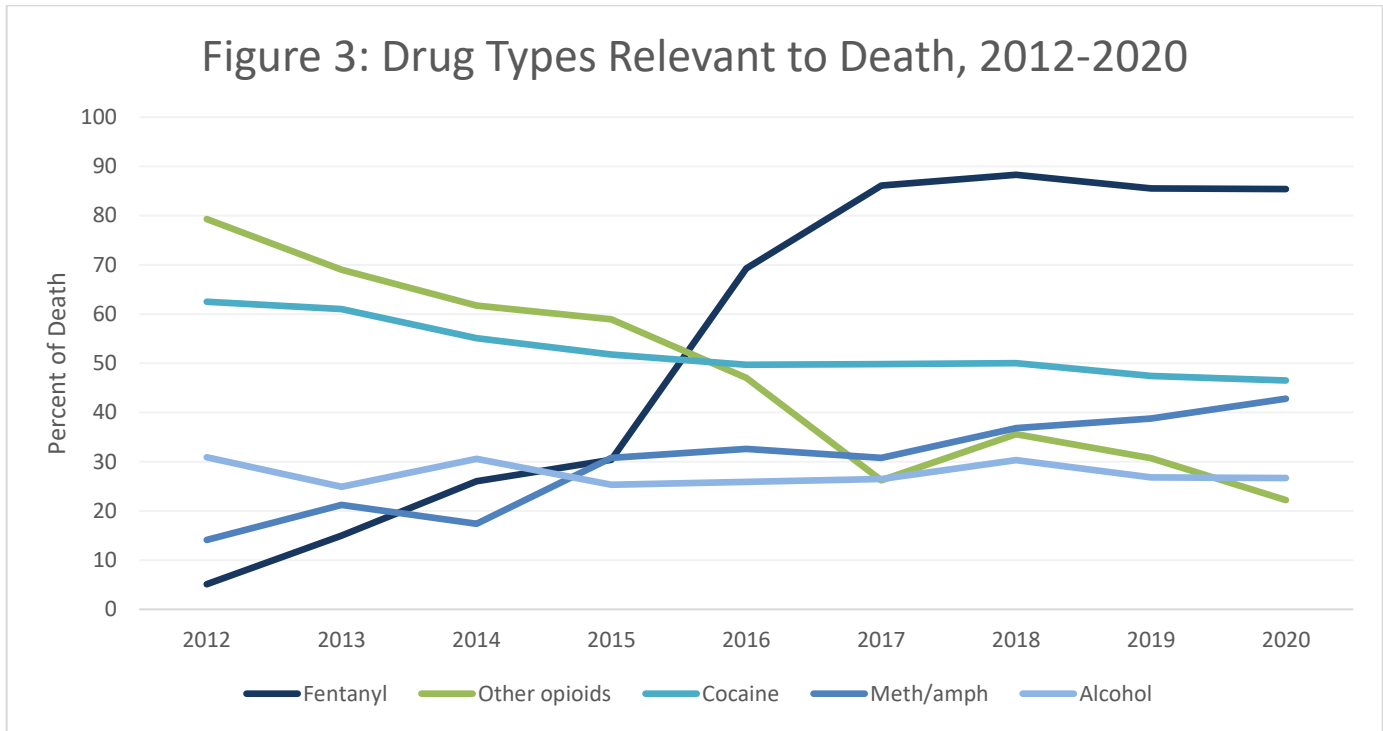
**Table 5: Top Drugs Involved Among Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths, 2018-20**

Drug Detected	BC (n=2,256)
Illicit fentanyl & analogues	87.0%
Cocaine	48.5%
Methamphetamine/amphetamine	38.7%
Other opioids	30.8%
Ethyl alcohol	28.6%
Benzodiazepines	6.8%
Other stimulants	2.9%

**Notes:**

*Drugs involved are noted by the coroner as being relevant to the death (this data is only available for concluded investigations). Data does not indicate when a substance was taken.*

*Fentanyl & analogues includes fentanyl, acetylfentanyl, 3-methylfentanyl, furanylfentanyl, carfentanil, cyclopropyl fentanyl, methoxyacetylfentanyl, 4-fluoroisobutyryl fentanyl, and norfentanyl. Meth/amph includes methamphetamine and amphetamine. Other opioids include heroin, codeine, oxycodone, morphine, hydromorphone, methadone, etc but excludes fentanyl and analogues. Other stimulants include MDMA, MDA, paramethoxymethamphetamine, paramethoxyamphetamine, pseudophedrine, methylbenzodioxylbutamine, methylone, methylphenidate, caffeine, and ephedrine.*



**Income Assistance Week:**

**Table 4: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths per day by Income Assistance Payment Week, 2020-2021<sup>[3,4]</sup>**

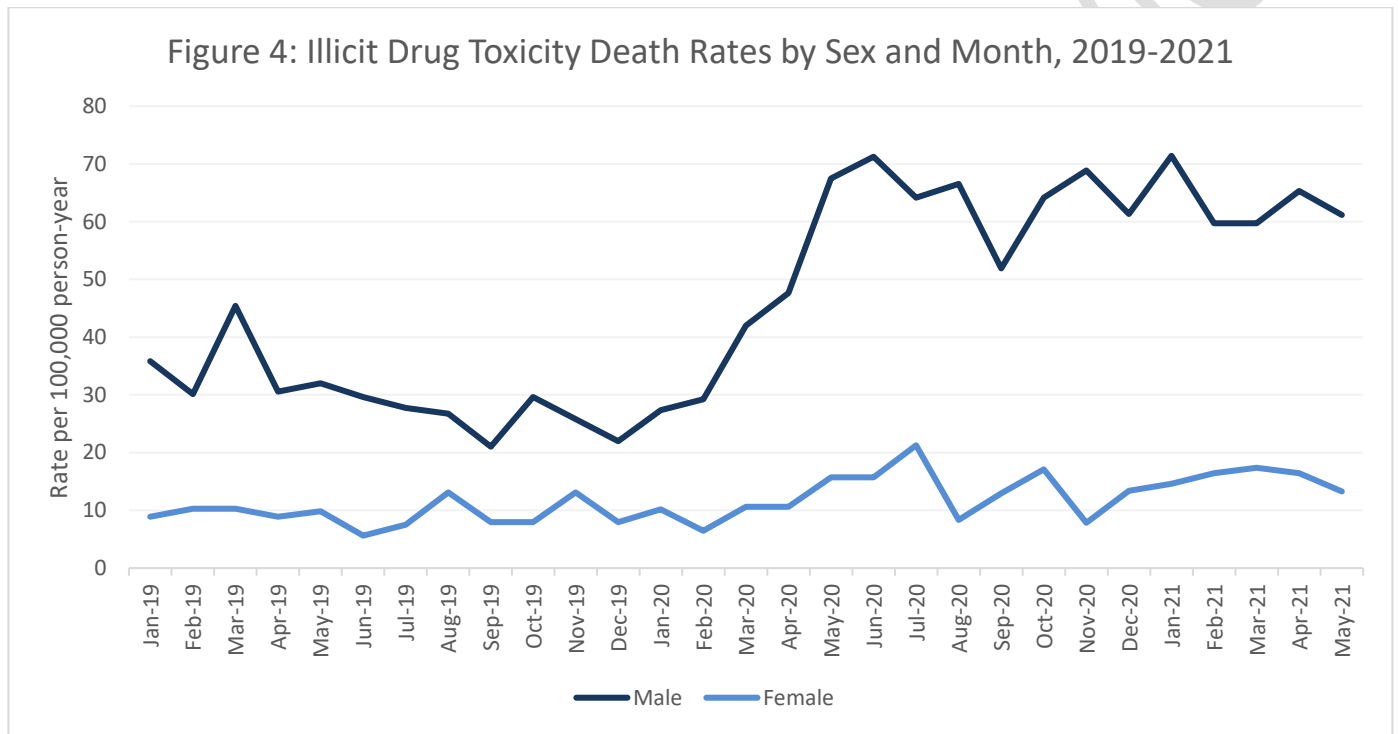
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Avg
Income Assistance Payment Week (Wed-Sun)	8.4	6.0	4.4	5.0	6.6	7.0	5.8	7.0	6.6	5.4	5.8	5.4	6.1
All other days of the month	5.7	5.8	5.3	4.5	5.4	5.1	5.0	5.8	5.7	5.3	5.9	5.1	5.4
Total	6.2	5.9	5.1	4.6	5.6	5.4	5.1	6.0	5.9	5.4	5.9	5.2	5.5

- More illicit drug toxicity deaths occurred during the days following income assistance payment (Wed-Sun) than all other days in 2020-21. Income assistance payment dates can be found at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/payment-dates>.

**BC Data by Sex/Age:**

**Table 6: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Sex, 2011-2021<sup>[3]</sup>**

Sex	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Female	82	76	79	86	106	199	269	314	238	325	171
Male	213	194	255	283	423	792	1,223	1,235	746	1,403	680
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>851</b>



**Table 7: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Age Group, 2011-2021<sup>[3]</sup>**

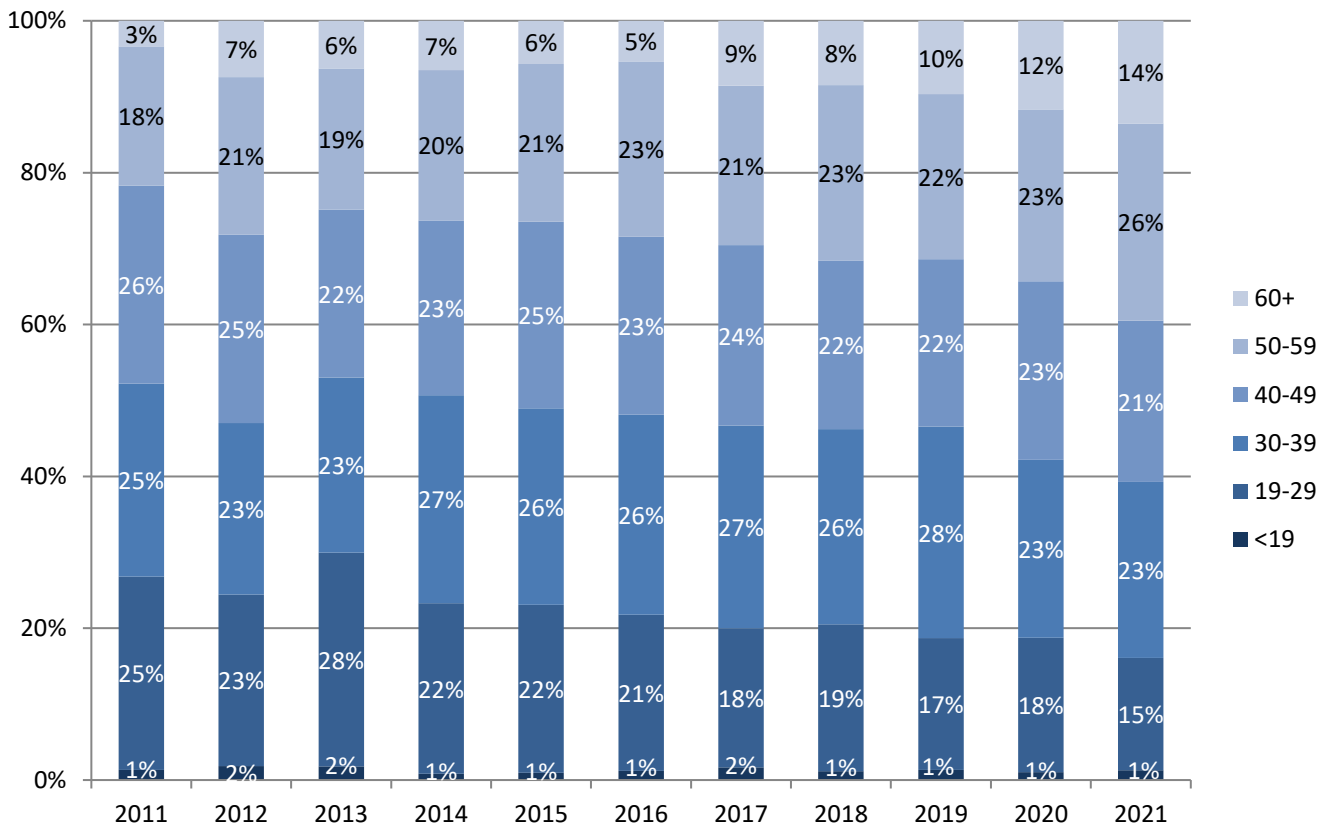
Age Group	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<19	4	5	6	3	5	12	25	18	13	18	11
19-29	75	61	94	83	117	204	273	300	171	306	126
30-39	75	61	77	101	137	261	399	398	274	405	197
40-49	77	67	74	85	130	232	355	344	217	406	181
50-59	54	56	62	73	110	229	313	358	214	391	221
60-69	10	19	21	24	29	50	121	123	91	186	103
70-79	0	1	0	0	1	3	7	8	4	16	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>851</b>



**Table 8: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Age Group and Month, 2021<sup>[3]</sup>**

Age Group	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<19	0	2	2	4	3
19-29	31	23	23	25	24
30-39	44	35	45	37	36
40-49	37	34	39	39	32
50-59	48	39	36	48	50
60-69	24	27	17	23	12
70-79	1	4	4	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>160</b>

**Figure 5: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Age Group, 2011-2021**

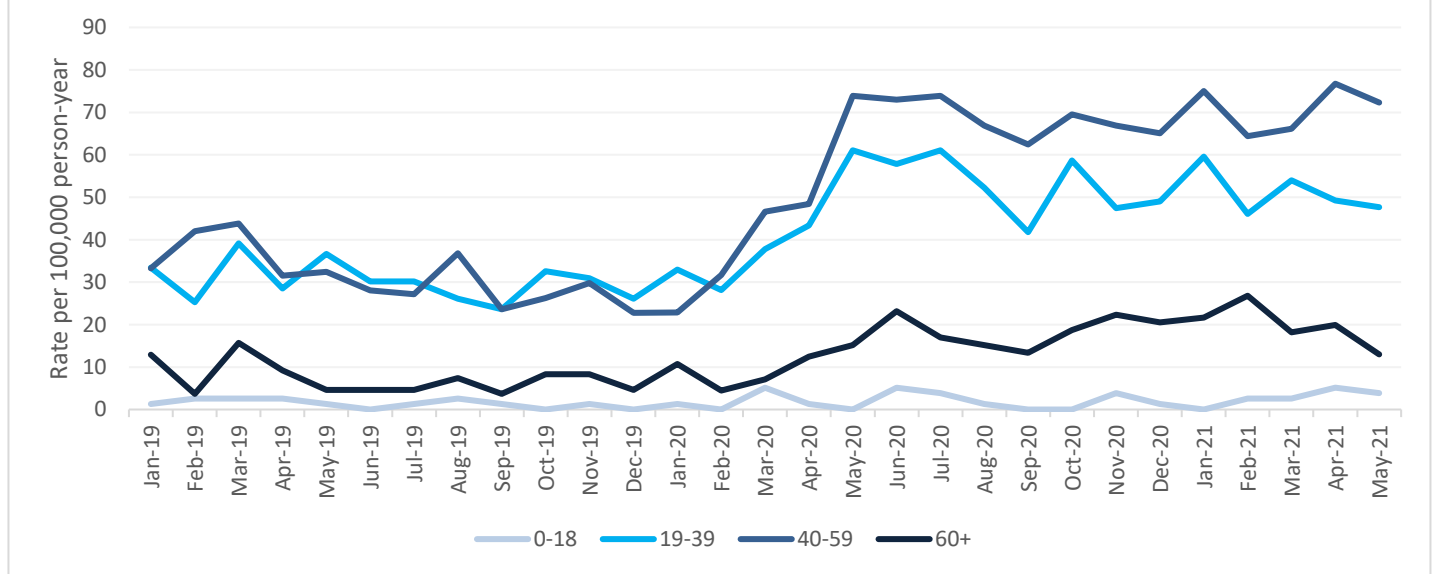


**Table 9: Age-Specific Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates per 100,000, 2011-2021<sup>[3,5]</sup>**

Age Group	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<19	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.6	1.3	2.7	1.9	1.4	1.9	2.8
19-29	11.1	8.8	13.5	11.7	16.5	28.5	37.7	40.4	22.6	40.3	39.7
30-39	12.6	10.1	12.6	16.1	21.4	39.7	59.2	57.2	38.2	55.1	63.0
40-49	11.4	10.0	11.1	12.9	19.9	35.5	54.6	53.1	33.6	62.8	67.0
50-59	8.0	8.1	8.8	10.1	15.0	30.9	42.6	49.1	29.6	54.4	74.5
60-69	2.0	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.9	8.1	19.2	19.1	13.8	27.6	36.0
70-79	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.9	1.9	2.0	1.0	3.7	6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>39.3</b>

\*2021 rates should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers.

**Figure 6: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Age Group and Month, 2019-2021**



**BC Data by Township of Injury:**

**Table 10: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Top Townships of Injury in 2021, 2011-2021<sup>[3]</sup>**

Township	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Vancouver	69	65	80	102	138	231	375	396	244	410	199
Surrey	42	44	36	44	76	118	181	213	119	217	108
Victoria	17	18	25	20	23	68	94	97	61	122	65
Abbotsford	16	7	10	7	27	40	52	41	45	66	34
Burnaby	10	10	13	11	15	40	44	48	29	58	31
Kamloops	2	5	8	7	7	44	38	47	26	60	26
Chilliwack	8	8	6	6	10	13	21	37	21	35	24
Prince George	6	10	7	10	12	18	24	51	25	58	22
Kelowna	14	8	12	12	20	47	73	56	34	61	19
Nanaimo	8	6	20	16	18	29	56	37	27	38	19
Maple Ridge	4	5	10	14	29	28	33	29	13	37	19
New Westminster	6	3	5	9	12	10	24	36	20	35	18
Langley	10	5	10	10	10	31	36	33	23	38	15
Vernon	7	1	11	6	8	12	24	24	14	26	13
Courtenay	2	1	4	2	5	10	13	14	8	12	12
Other Township	74	74	77	93	119	252	405	390	275	455	227
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>851</b>

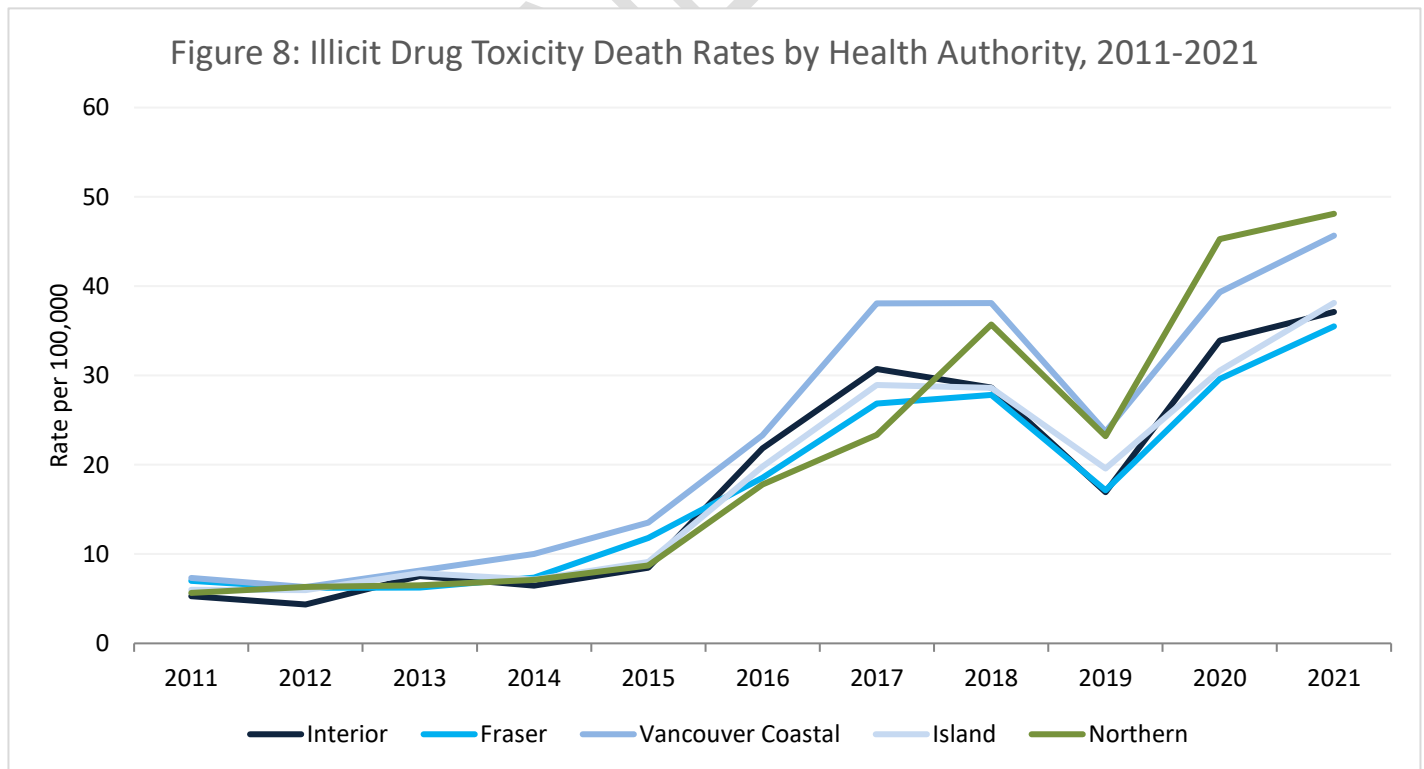
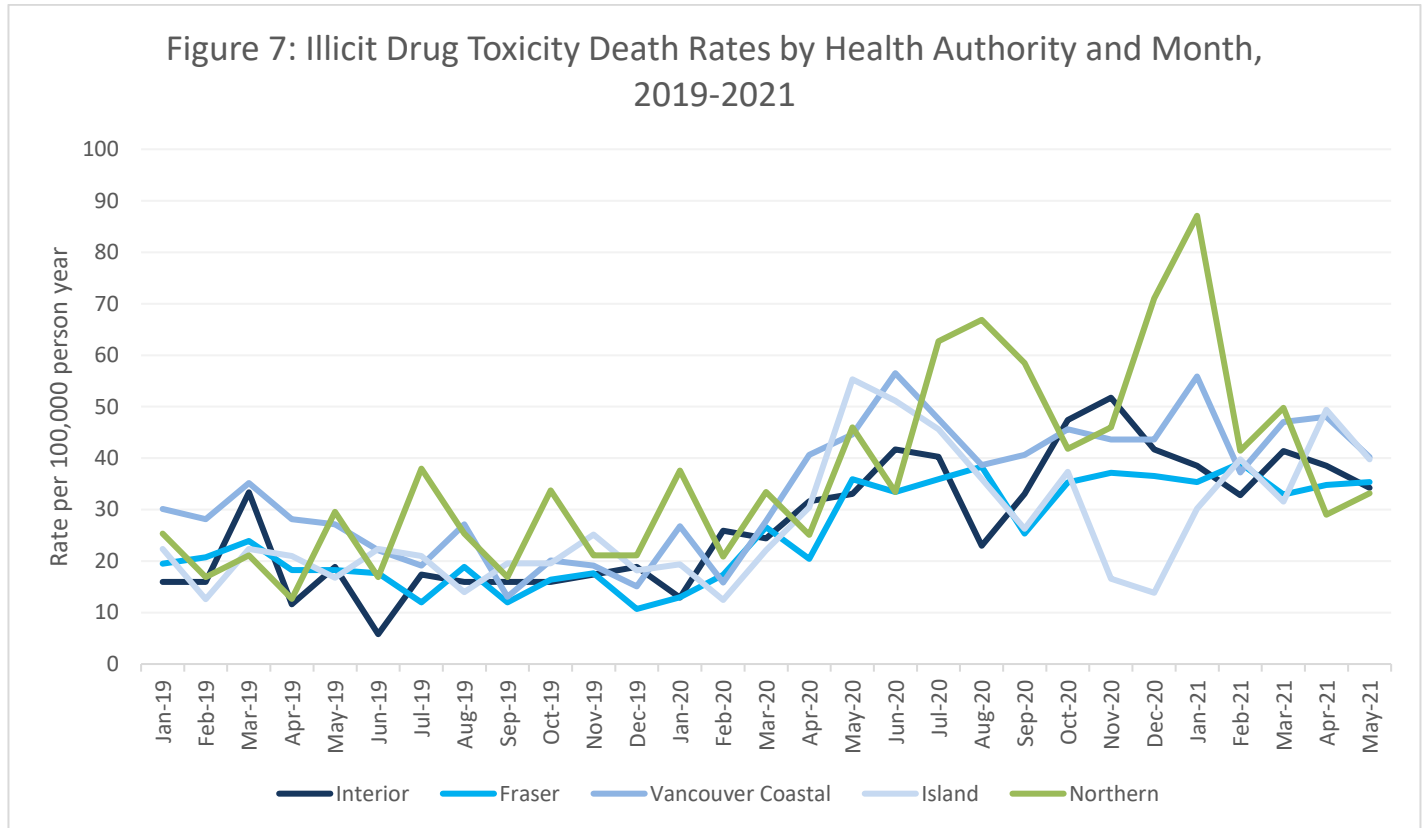
**Health Authority Data:****Table 11: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Health Authority, 2011-2021<sup>[3,6]</sup>**

HA	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Interior	38	31	54	47	64	168	246	234	140	283	130
Fraser	115	104	106	126	208	334	492	520	327	574	291
Vancouver Coastal	81	72	95	120	160	276	448	451	283	476	233
Island	45	45	60	55	72	161	241	243	168	265	139
Northern	16	18	19	21	25	52	66	101	66	130	58
BC	295	270	334	369	529	991	1,493	1,549	984	1,728	851

**Table 12: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Health Authority per 100,000, 2011-2021<sup>[3,5,6]</sup>**

HA	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Interior	5.3	4.4	7.5	6.5	8.5	21.9	30.7	28.6	16.9	33.9	37.1
Fraser	7.0	6.2	6.3	7.3	11.8	18.6	26.9	27.8	17.1	29.6	35.5
Vancouver Coastal	7.3	6.3	8.2	10.0	13.5	23.3	38.1	38.1	23.7	39.3	45.7
Island	6.0	6.0	7.9	7.2	9.1	19.8	28.9	28.6	19.6	30.5	38.1
Northern	5.6	6.3	6.5	7.1	8.7	17.8	23.4	35.7	23.2	45.3	48.1
BC	6.6	5.9	7.2	7.8	11.1	20.4	30.3	31.0	19.4	33.6	39.3

\*2021 rates should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers.



**Table 13: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Month of Death and Health Authority and Township, 2020-2021<sup>[3,6]</sup>**

Year	Month	Health Authorities					Township		
		Interior	Fraser	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Northern	Vancouver	Surrey	Victoria
2020	Jan	9	21	27	14	9	24	9	8
	Feb	18	28	16	9	5	14	11	3
	Mar	17	43	28	16	8	22	16	8
	Apr	22	33	41	22	6	35	17	11
	May	23	58	45	40	11	39	24	22
	June	29	54	57	37	8	53	18	16
	Jul	28	58	48	33	15	43	21	17
	Aug	16	62	39	26	16	33	17	11
	Sep	23	41	41	19	14	34	16	7
	Oct	33	57	46	27	10	41	22	13
	Nov	36	60	44	12	11	35	19	4
	Dec	29	59	44	10	17	37	27	2
2021	Jan	27	58	57	22	21	46	20	14
	Feb	23	64	38	29	10	33	27	13
	Mar	29	54	48	23	12	38	14	11
	Apr	27	57	49	36	7	43	25	16
	May	24	58	41	29	8	39	22	11
Total		413	865	709	404	188	609	325	187
Average		24.3	50.9	41.7	23.8	11.1	35.8	19.1	11.0

**Table 14: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Health Services Delivery Area (HSDA), 2011-2021<sup>[3,6]</sup>**

HSDA	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
East Kootenay	1	2	4	4	2	13	7	6	1	18	7
Kootenay Boundary	4	4	2	3	6	11	17	14	14	21	10
Okanagan	28	16	33	27	43	77	155	129	84	143	55
Thompson Cariboo	5	9	15	13	13	67	67	85	41	101	58
Fraser East	31	20	20	16	42	67	104	97	85	121	65
Fraser North	25	30	35	51	73	105	148	151	85	177	96
Fraser South	59	54	51	59	93	162	240	272	157	276	130
Richmond	4	1	3	3	6	14	28	12	13	18	11
Vancouver	69	65	80	102	138	231	375	396	244	410	199
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	8	6	12	15	16	31	45	43	26	48	23
South Vancouver Island	17	21	26	23	26	78	105	122	74	137	70
Central Vancouver Island	17	20	25	25	33	56	99	91	65	97	42
North Vancouver Island	11	4	9	7	13	27	37	30	29	31	27
Northwest	1	0	6	2	6	10	8	14	15	17	13
Northern Interior	8	12	8	11	15	24	35	63	34	84	29
Northeast	7	6	5	8	4	18	23	24	17	29	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>851</b>

**Table 15: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by HSDA and Month, 2021<sup>[3,6]</sup>**

HSDA	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
East Kootenay	1	2	1	1	2
Kootenay Boundary	6	0	3	1	0
Okanagan	13	8	10	16	8
Thompson Cariboo	7	13	15	9	14
Fraser East	12	12	21	7	13
Fraser North	20	21	17	22	16
Fraser South	26	31	16	28	29
Richmond	4	0	5	2	0
Vancouver	46	33	38	43	39
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	7	5	5	4	2
South Vancouver Island	15	13	13	17	12
Central Vancouver Island	5	8	7	10	12
North Vancouver Island	2	8	3	9	5
Northwest	7	1	2	3	0
Northern Interior	9	6	7	1	6
Northeast	5	3	3	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>160</b>



**Table 16: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Health Services Delivery Area per 100,000, 2011-2021<sup>[3,5,6]</sup>**

HSDA	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
East Kootenay	1.3	2.6	5.2	5.1	2.4	15.7	8.1	6.8	1.1	20.1	18.7
Kootenay Boundary	5.1	5.2	2.6	3.8	7.5	13.5	19.9	16.1	16.0	23.9	27.2
Okanagan	8.0	4.7	9.6	7.7	11.7	20.5	40.0	32.6	20.9	35.2	32.2
Thompson Cariboo	2.3	4.2	6.9	5.9	5.8	29.3	27.8	34.5	16.5	40.2	55.1
Fraser East	10.9	7.0	6.9	5.5	13.9	21.6	32.7	29.9	25.7	36.2	46.1
Fraser North	4.0	4.8	5.5	7.9	11.1	15.7	21.9	22.1	12.2	25.1	32.2
Fraser South	8.0	7.1	6.6	7.6	11.6	19.7	28.6	31.6	17.8	30.7	34.2
Richmond	2.0	0.5	1.5	1.4	2.9	6.7	13.6	5.8	6.2	8.4	12.1
Vancouver	10.9	9.9	12.0	14.8	20.4	34.0	55.7	58.6	35.7	59.2	68.2
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	2.9	2.1	4.1	5.0	5.4	10.4	15.1	14.3	8.7	15.8	18.1
South Vancouver Island	4.6	5.6	6.8	6.0	6.7	19.4	25.5	29.1	17.4	31.8	38.6
Central Vancouver Island	6.5	7.6	9.4	9.4	12.0	19.8	34.0	30.6	21.7	32.0	33.0
North Vancouver Island	9.2	3.4	7.6	5.9	10.6	21.2	28.7	22.8	21.8	23.2	48.1
Northwest	1.4	0.0	7.7	2.5	7.9	13.4	10.8	19.0	20.2	22.6	41.0
Northern Interior	5.6	8.4	5.4	7.4	10.4	16.3	24.3	43.5	23.3	57.2	47.1
Northeast	10.4	9.3	7.5	11.9	6.0	25.4	35.7	37.4	26.5	44.6	58.4
Total	6.6	5.9	7.2	7.8	11.1	20.4	30.3	31.0	19.4	33.6	39.3

\*2021 rates should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers.

**New Table 17: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates (per 100,000 person-years) by Top Local Health Areas (LHA) in 2021, 2016-2021<sup>[3,5,6]</sup>**

Please note that due to small numbers of deaths and population size rates in LHAs, rates may be difficult to interpret and change from month to month.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (Jan-Apr)	Number of Deaths 2021
Merritt	70.6	69.6	38.5	22.7	15.0	133.4	6
Powell River	34.1	24.2	38.2	28.4	56.5	112.6	8
Enderby	13.2	12.7	37.5	0.0	60.9	109.5	3
Peace River South	10.7	72.1	39.9	32.0	19.8	106.4	9
Hope	23.5	46.6	45.1	55.3	66.4	100.0	3
Smithers	5.9	11.4	33.9	11.1	5.5	96.7	6
100 Mile House	0.0	6.3	18.8	12.5	12.4	93.0	5
Nechako	6.0	7.2	14.6	7.2	35.7	84.6	4
Kettle Valley	27.6	26.5	0.0	0.0	26.1	79.0	1
Terrace	19.0	14.4	29.1	33.6	47.5	70.7	5
Vancouver	34.0	55.7	58.6	35.7	59.2	68.5	160
Greater Victoria	29.0	40.6	42.1	24.7	49.3	64.5	54
Penticton	16.0	35.6	35.1	48.0	36.7	64.3	10
Lillooet	0.0	39.0	38.6	19.1	56.8	56.5	1
Comox Valley	15.8	23.8	20.5	16.2	17.5	56.2	14
Chilliwack	14.3	23.7	36.8	20.9	32.8	55.4	20
New Westminster	13.5	31.9	46.7	25.3	43.4	54.8	15
Prince George	19.1	27.1	53.6	25.6	60.6	52.5	18
Keremeos	0.0	54.7	53.6	35.3	69.7	51.7	1
Kamloops	39.7	33.4	40.3	21.9	51.8	50.7	22
Surrey	25.5	38.2	43.7	23.8	42.6	49.8	86
Abbotsford	27.0	34.4	26.5	28.5	41.3	48.4	26
Sunshine Coast	9.6	21.9	18.4	12.4	21.5	45.9	5
Cariboo/Chilcotin	15.5	26.5	33.9	11.2	37.2	44.5	4
Greater Campbell River	33.7	41.5	29.8	29.7	31.5	43.7	7
Cranbrook	7.3	10.9	7.2	0.0	35.7	42.8	4
Nelson	18.9	14.8	7.2	7.2	24.8	42.1	4
Greater Nanaimo	25.5	49.5	31.7	23.1	34.1	40.9	17
Castlegar	21.0	13.8	0.0	33.5	19.9	39.5	2
Vernon	20.2	42.1	35.8	19.1	37.7	36.1	9
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows	30.3	32.3	27.2	14.3	34.0	35.9	14

**New Table 17: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates (per 100,000 person-years) by Top Local Health Areas (LHA) in 2021, 2016-2021<sup>[3,5,6]</sup>**

Please note that due to small numbers of deaths and population size rates in LHAs, rates may be difficult to interpret and change from month to month.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (Jan-Apr)	Number of Deaths 2021
Oceanside	14.2	19.6	13.5	15.3	32.5	34.3	6
Southern Gulf Islands	12.4	0.0	5.8	11.6	11.5	34.2	2
Peace River North	37.7	8.5	40.0	25.6	58.7	33.1	4
Kitimat	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.7	32.1	1
Burnaby	16.4	18.1	19.6	11.6	22.9	31.7	27
Grand Forks	0.0	40.5	79.4	29.7	29.9	30.2	1
Vancouver Island North	8.5	10.2	10.2	30.6	20.2	30.2	1
Central Okanagan	26.3	44.0	32.0	19.4	37.4	29.7	22
Kimberley	31.3	0.0	19.9	0.0	0.0	28.8	1
Revelstoke	0.0	0.0	58.1	0.0	37.6	28.0	1
Tri-Cities	9.4	18.2	14.8	7.9	17.5	27.6	24
Trail	9.9	23.2	9.2	13.7	18.2	27.3	2
Agassiz/Harrison	29.6	58.1	9.5	9.3	18.3	27.2	1
Prince Rupert	28.3	14.5	0.0	14.5	21.6	21.4	1
Langley	20.6	23.2	20.8	14.2	22.9	19.5	11
Cowichan Valley South	14.7	20.6	43.5	18.6	32.2	18.3	4
Alberni/Clayoquot	15.5	36.3	38.7	32.7	32.6	17.7	2
West Vancouver/Bowen Island	7.6	9.5	13.2	5.7	11.2	16.8	3
Salmon Arm	17.1	13.8	13.5	5.3	26.4	15.8	2
Richmond	6.7	13.6	5.8	6.2	8.4	15.1	11
Howe Sound	7.5	19.5	14.4	2.4	4.8	14.1	2
Southern Okanagan	5.0	14.2	23.0	9.2	4.6	13.7	1
Mission	17.7	38.7	27.7	25.3	25.0	12.4	2
Quesnel	4.1	29.0	24.7	24.7	69.8	12.3	1
Delta	10.1	18.3	18.0	12.4	16.7	10.5	4
North Vancouver	9.5	12.9	10.9	8.1	14.1	6.0	3
Saanich Peninsula	7.4	5.8	10.0	12.8	7.1	4.3	1
Western Communities	2.5	3.5	12.5	2.2	7.5	3.1	1
Fernie	12.6	0.0	0.0	5.6	16.5	0.0	0
Windermere	40.4	28.5	9.3	0.0	26.9	0.0	0
Creston	7.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.3	0.0	0

**New Table 17: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates (per 100,000 person-years) by Top Local Health Areas (LHA) in 2021, 2016-2021<sup>[3,5,6]</sup>**

Please note that due to small numbers of deaths and population size rates in LHAs, rates may be difficult to interpret and change from month to month.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (Jan-Apr)	Number of Deaths 2021
Arrow Lakes	0.0	20.2	40.3	19.7	39.3	0.0	0
Armstrong/Spallumcheen	9.4	9.1	9.0	0.0	26.5	0.0	0
Summerland	0.0	30.8	15.3	7.6	7.5	0.0	0
South Cariboo	29.6	13.6	27.5	13.7	13.7	0.0	0
South Surrey/White Rock	2.0	3.0	5.7	0.9	1.8	0.0	0
Cowichan Valley North	25.5	24.5	14.3	18.9	28.1	0.0	0
Haida Gwaii	0.0	22.1	0.0	44.7	22.2	0.0	0
Upper Skeena	0.0	0.0	46.1	46.4	0.0	0.0	0
North Thompson	0.0	23.4	47.0	23.3	46.3	*	*
Fort Nelson	17.4	46.1	0.0	0.0	74.4	*	*
Princeton	0.0	101.0	83.1	16.5	32.9	*	*
Cowichan Valley West	15.3	15.1	28.9	29.0	0.0	*	*
Golden	14.0	12.8	12.6	0.0	12.4	*	*
Burns Lake	45.5	0.0	16.2	16.3	0.0	*	*

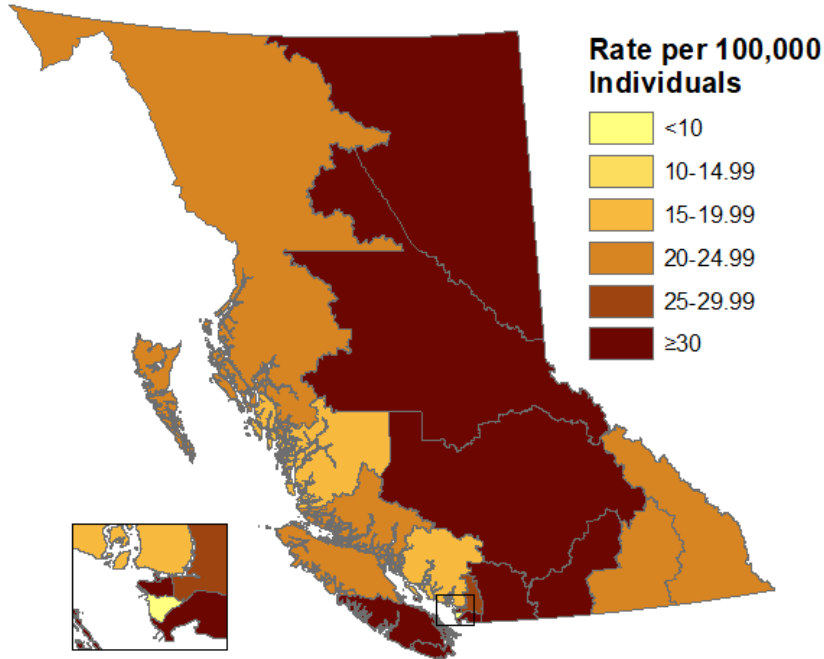
**Note: \*Numbers have been suppressed. Table will be updated every four months due to small numbers. LHAs with small populations have been omitted. 2021 rates should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers.**

**Notes:**

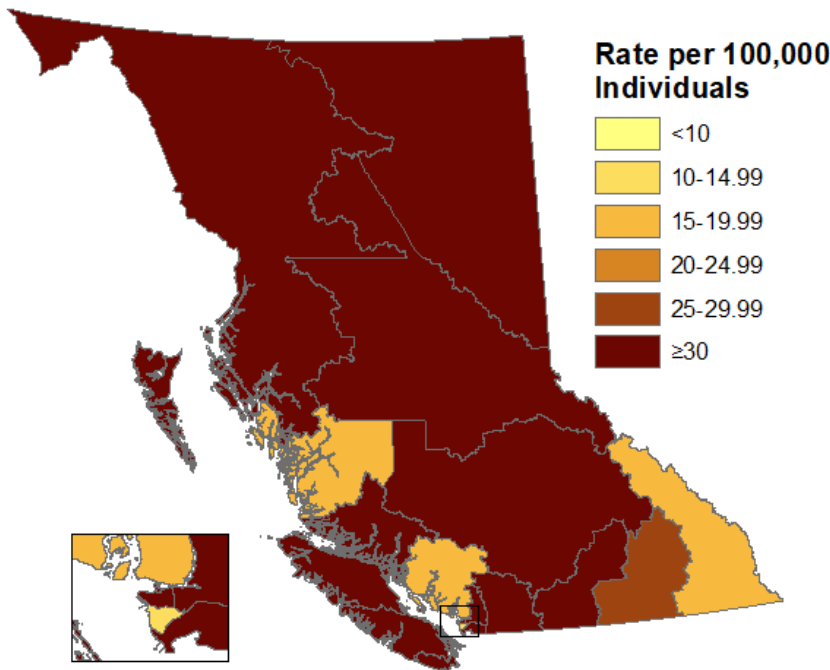
1. The BCCS operates in a live database environment. Some data for more recent years is based on preliminary circumstances and is subject to change as investigations are concluded. Data are not directly comparable to published counts from previous years.
2. This does not include circumstances where the injury event occurred at an overdose prevention site and death occurred in hospital.
3. 2021 data includes January 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021.
4. Date of death was used in tables where date of injury was unknown.
5. Population estimates were taken from:  
<https://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/apps/PopulationProjections.aspx>
6. Health Region breakdowns can be found at: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/geographic-data-services/land-use/administrative-boundaries/health-boundaries>

# Figure 9: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rate Maps by Health Services Delivery Area

2020 Illicit Drug Overdose Death Rates by Health Services Delivery Area



2021 Illicit Drug Overdose Death Rates by Health Services Delivery Area



References for health regions can be found at: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/geographic-data-services/land-use/administrative-boundaries/health-boundaries>

**List of Townships and Corresponding Health Regions**

Township Name	Health Authority	Health Services Delivery Area
100 Mile House	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
108 Mile Ranch	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
150 Mile House	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Abbotsford	Fraser	Fraser East
Alert Bay	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Armstrong	Interior	Okanagan
Arras	Northern	Northeast
Beasley	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Beaver Falls	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Blue River	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Bowen Island	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Bowser	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Burnaby	Fraser	Fraser North
Burns Lake	Northern	Northern Interior
Cache Creek	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Campbell River	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Canal Flats	Interior	East Kootenay
Castlegar	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Cawston	Interior	Okanagan
Cedar	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Central Saanich	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Charlie Lake	Northern	Northeast
Chase	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Chemainus	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Chetwynd	Northern	Northeast
Chilliwack	Fraser	Fraser East
Christina Lake	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Clearwater	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Cobble Hill	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Coldstream	Interior	Okanagan
Colwood	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Comox	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Coombs	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Coquitlam	Fraser	Fraser North
Cortes Island	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Courtenay	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Cowichan Bay	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Cranbrook	Interior	East Kootenay
Crescent Valley	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Creston	Interior	East Kootenay
Cultus Lake	Fraser	Fraser East

**List of Townships and Corresponding Health Regions**

Township Name	Health Authority	Health Services Delivery Area
Cumberland	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Dawson Creek	Northern	Northeast
Dease Lake	Northern	Northwest
Delta	Fraser	Fraser South
Duncan	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Edgewood	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Elkford	Interior	East Kootenay
Enderby	Interior	Okanagan
Errington	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Esquimalt	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Fairmont Hot Springs	Interior	East Kootenay
Falkland	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Fort Nelson	Northern	Northeast
Fort St. James	Northern	Northern Interior
Fort St. John	Northern	Northeast
Gabriola Island	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Galiano Island	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Gibsons	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Gillies Bay	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Gold River	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Golden	Interior	East Kootenay
Grand Forks	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Harrison Hot Springs	Fraser	Fraser East
Hope	Fraser	Fraser East
Horsefly	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Houston	Northern	Northwest
Invermere	Interior	East Kootenay
Isle Pierre	Northern	Northern Interior
Kamloops	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Kaslo	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Kelowna	Interior	Okanagan
Kent	Fraser	Fraser East
Kimberley	Interior	East Kootenay
Kispiox	Northern	Northwest
Kitimaat Village	Northern	Northwest
Kitimat	Northern	Northwest
Kitseguecla (Gitsegukla)	Northern	Northwest
Lac La Hache	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Ladysmith	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Lake Country, District Of	Interior	Okanagan
Lake Cowichan	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island

**List of Townships and Corresponding Health Regions**

Township Name	Health Authority	Health Services Delivery Area
Langford	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Langley	Fraser	Fraser South
Lantzville	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Lee Creek	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Lillooet	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Lions Bay	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Logan Lake	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Lumby	Interior	Okanagan
Mabel Lake	Interior	Okanagan
Mackenzie	Northern	Northern Interior
Madeira Park	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Malakwa	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Maple Ridge	Fraser	Fraser North
Mayne Island	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Merritt	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Mill Bay	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Mission	Fraser	Fraser East
Nakusp	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Nanaimo	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Nanoose Bay	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Nelson	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
New Denver	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
New Hazelton	Northern	Northwest
New Westminster	Fraser	Fraser North
North Cowichan	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
North Vancouver	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Oak Bay	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Okanagan Falls	Interior	Okanagan
Olalla	Interior	Okanagan
Oliver	Interior	Okanagan
Osoyoos	Interior	Okanagan
Parksville	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Peachland	Interior	Okanagan
Pemberton	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Pender Island	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Penticton	Interior	Okanagan
Pink Mountain	Northern	Northeast
Pitt Meadows	Fraser	Fraser North
Port Alberni	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Port Alice	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Port Coquitlam	Fraser	Fraser North



**List of Townships and Corresponding Health Regions**

Township Name	Health Authority	Health Services Delivery Area
Port Hardy	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Port McNeill	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Port Moody	Fraser	Fraser North
Powell River	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Prince George	Northern	Northern Interior
Prince Rupert	Northern	Northwest
Princeton	Interior	Okanagan
Prophet River	Northern	Northeast
Quadra Island	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Qualicum Beach	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Queen Charlotte City	Northern	Northwest
Quesnel	Northern	Northern Interior
Radium Hot Springs	Interior	East Kootenay
Revelstoke	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Richmond	Vancouver Coastal	Richmond
Roberts Creek	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Rock Creek	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Saanich	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Salmo	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Salmon Arm	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Salt Spring Island	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
Sayward	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Sechelt	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Seton Portage	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Shawnigan Lake	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Sicamous	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Smithers	Northern	Northwest
Sointula	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Sooke	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
South Slokan	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
South Wellington	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Sparwood	Interior	East Kootenay
Squamish	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Sullivan Bay	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island
Summerland	Interior	Okanagan
Surrey	Fraser	Fraser South
Terrace	Northern	Northwest
Trail	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Tumbler Ridge	Northern	Northeast
Ucluelet	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Vancouver	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver

**List of Townships and Corresponding Health Regions**

Township Name	Health Authority	Health Services Delivery Area
Vanderhoof	Northern	Northern Interior
Vernon	Interior	Okanagan
Victoria	Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
West Kelowna	Interior	Okanagan
West Vancouver	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
Whisky Creek	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Whistler	Vancouver Coastal	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi
White Rock	Fraser	Fraser South
Williams Lake	Interior	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Winlaw	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Wonowon	Northern	Northeast
Yale	Fraser	Fraser East
Ymir	Interior	Kootenay Boundary
Youbou	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
Zeballos	Vancouver Island	North Vancouver Island