

This report summarizes all unintentional illicit drug toxicity deaths in British Columbia (accidental and undetermined) that occurred between January 1, 2012, and October 31, 2022, inclusive. It includes confirmed and suspected illicit toxicity deaths (inclusion criteria below). *Please note that data is subject to change as investigations are concluded.* ¹<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.

2022 Summary

- The total of 179 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths in October 2022 represents a 14% decrease over the number of deaths in October 2021 (207) and a 4% increase over the number of deaths in September 2022 (172).
- The number of illicit drug toxicity deaths in October 2022 equates to about 5.8 deaths per day.
- In 2022, 70% of those dying were aged 30 to 59, and 78% were male.
- The townships experiencing the highest number of illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2022 are Vancouver, Surrey, and Greater Victoria (see page 11).
- By Health Authority (HA), in 2022, the highest **number** of illicit drug toxicity deaths were in Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Health Authorities (547 and 511 deaths, respectively), making up 58% of all such deaths during 2022 (see page 12).
- By Health Authority (HA), in 2022, the highest **rates** were in Northern Health (56 deaths per 100,000 individuals) and Vancouver Coastal Health (49 per 100,000). Overall, the rate in BC is 42 deaths per 100,000 individuals in 2022 (see page 12).
- By Health Service Delivery Area (HSDA), in 2022, the highest **rates** were in Vancouver, Northwest, Northern Interior, Thompson Cariboo, and Fraser East (see page 17).
- By Local Health Area (LHA), in **2022**, the highest **rates** were in Lillooet, Cowichan Valley West, Terrace, Alberni/Clayoquot, and Merritt (see page 18).

- In 2022, 83% of illicit drug toxicity deaths occurred inside (55% in private residences and 28% in other inside residences including social and supportive housing, SROs, shelters, and hotels and other indoor locations) and 16% occurred outside in vehicles, sidewalks, streets, parks, etc. (see page 5).
- In Vancouver Coastal, other residences (44%) were the most common place of illicit drug toxicity deaths followed by private residences (36%) between 2019 and 2022 (see Table 3, Page 5).
- No deaths have been reported at supervised consumption or drug overdose prevention sites.²
- There is no indication that prescribed safe supply is contributing to illicit drug deaths.

Trends

- Illicit drug toxicity death rates among 19-39 and 40-59 years have increased this month compared to last month (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 2022, 38% of decedents were at least 50 years old (see Figure 5, Page 9).
- Illicit drug rates in Vancouver Coastal and Fraser health authorities have increased this month compared to last month (see Figure 7, Page 13).
- The detection rate of benzodiazepines has rapidly increased from 15% of samples in July 2020 to 52% of samples in Jan 2022. It has since decreased to 22% in August 2022.
- Between July 2020 and August 2022, etizolam was found in 38% of illicit drug toxicity deaths that have undergone expedited toxicological testing. Etizolam is a benzodiazepine analogue and non-opioid sedative that does not respond to naloxone and creates life-saving challenges for first responders.

Figure 1: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths and Death Rate per 100,000 Population

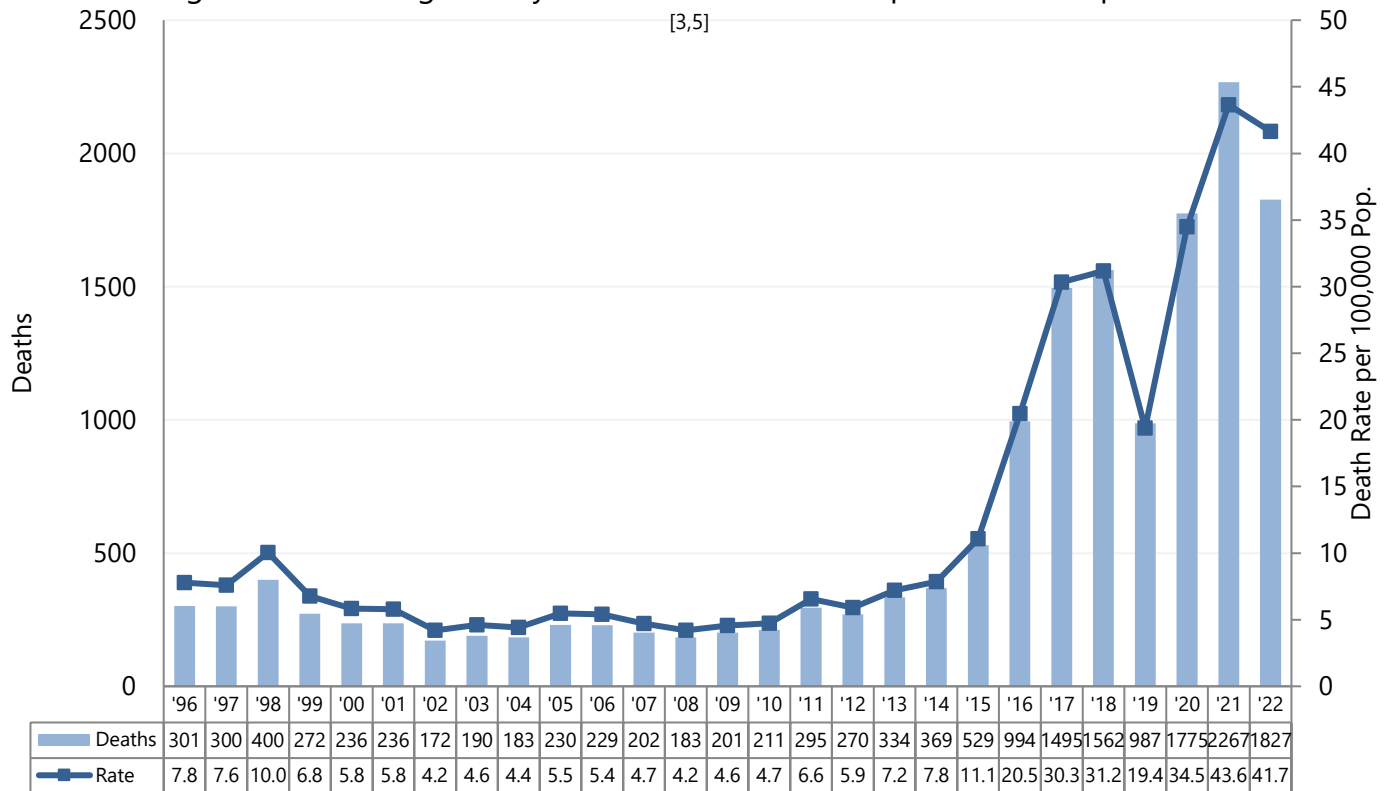
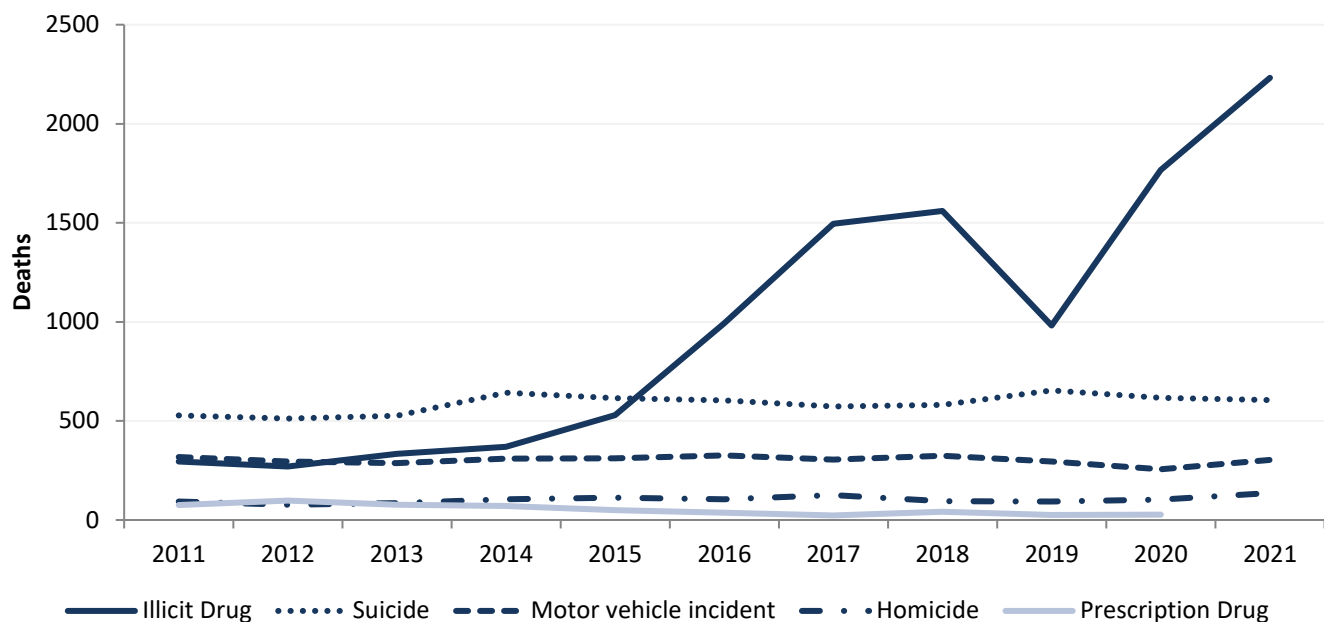


Table 1: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Month, British Columbia, 2012-2022^[3]

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jan	20	20	23	43	85	148	134	94	80	189	213
Feb	17	21	38	31	58	124	108	84	79	174	201
Mar	25	33	28	32	76	130	159	119	119	174	176
Apr	31	31	29	34	73	155	136	83	129	186	169
May	19	28	40	41	51	149	118	91	178	174	201
Jun	25	25	29	34	71	129	116	75	190	176	152
Jul	29	39	25	40	74	122	151	72	185	199	195
Aug	20	21	37	53	65	127	125	84	163	198	169
Sep	16	28	32	50	63	97	138	63	144	159	172
Oct	19	19	35	53	77	98	119	79	176	207	179
Subtotal	221	265	316	411	693	1,279	1,304	844	1,443	1,836	1,827
Nov	28	31	28	52	140	112	131	81	168	208	-
Dec	21	38	25	66	161	104	127	62	164	223	-
Total	270	334	369	529	994	1,495	1,562	987	1,775	2,267	1,827
Average	22.5	27.8	30.8	44.1	82.8	124.6	130.2	82.3	147.9	188.9	182.7

Comparison to Other Common Causes of Unnatural Deaths from 2011 to 2021:**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 2020.*

BC Data by Place of Injury**Table 2: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Place of Injury, BC, 2019-2022^[3]**

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Inside:				
Private Residence	567 (57.5%)	1,008 (56.8%)	1,262 (55.7%)	1,008 (55.2%)
Other Residence	263 (26.7%)	462 (26.0%)	562 (24.8%)	426 (23.3%)
Correctional facility/police cell	4 (0.4%)	5 (0.3%)	8 (0.4%)	8 (0.4%)
Medical facility	5 (0.5%)	4 (0.2%)	9 (0.4%)	3 (0.2%)
Occupational site	6 (0.6%)	6 (0.3%)	8 (0.4%)	7 (0.4%)
Public building				
Public washroom	11 (1.1%)	6 (0.3%)	13 (0.6%)	19 (1.0%)
Other area of building	8 (0.8%)	13 (0.7%)	28 (1.2%)	45 (2.5%)
Outside	118 (12.0%)	253 (14.3%)	340 (15.0%)	284 (15.5%)
Unknown	5 (0.5%)	18 (1.0%)	37 (1.6%)	27 (1.5%)
Total	987	1,775	2,267	1,827

Table 3: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Place of Injury and Health Authority, BC, 2019-2022^[3]

	Interior	Fraser	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Northern
Inside:					
Private Residence	686 (61.4%)	1,530 (68.2%)	690 (36.1%)	634 (58.5%)	305 (61.0%)
Other Residence	236 (21.1%)	283 (12.6%)	842 (44.0%)	249 (23.0%)	103 (20.6%)
Other Inside	39 (3.5%)	91 (4.1%)	48 (2.5%)	22 (2.0%)	16 (3.2%)
Outside	139 (12.4%)	322 (14.4%)	293 (15.3%)	169 (15.6%)	72 (14.4%)
Unknown	17 (1.5%)	16 (0.7%)	40 (2.1%)	10 (0.9%)	4 (0.8%)
Total	1,117	2,242	1,913	1,084	500

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 82% in 2022 and 86% in 2021. *2022 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 in Nov 2021-Aug 2022 compared with previous months (concentrations exceeding >50ug/L (micrograms/litre).
 - From Nov 2021-Aug 2022, approximately 16% of cases had extreme fentanyl concentrations as compared to 13% from Apr 2020 to Oct 2021 and 8% from Jan 2019 to Mar 2020.
- Carfentanil has been detected in 101 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2022 and 190 deaths in 2021. *This is subject to change as further toxicology results are received.*
- A review of completed cases from 2019-22 indicates that the top four detected drugs relevant to illicit drug toxicity deaths were fentanyl (86%), cocaine (45%), methamphetamine/amphetamine (42%), and other opioids (23%).
- There is no indication that prescribed safe supply is contributing to illicit drug deaths.
- Among the drug types involved in completed illicit drug toxicity death investigations, illicit fentanyl has increased from 5% in 2012 to 87% in 2021. Methamphetamine has also increased from 14% in 2012 to 41% in 2021. Cocaine and other opioids have steadily declined from 2012 to 2020; however, cocaine was involved in 47% of illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2021.

Table 5: Top Drugs Involved Among Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths, 2019-22

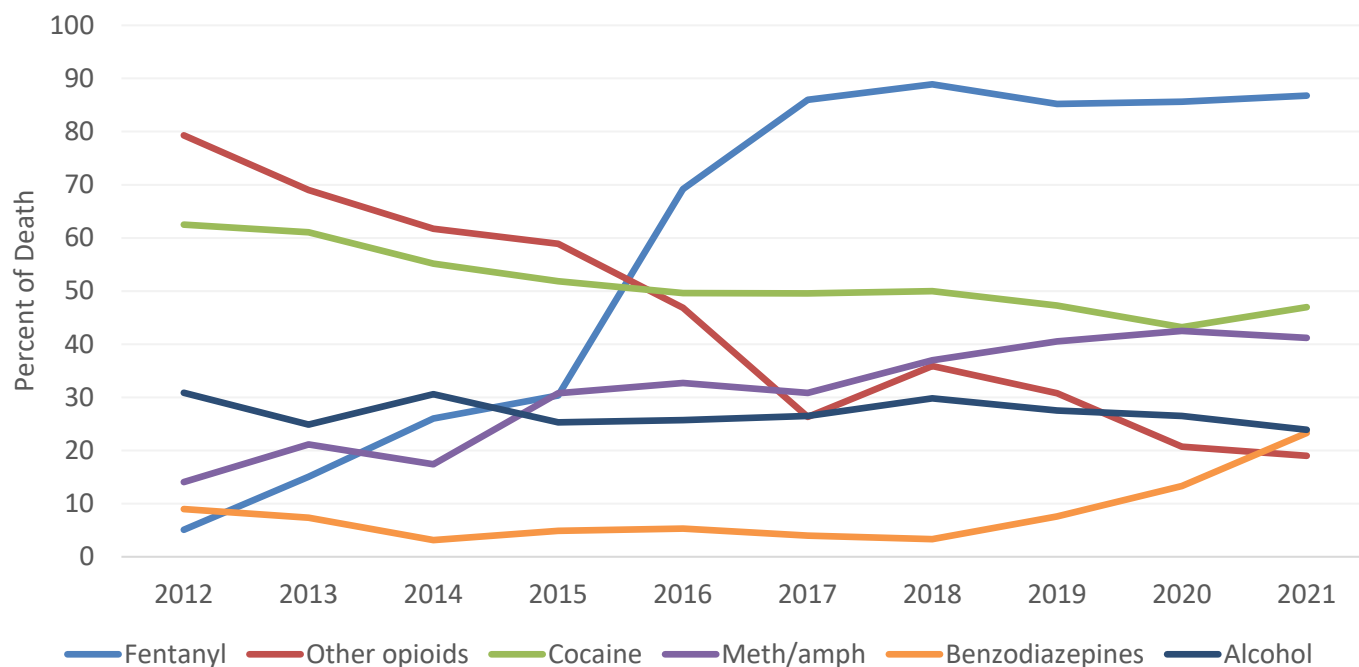
Drug Detected	BC (n=2,554)
Illicit fentanyl & analogues	85.8%
Cocaine	44.8%
Methamphetamine/amphetamine	41.8%
Other opioids	22.3%
Ethyl alcohol	25.5%
Benzodiazepines	15.4%
Other stimulants	2.7%

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.

Figure 3: Drug Types Relevant to Death, 2012-2021

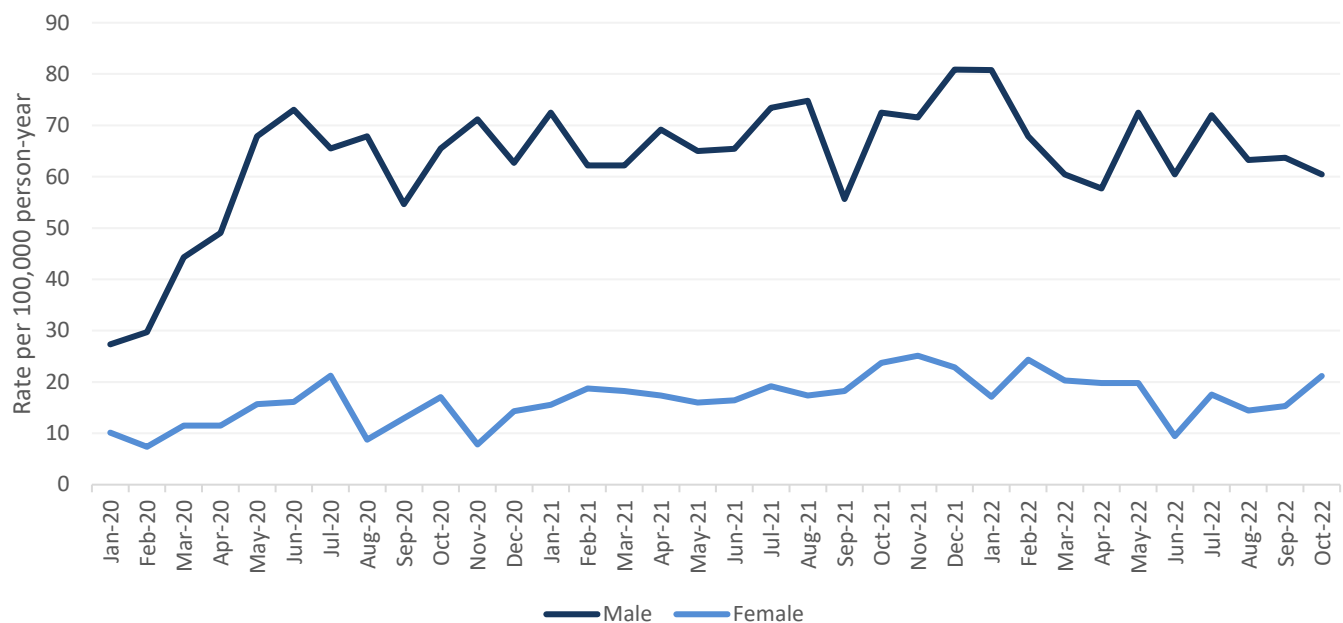
**Income Assistance Week:****Table 4: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths per day by Income Assistance Payment Week, 2021-2022^[3,4]**

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Avg
Income Assistance Payment Week (Wed-Sun)	9.2	7.6	8.0	9.4	8.6	9.0	10	6.2	7.8	6.8	7.2	8.2	8.3
All other days of the month	6.5	7.1	6.7	6.7	5.1	5.4	5.4	4.8	6.0	5.2	5.4	5.3	5.8
Total	6.9	7.2	6.9	7.2	5.7	6.0	6.2	5.1	6.3	5.5	5.7	5.8	6.2

- More illicit drug toxicity deaths occurred during the days following income assistance payment (Wed-Sun) than all other days in 2021-22. Income assistance payment dates can be found at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/payment-dates>. April 2022 payment week includes May 1.

BC Data by Sex/Age:**Table 6: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Sex, 2012-2022^[3]**

Sex	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Female	76	79	86	106	200	272	316	237	335	501	398
Male	194	255	283	423	794	1,223	1,246	750	1,440	1,765	1,428
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	270	334	369	529	994	1,495	1,562	987	1,775	2,267	1,827

Figure 4: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Sex and Month, 2020-2022**Table 7: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Age Group, 2012-2022^[3]**

Age Group	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<19	5	6	3	5	12	26	18	13	18	29	28
19-29	61	94	83	117	204	272	302	171	309	327	262
30-39	61	77	101	137	261	400	397	274	415	542	426
40-49	67	74	85	130	234	355	347	219	411	496	422
50-59	56	62	73	110	230	314	363	214	408	575	440
60-69	19	21	24	29	50	121	127	92	197	266	225
70-79	1	0	0	1	3	7	8	4	17	31	22
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total	270	334	369	529	994	1,495	1,562	987	1,775	2,267	1,827

Table 8: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Age Group and Month, 2021-22^[3]

Age Group	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
<19	2	2	0	7	1	3	4	2	2	3	3	3
19-29	35	38	32	21	19	23	26	20	36	26	23	36
30-39	50	60	41	60	44	41	52	34	39	36	43	36
40-49	45	47	54	35	47	41	47	41	41	41	32	43
50-59	53	49	58	53	43	37	45	35	45	44	45	35
60-69	20	25	24	22	22	22	23	19	27	19	25	22
70-79	3	2	4	3	0	2	4	1	4	0	1	3
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	208	223	213	201	176	169	201	152	195	169	172	179

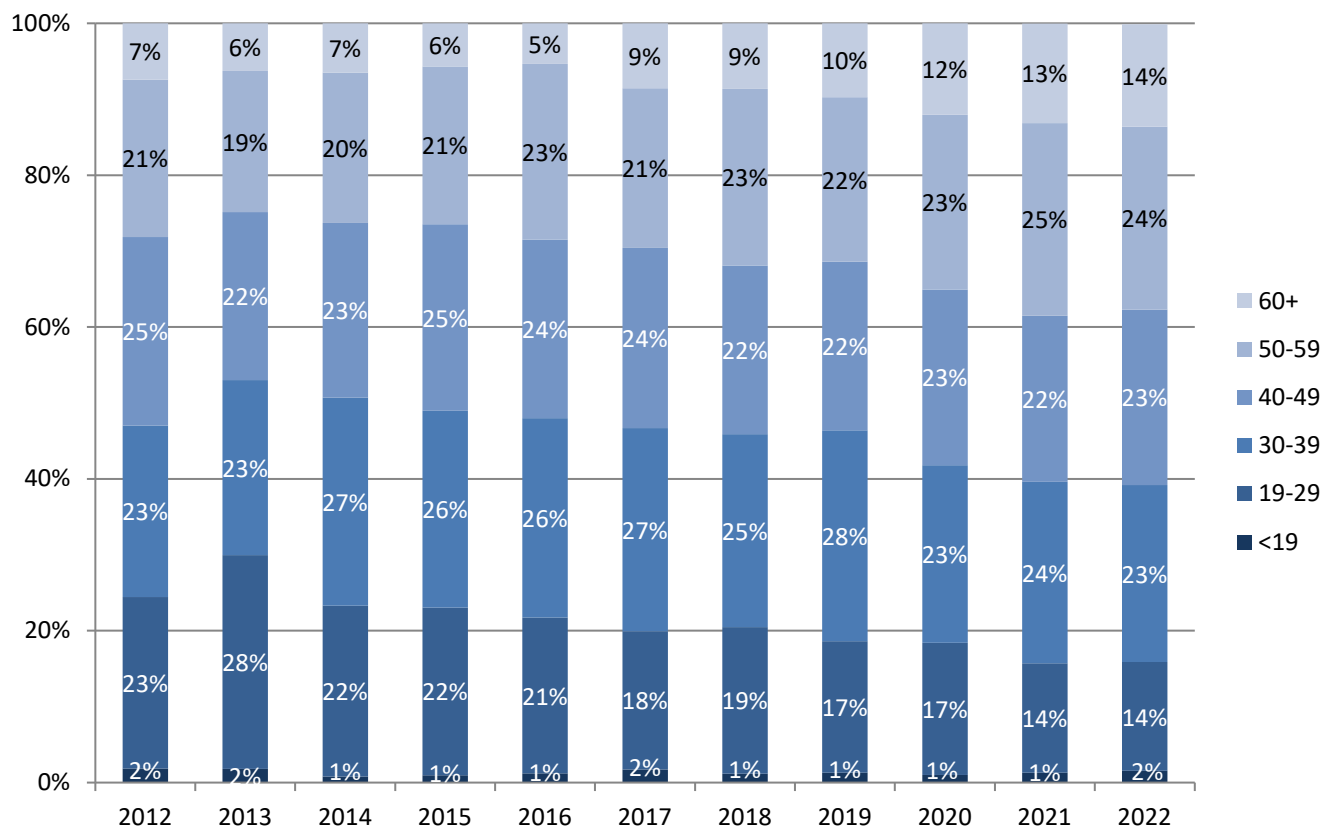
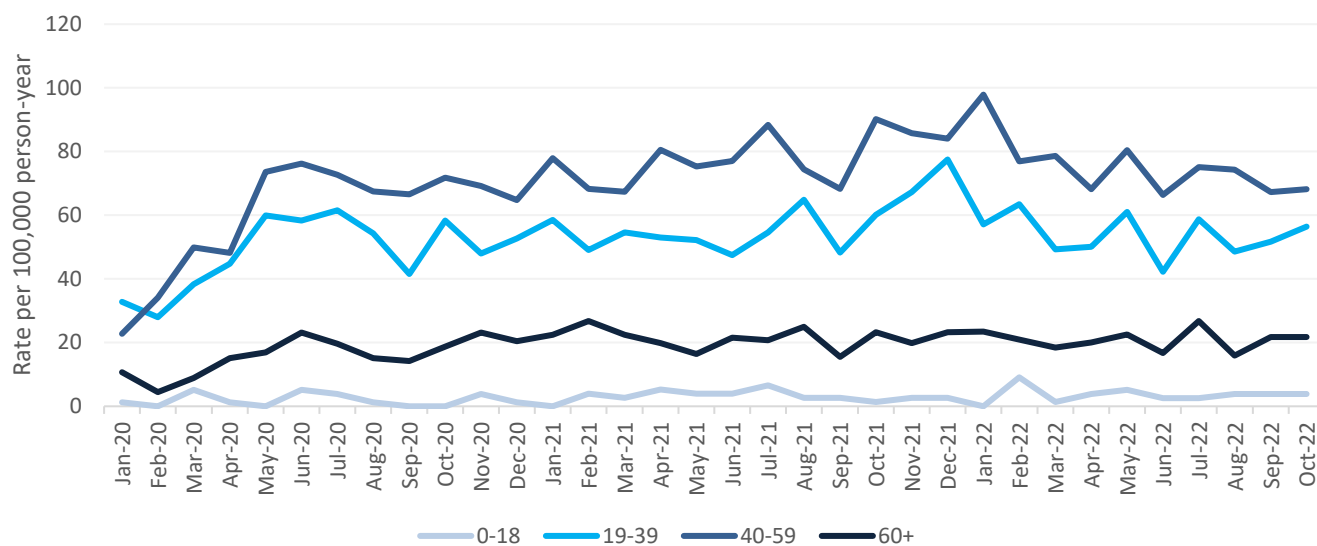
Figure 5: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Age Group, 2012-2022

Table 9: Age-Specific Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates per 100,000, 2012-2022^[3,5]

Age Group	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<19	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.6	1.3	2.8	1.9	1.4	1.9	3.2	3.6
19-29	8.8	13.5	11.7	16.5	28.5	37.4	40.4	22.4	40.6	43.2	41.7
30-39	10.1	12.6	16.1	21.4	39.7	59.2	57.0	38.0	56.1	71.4	65.7
40-49	10.0	11.1	12.9	19.9	35.8	54.6	53.5	33.8	63.3	75.9	76.1
50-59	8.1	8.8	10.1	15.0	31.1	42.7	49.8	29.5	56.6	80.2	74.6
60-69	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.9	8.1	19.2	19.7	13.9	29.2	38.6	38.4
70-79	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.9	1.9	2.0	1.0	3.9	6.8	5.5
Total	5.9	7.2	7.8	11.1	20.5	30.3	31.2	19.4	34.5	43.6	41.7

Figure 6: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Age Group and Month, 2020-2022

BC Data by Township of Injury:

Table 10: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Top Townships of Injury in 2022, 2012-2022 ^[3]											
Township	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Vancouver	65	80	102	138	231	374	398	248	421	534	453
Surrey	44	36	44	76	118	181	215	119	222	283	188
Greater Victoria	21	25	21	26	76	106	124	73	137	139	131
Abbotsford	7	10	7	27	40	52	41	44	66	87	75
Kamloops	5	8	7	7	44	37	47	26	60	77	74
Kelowna	8	12	12	20	47	73	56	34	61	75	71
Prince George	10	7	10	12	18	24	51	25	59	56	60
Nanaimo	6	20	16	18	30	56	38	27	39	51	59
Burnaby	10	13	11	15	40	44	49	29	59	78	54
Langley	5	10	10	10	31	37	33	23	37	58	37
Vernon	1	11	6	8	12	24	23	14	28	42	33
Chilliwack	8	6	6	10	14	22	37	21	37	57	31
Maple Ridge	5	10	14	29	28	33	29	13	39	45	29
Coquitlam	6	1	10	11	15	30	22	11	28	31	24
Richmond	1	3	3	6	14	28	12	13	19	31	24
Other Township	68	82	90	116	236	374	387	267	463	623	484
Total	270	334	369	529	994	1,495	1,562	987	1,775	2,267	1,827

Health Authority Data:**Table 11: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Health Authority, 2012-2022^[3,6]**

HA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Interior	31	54	47	64	169	246	236	140	289	375	313
Fraser	104	106	126	208	335	494	524	326	588	781	547
Vancouver Coastal	72	95	120	160	276	447	453	286	490	626	511
Island	45	60	55	72	162	242	248	168	273	330	313
Northern	18	19	21	25	52	66	101	67	135	155	143
BC	270	334	369	529	994	1,495	1,562	987	1,775	2,267	1,827

Table 12: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Health Authority per 100,000, 2012-2022^[3,5,6]

HA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Interior	4.3	7.4	6.3	8.4	22.0	31.5	29.6	17.3	35.4	45.7	45.3
Fraser	6.2	6.2	7.3	11.8	18.6	26.9	28.0	17.1	30.4	39.9	33.0
Vancouver Coastal	6.4	8.3	10.4	13.7	23.3	37.4	37.4	23.3	39.6	50.2	48.6
Island	5.9	7.8	7.0	9.0	19.9	29.5	29.7	19.8	31.8	38.1	42.7
Northern	6.3	6.5	7.1	8.5	17.8	22.5	34.1	22.4	45.0	51.2	56.1
BC	5.9	7.2	7.8	11.1	20.5	30.3	31.2	19.4	34.5	43.6	41.7

Figure 7: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Health Authority and Month, 2020-2022

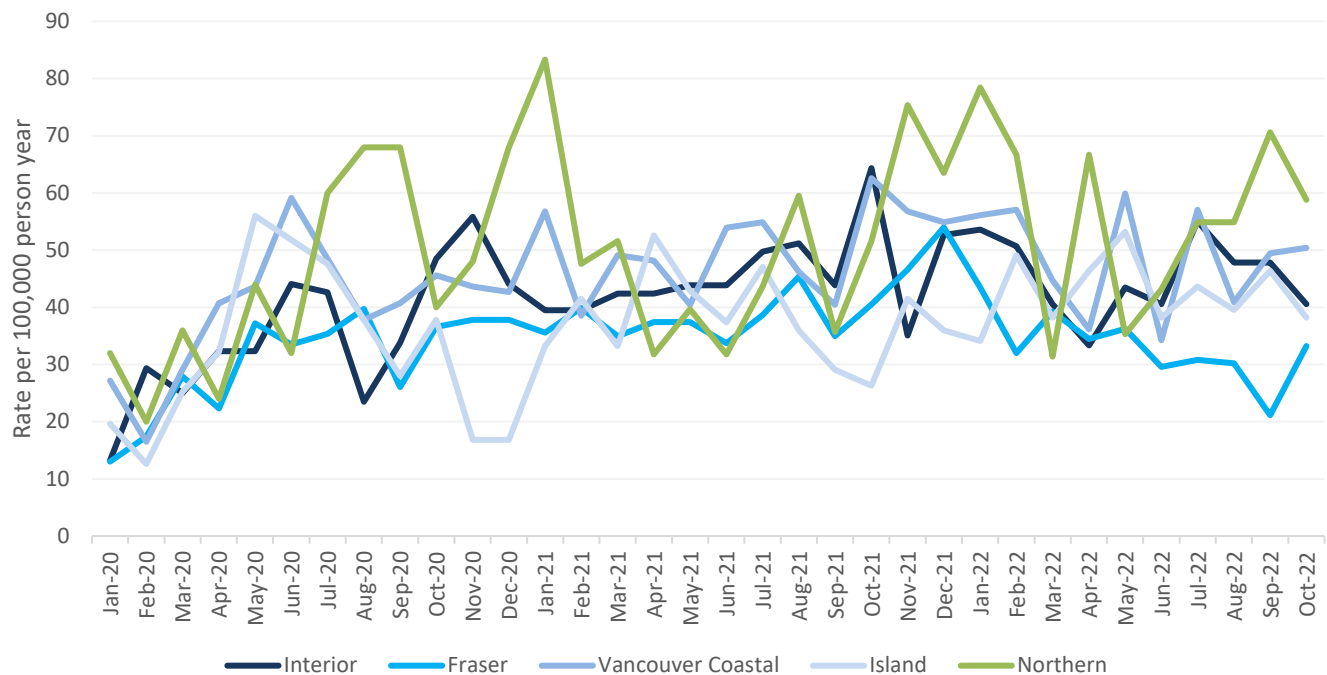


Figure 8: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Health Authority, 2012-2022

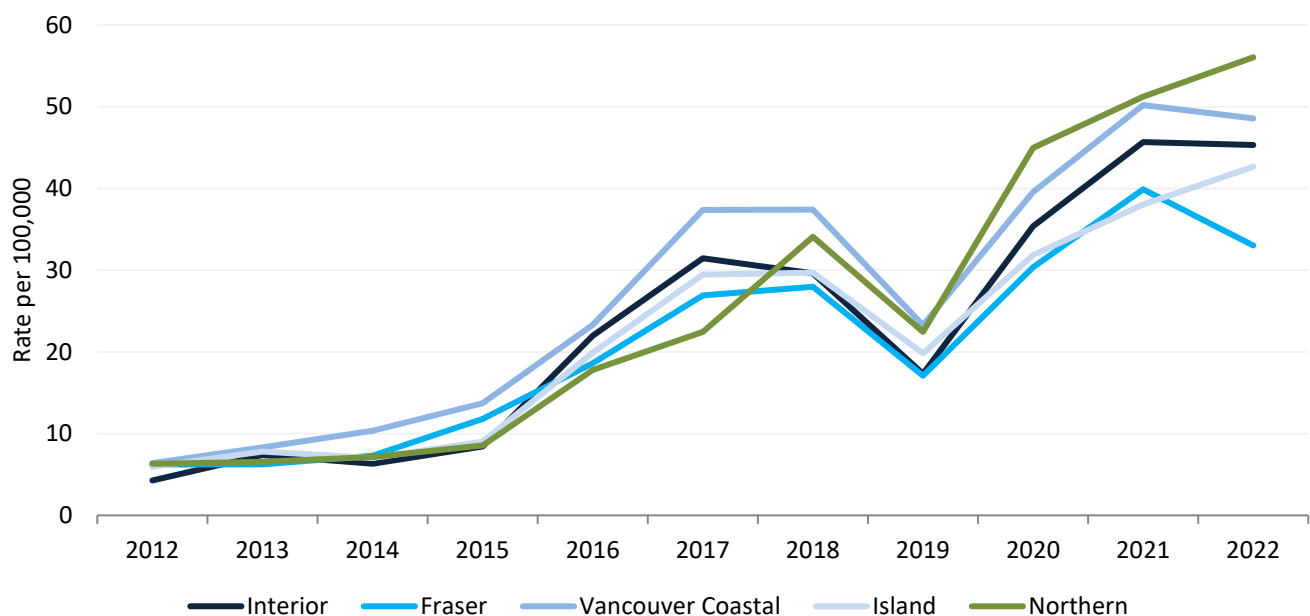


Table 13: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Month of Death and Health Authority and Township, 2021-2022^[3,6]

Year	Month	Health Authorities					Township		
		Interior	Fraser	Vancouver Coastal	Island	Northern	Vancouver	Surrey	Greater Victoria
2021	Jan	27	58	59	24	21	47	20	15
	Feb	27	65	40	30	12	35	28	13
	Mar	29	57	51	24	13	39	15	11
	Apr	29	61	50	38	8	44	26	18
	May	30	61	42	31	10	40	23	13
	Jun	30	55	56	27	8	43	16	10
	Jul	34	63	57	34	11	48	21	14
	Aug	35	74	48	26	15	44	28	9
	Sep	30	57	42	21	9	34	21	11
	Oct	44	66	65	19	13	57	27	6
	Nov	24	76	59	30	19	52	24	9
	Dec	36	88	57	26	16	51	34	10
2022	Jan	37	72	59	25	20	50	23	9
	Feb	35	53	60	36	17	51	9	20
	Mar	28	65	47	28	8	44	28	9
	Apr	23	57	38	34	17	31	21	18
	May	30	60	63	39	9	57	19	14
	Jun	28	49	36	28	11	31	18	12
	Jul	38	51	60	32	14	50	20	12
	Aug	33	50	43	29	14	38	15	13
	Sep	33	35	52	34	18	50	16	14
	Oct	28	55	53	28	15	51	19	10
Total		688	1328	1137	643	298	987	471	270
Average		31.3	60.4	51.7	29.2	13.5	44.9	21.4	12.3

Table 14: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Health Services Delivery Area (HSDA), 2012-2022^[3,6]

HSDA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
East Kootenay	2	4	4	2	13	7	6	1	18	23	12
Kootenay Boundary	4	2	3	6	11	17	15	14	22	29	22
Okanagan	16	33	27	43	78	156	130	84	149	174	158
Thompson Cariboo	9	15	13	13	67	66	85	41	100	149	121
Fraser East	20	20	16	42	68	105	98	84	124	178	145
Fraser North	30	35	51	73	105	148	153	85	182	238	150
Fraser South	54	51	59	93	162	241	273	157	282	365	252
Richmond	1	3	3	6	14	28	12	13	19	31	24
Vancouver	65	80	102	138	231	374	398	248	421	534	453
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	6	12	15	16	31	45	43	25	50	61	34
South Vancouver Island	21	26	23	26	78	106	125	74	139	141	133
Central Vancouver Island	20	25	25	33	57	99	93	65	102	123	126
North Vancouver Island	4	9	7	13	27	37	30	29	32	66	54
Northwest	0	6	2	6	10	8	14	16	18	45	44
Northern Interior	12	8	11	15	24	35	63	34	85	81	78
Northeast	6	5	8	4	18	23	24	17	32	29	21
Total	270	334	369	529	994	1,495	1,562	987	1,775	2,267	1,827

Table 15: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by HSDA and Month, 2021-22^[3,6]

HSDA	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
East Kootenay	1	1	3	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	1
Kootenay Boundary	1	5	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	6	2	2
Okanagan	12	16	14	19	11	11	20	13	26	9	20	15
Thompson Cariboo	10	14	19	13	15	9	9	12	8	17	9	10
Fraser East	19	14	18	18	21	13	12	13	11	15	12	12
Fraser North	20	30	23	14	11	18	19	11	14	15	7	18
Fraser South	37	44	31	21	33	26	29	25	26	20	16	25
Richmond	2	1	4	4	1	3	3	2	4	2	1	0
Vancouver	52	51	50	51	44	31	57	31	50	38	50	51
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	5	5	5	5	2	4	3	3	6	3	1	2
South Vancouver Island	9	10	9	20	9	18	14	12	12	13	15	11
Central Vancouver Island	16	13	10	11	15	9	21	12	10	14	12	12
North Vancouver Island	5	3	6	5	4	7	4	4	10	2	7	5
Northwest	4	4	3	6	4	4	4	1	8	3	5	6
Northern Interior	14	10	12	9	3	10	4	8	5	10	10	7
Northeast	1	2	5	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	3	2
Total	208	223	213	201	176	169	201	152	195	169	172	179

Table 16: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates by Health Services Delivery Area per 100,000, 2012-2022^[3,5,6]

HSDA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
East Kootenay	2.6	5.1	5.0	2.4	15.7	8.4	7.1	1.2	20.7	26.5	16.5
Kootenay Boundary	5.1	2.5	3.8	7.4	13.5	20.7	18.1	16.7	26.2	34.5	31.2
Okanagan	4.6	9.3	7.5	11.6	20.8	40.6	33.2	21.1	36.8	42.7	46.0
Thompson Cariboo	4.1	6.8	5.8	5.8	29.3	28.5	35.9	17.1	41.4	61.5	59.5
Fraser East	6.9	6.8	5.4	13.8	22.0	33.2	30.2	25.4	37.0	52.7	50.9
Fraser North	4.8	5.5	7.9	11.1	15.7	21.8	22.2	12.2	25.8	33.4	25.0
Fraser South	7.2	6.6	7.5	11.6	19.7	28.7	31.8	17.9	31.6	40.2	32.7
Richmond	0.5	1.5	1.5	3.0	6.7	13.4	5.7	6.1	8.8	14.2	13.0
Vancouver	10.0	12.2	15.3	20.6	34.0	54.3	57.1	34.8	58.7	74.0	74.4
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	2.1	4.2	5.2	5.5	10.4	15.0	14.2	8.2	16.4	19.9	13.2
South Vancouver Island	5.6	6.9	6.0	6.6	19.4	26.1	30.3	17.6	32.7	32.6	36.3
Central Vancouver Island	7.6	9.4	9.2	11.9	20.1	34.6	32.0	22.1	34.3	41.1	50.0
North Vancouver Island	3.3	7.4	5.6	10.3	21.2	28.7	22.8	21.8	23.7	48.5	47.0
Northwest	0.0	8.1	2.7	8.0	13.4	10.7	18.6	21.1	23.6	58.4	67.7
Northern Interior	8.4	5.5	7.5	10.3	16.3	23.7	42.0	22.5	55.9	52.9	60.4
Northeast	8.7	7.0	11.0	5.6	25.4	32.4	33.6	23.7	44.6	40.1	34.4
Total	5.9	7.2	7.8	11.1	20.5	30.3	31.2	19.4	34.5	43.6	41.7

New Table 17: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates (per 100,000 person-years) by Top Local Health Areas (LHA) in 2022, 2017-2022^[3,5,6]

Due to small numbers of deaths and population size in some LHAs, rates may be difficult to interpret.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (Jan-Aug)	No. of Deaths 2022 (Jan-Aug)
Lillooet	47.1	47.7	24.5	74.4	98.6	109.7	3
Cowichan Valley West	15.2	30.0	29.6	14.5	43.4	108.3	5
Terrace	14.2	28.1	32.3	45.6	77.2	101.2	15
Alberni/Clayoquot	36.8	39.4	32.9	32.5	67.9	88.2	20
Merritt	79.1	43.1	25.5	16.8	124.9	86.3	7
Agassiz/Harrison	58.0	9.4	9.3	18.6	46.1	81.9	6
Cariboo/Chilcotin	27.2	34.6	11.5	38.2	38.2	79.8	14
Kamloops	33.2	41.2	22.3	52.1	67.5	77.0	66
Vancouver	54.3	57.1	34.8	58.7	74.0	72.3	352
Prince George	26.8	52.7	25.1	60.2	55.8	68.6	49
Penticton	38.8	35.9	49.0	37.6	59.3	68.4	21
Upper Skeena	0.0	44.6	44.2	0.0	175.7	65.2	2
Mission	38.9	29.7	25.2	25.2	39.6	65.0	21
Powell River	24.5	43.7	24.2	57.7	76.8	64.4	9
Vernon	42.6	35.1	19.4	40.9	59.7	62.5	31
Prince Rupert	14.1	0.0	14.0	27.8	34.6	61.7	6
Kitimat	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.6	31.2	61.3	4
Greater Victoria	41.5	43.9	25.3	50.2	52.5	60.0	101
Castlegar	13.9	0.0	33.9	20.2	40.1	59.6	6
Abbotsford	34.3	26.3	27.5	40.8	53.4	59.2	65
Greater Nanaimo	50.2	33.9	23.3	35.4	42.4	57.8	48
Greater Campbell River	42.2	30.5	30.1	31.9	52.9	56.5	18
Nechako	6.1	12.2	6.1	30.6	66.7	53.9	6
Keremeos	56.3	55.6	36.7	72.3	35.8	53.0	2
Hope	47.0	45.9	56.5	78.4	90.0	50.7	3
Grand Forks	44.5	99.4	33.1	32.9	55.5	50.3	3
Revelstoke	0.0	68.3	0.0	42.8	42.6	47.5	3
Surrey	38.0	44.1	23.7	43.3	54.4	43.3	153
Cowichan Valley South	21.1	44.9	19.1	34.8	44.1	42.1	18
Peace River South	63.9	35.3	28.2	24.7	66.8	41.9	8
Comox Valley	24.2	21.0	16.5	19.0	46.9	41.6	21
Central Okanagan	43.7	31.8	19.2	36.8	38.3	40.2	61

New Table 17: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates (per 100,000 person-years) by Top Local Health Areas (LHA) in 2022, 2017-2022^[3,5,6]

Due to small numbers of deaths and population size in some LHAs, rates may be difficult to interpret.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (Jan-Aug)	No. of Deaths 2022 (Jan-Aug)
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows	32.2	27.0	14.3	36.8	42.9	38.6	29
Enderby	13.1	52.3	0.0	63.7	102.0	38.1	2
Nelson	14.9	7.4	7.3	29.3	25.4	37.6	7
Vancouver Island North	8.5	8.5	25.2	16.7	41.6	37.2	3
Chilliwack	25.1	37.1	21.1	35.0	55.1	35.8	26
Cowichan Valley North	24.8	14.7	19.4	29.0	9.6	35.6	5
North Thompson	23.5	46.1	23.2	46.2	115.3	34.4	1
Smithers	11.7	34.9	17.3	5.7	56.4	33.2	4
Haida Gwaii	22.5	0.0	44.4	21.7	21.6	32.3	1
Cranbrook	11.0	7.2	0.0	35.5	60.4	31.8	6
Quesnel	28.9	24.6	24.6	69.6	45.1	30.7	5
Langley	24.0	20.9	14.4	22.9	35.3	30.4	34
New Westminster	31.5	46.0	24.9	43.6	53.6	29.8	17
Princeton	122.0	99.9	19.9	58.9	39.2	29.2	1
Salmon Arm	14.1	13.8	5.5	27.2	43.5	28.3	7
Delta	18.5	18.2	12.6	18.7	18.5	25.9	20
Burnaby	17.9	19.6	11.4	22.9	30.0	25.7	45
Peace River North	8.0	37.0	23.6	57.3	20.6	22.9	6
Summerland	31.5	15.6	7.7	15.2	0.0	22.6	2
Burns Lake	0.0	15.3	15.3	0.0	0.0	22.5	1
South Cariboo	14.7	29.2	14.5	14.5	43.8	21.8	1
Tri-Cities	18.1	15.2	7.9	18.1	26.1	19.6	34
Sunshine Coast	22.4	19.0	9.5	22.1	37.7	18.7	4
Oceanside	20.3	14.0	15.9	37.3	29.2	17.3	6
Richmond	13.4	5.7	6.1	8.8	14.2	15.5	23
Southern Okanagan	14.8	29.2	9.5	14.3	19.0	14.1	2
Armstrong/Spallumcheen	9.3	9.2	0.0	27.1	9.0	13.4	1
North Vancouver	12.8	10.7	7.9	14.5	11.1	11.7	12
West Vancouver/Bowen Island	9.6	11.4	5.7	13.3	11.4	11.3	4
Creston	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5	15.0	11.3	1
Trail	24.7	9.8	14.5	19.4	29.1	7.3	1

New Table 17: Illicit Drug Toxicity Death Rates (per 100,000 person-years) by Top Local Health Areas (LHA) in 2022, 2017-2022^[3,5,6]

Due to small numbers of deaths and population size in some LHAs, rates may be difficult to interpret.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (Jan-Aug)	No. of Deaths 2022 (Jan-Aug)
Howe Sound	18.9	13.9	4.6	4.6	20.6	6.8	2
Saanich Peninsula	5.9	10.2	13.0	7.1	4.2	6.3	3
South Surrey/White Rock	3.0	4.8	0.9	1.9	2.8	5.4	4
Western Communities	3.6	12.7	2.2	8.7	5.2	4.5	3
Arrow Lakes	21.3	42.3	21.1	41.4	41.5	0.0	0
100 Mile House	6.7	20.1	13.4	13.2	39.7	0.0	0
Kimberley	0.0	20.3	0.0	0.0	19.7	0.0	0
Southern Gulf Islands	0.0	6.1	6.1	12.3	12.2	0.0	0
Windermere	29.9	9.8	0.0	28.2	9.5	0.0	0
Fernie	0.0	0.0	6.0	17.8	0.0	0.0	0

Note: Table will be updated every four months due to small numbers. LHAs with small populations have been omitted.

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. 2022 data includes January 1, 2022 to October 31, 2022.
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>

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

List of Townships and Corresponding Health Regions

Township Name	Health Authority	Health Services Delivery Area
Cultus Lake	Fraser	Fraser East
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
Kitamaat 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

List of Townships and Corresponding Health Regions

Township Name	Health Authority	Health Services Delivery Area
Lake Cowichan	Vancouver Island	Central Vancouver Island
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

List of Townships and Corresponding Health Regions

Township Name	Health Authority	Health Services Delivery Area
Port Coquitlam	Fraser	Fraser North
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 Slocan	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

List of Townships and Corresponding Health Regions

Township Name	Health Authority	Health Services Delivery Area
Vancouver	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver
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