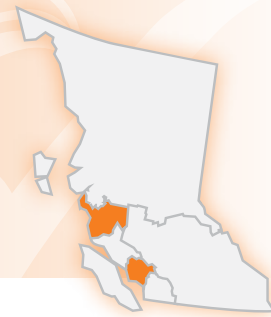


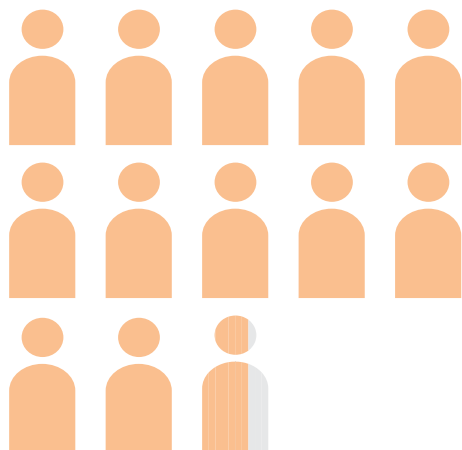
TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS AND EVENTS VANCOUVER COASTAL REGION

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022

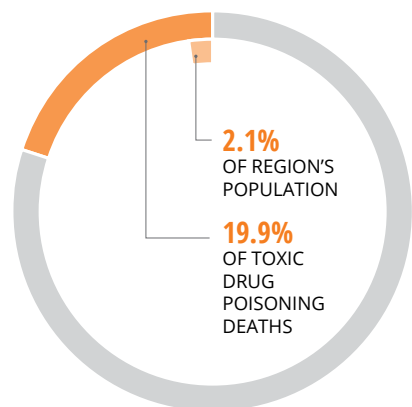


TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DIED
OF TOXIC DRUG POISONING



FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE ARE
DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED
IN TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS



TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

NUMBER OF
TOXIC DRUG
POISONING
EVENTS ATTENDED
BY PARAMEDICS

711

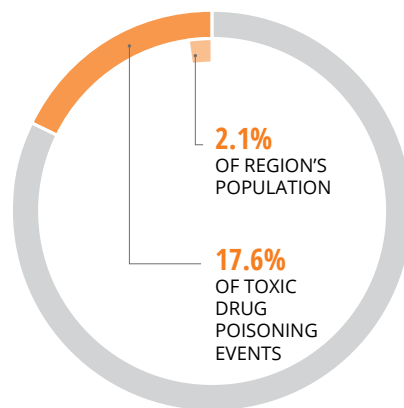
40.3↓

PERCENTAGE
CHANGE COMPARED
TO 2021

PERCENTAGE OF EVENTS BY SEX



FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE ARE
DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED IN
TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS



NOTES ABOUT TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS:

- Most toxic drug poisoning *events* are non-fatal and represent instances where paramedics were called and responded to an overdose, whereas toxic drug poisoning *deaths* represent people who overdosed and died.
- The negative impacts of single or repeated toxic drug poisoning events on an individual can include: heart conditions, liver and kidney problems, brain damage, decrease in mental health, disconnection from support networks, and loss of spiritual and/or cultural connections.
Source: www.drugabuse.gov/drug-topics/health-consequences-drug-misuse/introduction
- The data used to calculate the percentage of toxic drug poisoning events experienced by First Nations people is based only on health records where a Personal Health Number (PHN) was available. The number of First Nations toxic drug poisoning events attended by paramedics and the percentage increase in First Nations people experiencing events are likely underestimated due to the limited availability of PHNs in the data. Unfortunately, not all toxic drug poisoning events have a PHN associated with them.
- Toxic drug poisoning events that were treated successfully in community and events where 9-1-1 was not called are not captured in this data.



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

The FNHA gratefully acknowledges the health partners that make this data available:
BC Centre for Disease Control, BC Coroners Service, BC Emergency Health Services, and the BC Ministry of Health.

You may find this information distressing. Cultural support is available at Tsow Tun Le Lum Society.
Call 1-888-403-3123 (toll-free) or visit www.tsowtunlelum.org

RESPONDING TO AND HEALING FROM TOXIC DRUG SUPPLY POISONING

VANCOUVER COASTAL REGION JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE FNHA TO SAVE LIVES AND SUPPORT HEALING

Province-wide Initiatives:

- FNHA has prioritized the Toxic Drug Emergency by moving into a Level 2 Emergency response structure.
- **Harm Reduction Hub** provides community workers and healthcare providers with easy access to harm reduction services and supplies while building networks of support to help expand harm reduction options in First Nation communities.
- **Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT)** is a medical harm reduction tool to help people through withdrawal from opioids. Email harmreduction@fnha.ca to learn more.
- FNHA worked with First Nations communities in preparation for the decriminalization of possession of small amounts of illicit substances, including the [production of FAQs](#).
- Community events funded through the Indigenous harm reduction grants. Email HRgrants@fnha.ca to learn more.
- Honouring Our Loved Ones is a **digital space** to honour and share stories (video, photos, artwork or audio recording) to remember the loved ones we've lost to the toxic drug supply crisis.
- The **Courageous Conversations** tool kit is being developed to support ongoing community conversations about harm reduction, substance use and stigma.

Vancouver Coastal Region Initiatives:

- Continued to support toxic drug crisis by promoting education and awareness of OAT, withdrawal and management programs, including information sessions and training in community.
- Registered take home naloxone sites in rural and urban communities.
- Continuing to provide support for harm reduction education and awareness planning, including delivery of 5-part Harm Reduction Training Series
- Continued Urban and Away From Home (UAH) supports, such as funding culturally safe programs in Downtown East Side and ongoing treatment navigation for communities and UAH.
- Regional Toxic Drug Response engagement during Fall '22 sub-regional gatherings with VC Leadership, which included knowledge sharing, resource and info and supports provided by the VC Regional MH&W Team.
- Launch of VC EOC Level II with a focus on Toxic Drug Response planning.
- Launched regional emergency operations centre with a focus on toxic drug response planning.
- Ongoing partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health as part of implementing the first phase of the Rural Nurse Prescribing Pilot.
- Towards implementation of regional Treatment and Wellness Center initiative, an architect was selected by shíshálh Nation and engagement will be done with shíshálh Nation and other communities in the Vancouver Region as part of the feasibility study.

REGIONAL WELLNESS AND CULTURAL SUPPORTS

Regional FNHA staff

Regional Manager, Mental Health and Wellness
Myra.Mangadap@fnha.ca

Addictions Specialist
Sean.ODonaghey@fnha.ca

Mental Health and Wellness Liaison
Jennifer.Lynn-Smith@fnha.ca

Traditional Wellness Coordinator
Eileen.Joe@fnha.ca

Emotional and Cultural Support

Tsow Tun Le Lum Society – Call 1-888-403-3123 (toll-free) or visit www.tsowtunlelum.org

Indian Residential School Crisis Line
Call toll-free 1-866-925-4419.

KUU-US Crisis Service – Call 1-800-KUU-US17 (588-8717). 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Métis Crisis Line is a service of Métis Nation British Columbia. Call 1-833-MétisBC (1-833-638-4722)

Hope for Wellness Help Line offers immediate mental health counselling and crisis intervention. Call toll-free 1-855-242-3310 or start a confidential chat at www.hopeforwellness.ca