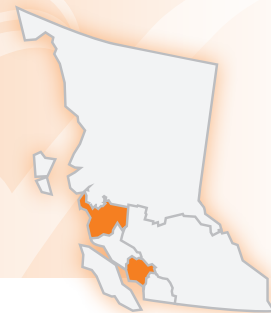


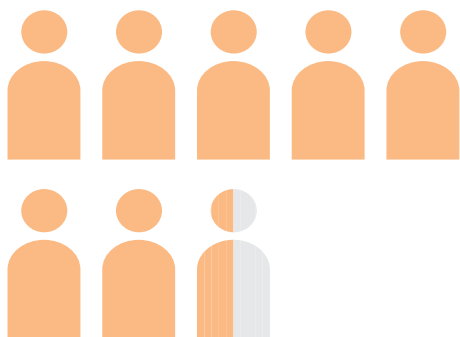
TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS AND EVENTS VANCOUVER COASTAL REGION

JANUARY - JUNE 2023

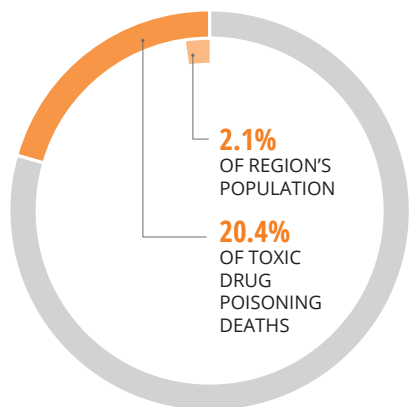


TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DIED
OF TOXIC DRUG POISONING



FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE ARE
DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED
IN TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS



TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

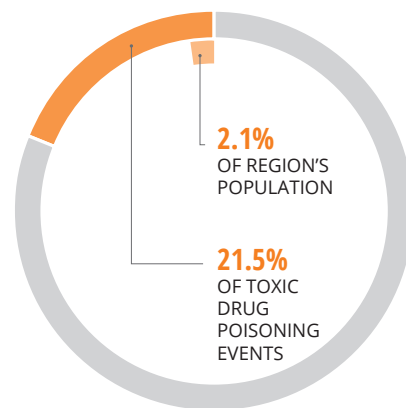
NUMBER OF
TOXIC DRUG
POISONING
EVENTS ATTENDED
BY PARAMEDICS

367

1.1↓

PERCENTAGE
DECREASE COMPARED
TO 2022 (JAN-JUNE)

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE ARE
DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED IN
TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS



PERCENTAGE OF EVENTS BY SEX



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.



RESPONDING TO AND HEALING FROM TOXIC DRUG SUPPLY POISONING

VANCOUVER COASTAL REGION JANUARY - JUNE 2023

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE FNHA TO SAVE LIVES AND SUPPORT HEALING

Province-wide Initiatives:

- The FNHA is in a Level 2 Emergency response structure to the Toxic Drug Emergency.
- First Nations harm reduction grants funded 106 community-based events, harm reduction positions and projects. Email HRgrants@fnha.ca to learn more.
- Harm Reduction Hub provides community workers and health care 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 (email harmreduction@fnha.ca for access).
- **Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT)** is a medical harm reduction tool to help people through withdrawal from opioids (email harmreduction@fnha.ca to learn more).
- The FNHA dispenses **injectable and nasal naloxone** to individuals and communities. *Not Just Naloxone* training is provided in workshops to learn how to use naloxone within a wholistic, decolonizing context.
- Courageous Conversations webinar series and events to start conversations around substance use and harm reduction. The FNHA also launched the *Courageous Conversations on Substance Use Toolkit* and *Healing Indigenous Hearts Facilitator Guidebook*.
- The FNHA continues to offer the **First Nations Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service**, connecting psychiatrists and addictions specialists with First Nations people and their family members for culturally safe care planning, treatment and healing.

Vancouver Coastal Region Initiatives:

- Continued to support toxic drug emergency response 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 five-part Harm Reduction Training Series.
- Continued Urban and Away from Home (UAH) supports, such as funding culturally safe programs in Downtown Eastside and ongoing treatment navigation for communities and UAH.
- Regional Toxic Drug Response engagement during Spring sub-regional gatherings with VC Leadership, which included knowledge sharing, resource and info and supports provided by the VC Regional MH&W Team.
- Ongoing development of regional Level 2 toxic drug crisis planning and response.
- Ongoing partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health as part of implementing the Rural Nurse Prescribing Pilot.
- Moving towards implementation of the regional Treatment and Wellness Center initiative. VC leadership were engaged as part of a shared decision making process for the service centre delivery and design.
- Engaged community leadership on the opportunity to bring a Regional Healing Modality to Vancouver Coastal Region, and what this could look like.

REGIONAL WELLNESS AND CULTURAL SUPPORTS

Regional FNHA staff

Acting/Regional Manager, Mental Health & Wellness
Jenn.L.Smith@fnha.ca

Regional Project Manager, Regional Treatment Centre
Michelle.Doo@fnha.ca

Regional Mental Health & Wellness Liaison
Melanie.Vivier@fnha.ca

Addictions Specialists
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Indigenous Educators, Harm Reduction
mackenzie.leslie@fnha.ca
Daynon.Kane-Fitzpatrick@fnha.ca

Aboriginal HeadStart Advisor
Maureen.Black@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