

# FIRST NATIONS AND THE TOXIC DRUG POISONING CRISIS IN BC

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024



Harm reduction efforts are helping to lower toxic drug poisoning events and deaths, but drug toxicity continues to disproportionately impact First Nations families and communities across BC.

## TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS

Toxic Drug Poisoning Deaths of First Nations People

427



6.8%

Decrease from 2023

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE DIED FROM TOXIC DRUG POISONINGS IN 2024.

This is a 6.8% decrease from the 458 deaths in 2023.

Rate of Toxic Drug Poisoning Deaths Involving First Nations People

6.7 x

First Nations people died at 6.7 times the rate of other BC residents in 2024. **This number was 6.1 in 2023.**

11.6 x

First Nations females died at **11.6 times** the rate of other female BC residents in 2024.

5.2 x

First Nations males died at **5.2 times** the rate of other male BC residents in 2024.

Deaths of First Nations People BY SEX



259

Males 60.7%



168

Females 39.3%

Deaths of First Nations People BY AGE

49.9%

40 Years and Older

50.1%

Younger than 40

First Nations Females Experience Very High Rates of Toxic Drug Poisoning Deaths

22.4%

39.3%

22.4% of other BC residents who died in 2024 were female.

39.3% of First Nations people who died in 2024 were female.

First Nations People are Disproportionately Represented in Toxic Drug Poisoning Deaths

3.4%

19.0%

First Nations people make up 3.4% of BC's population.

19.0% of toxic drug poisoning deaths in 2024 were First Nations people.



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

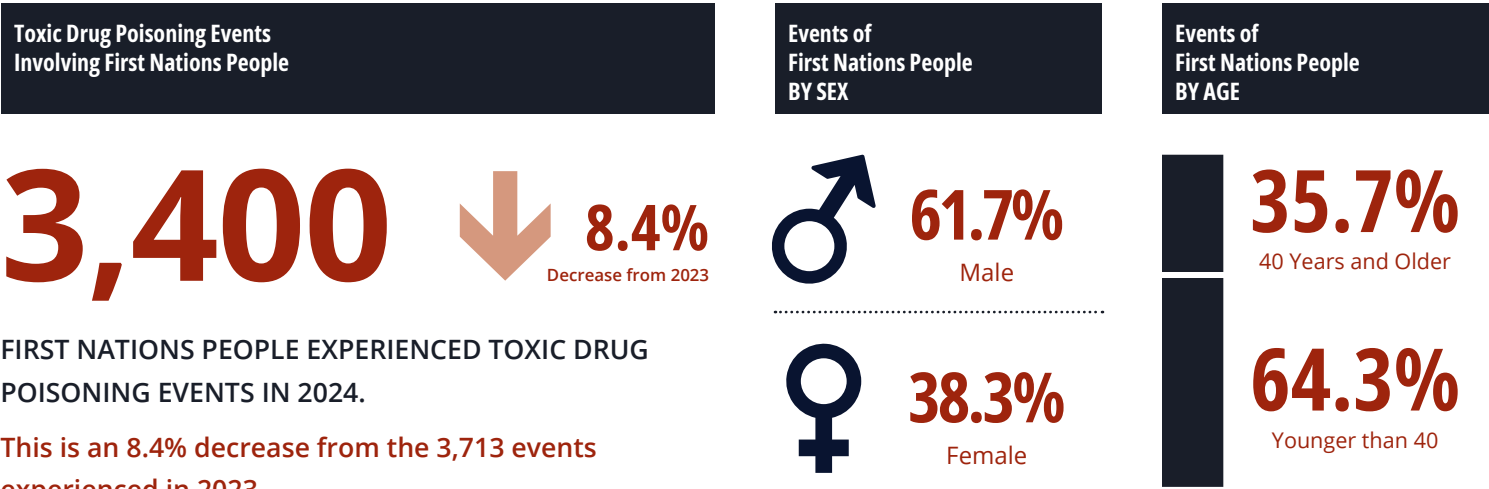
*This data includes only Status First Nations people and their status-eligible descendants. Additionally, our data is limited to biological sex at birth, which may misidentify two-spirit, transgender, non-binary, intersex, and gender diverse people. Surveillance data is dynamic and subject to change with new information and historical corrections.*

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](http://www.tsowtunlelum.org)



## TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS



## IN 2024 FNHA SUPPORTED

