

FIRST NATIONS AND THE TOXIC DRUG POISONING CRISIS IN BC

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2025



The unregulated drug supply in BC remains highly potent, unpredictable, and dangerous. First Nations individuals, families, and communities continue to be disproportionately affected by the toxic drug crisis.

TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS

Toxic Drug Poisoning Deaths of First Nations People

289

↓ 33.3%
Decrease from 2024

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE DIED FROM TOXIC DRUG POISONINGS IN 2025.

This is a 33.3% decrease from the 433 deaths in 2024.

Rate of Toxic Drug Poisoning Deaths Involving First Nations People

5.4x

First Nations people died at 5.4 times the rate of other BC residents in 2025. **This number was 6.5 in 2024.**

9.1x

First Nations females died at **9.1 times** the rate of other female BC residents in 2025.

4.5x

First Nations males died at **4.5 times** the rate of other male BC residents in 2025.

Deaths of First Nations People BY SEX



186

Males **64.4%**



103

Females **35.6%**

Deaths of First Nations People BY AGE

50.5%

40 Years and Older

49.5%

Younger than 40

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

20.4%

35.6%

20.4% of other BC residents who died in 2025 were female.

35.6% of First Nations people who died in 2025 were female.

First Nations People are Disproportionately Represented in Toxic Drug Poisoning Deaths

3.4%

15.8%

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

15.8% of toxic drug poisoning deaths in 2025 were First Nations people.



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

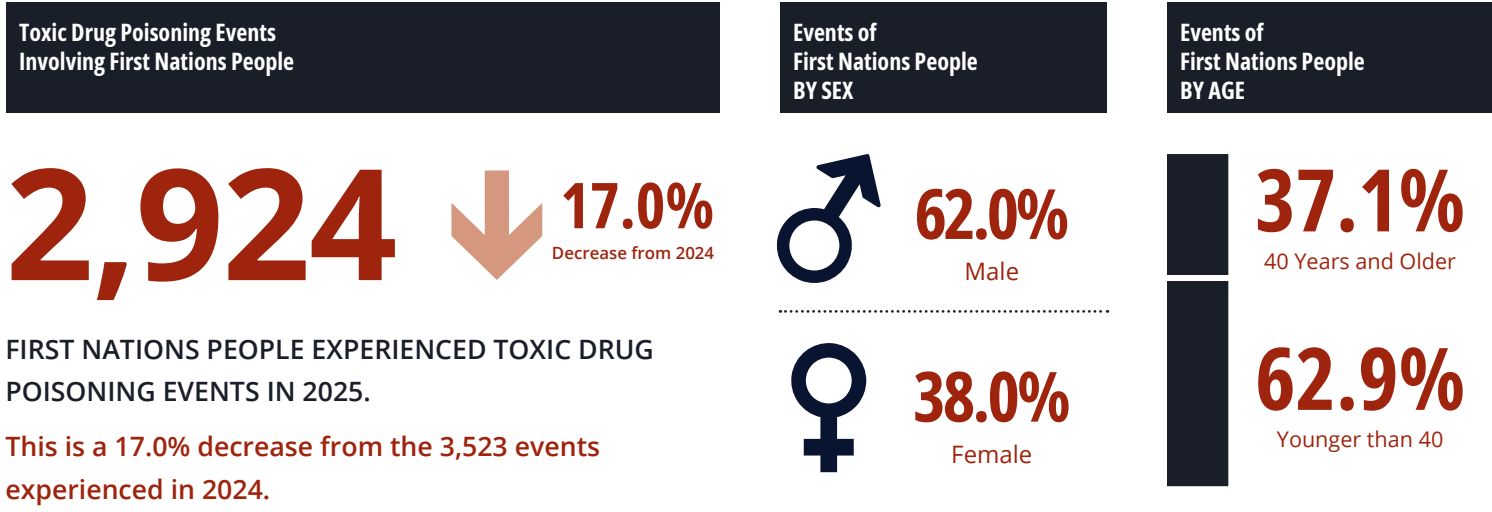
This data includes only Status First Nations people and their status-eligible descendants. Additionally, our data is limited to biological sex at birth, which may misidentify two-spirit, transgender, non-binary, intersex, and gender diverse people. Surveillance data is dynamic and subject to change with 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 Tsoow Tun Le Lum Society. Call 1-888-403-3123 (toll-free) or visit www.tsoowtunlelum.org



TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS



Harm reduction is saving lives by offering compassionate, accessible health services to people who use substances, wherever they are on their healing journey. A First Nations approach strengthens conventional harm reduction by weaving in culture, teachings, community, and connections to the land and one another.

IN 2025 FNHA SUPPORTED

