

FIRST NATIONS AND THE TOXIC DRUG POISONING CRISIS IN BC

JANUARY – JUNE 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

143

↓ 38.6%
Decrease from the
same period in 2024

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE DIED FROM TOXIC DRUG
POISONINGS BETWEEN JAN-JUNE 2025.

This is a 38.6% decrease from the 233 deaths during
the same period in 2024.

Rate of Toxic Drug Poisoning Deaths
Involving First Nations People

5.4 x First Nations people died at 5.4 times the rate
of other BC residents in 2025 (Jan-June). **This
number was 6.7 in the same period in 2024.**

8.5 x First Nations females died at **8.5 times** the rate
of other female BC residents in 2025 (Jan-June).

4.6 x First Nations males died at **4.6 times** the rate
of other male BC residents in 2025 (Jan-June).

Deaths of
First Nations People
BY SEX

♂ 96
Males 67.1%

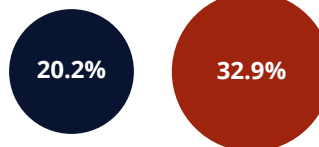
♀ 47
Females 32.9%

Deaths of
First Nations People
BY AGE

53.1%
40 Years and Older

46.9%
Younger than 40

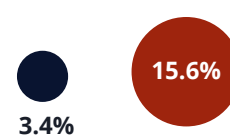
First Nations Females Experience
Very High Rates of Toxic Drug
Poisoning Deaths



20.2% of other BC residents
who died between Jan-June
2025 were female.

32.9% of First Nations
people who died between
Jan-June 2025 were female.

First Nations People are
Disproportionately Represented in
Toxic Drug Poisoning Deaths



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

15.6% of toxic drug
poisoning deaths between
Jan-June 2025 were First
Nations people.



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

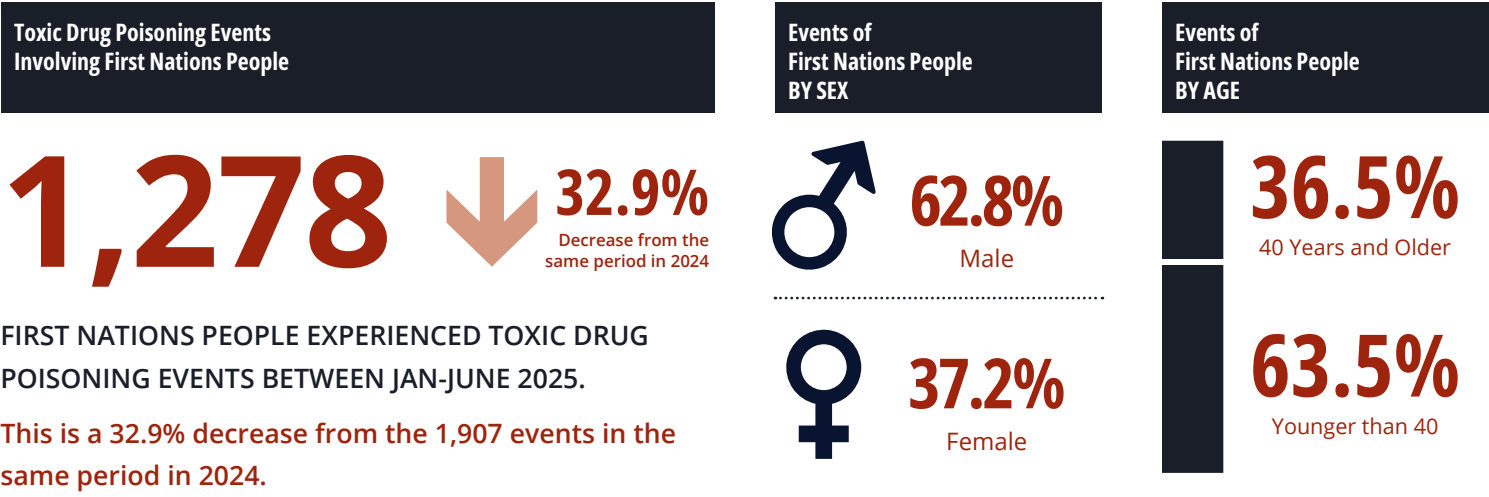
This data includes only Status First Nations people and their status-eligible descendants. Additionally, our data is limited to biological sex at birth, which may misidentify two-spirit, transgender, non-binary, intersex, and gender diverse people. Surveillance data is dynamic and subject to change with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

BETWEEN JAN-JUNE 2025 FNHA SUPPORTED

