

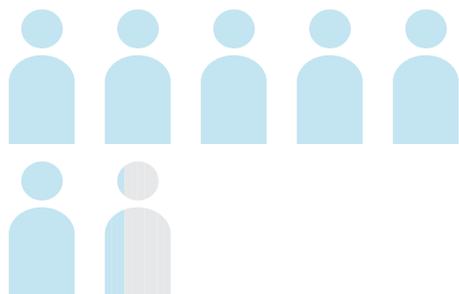
TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS AND EVENTS NORTHERN REGION

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2021



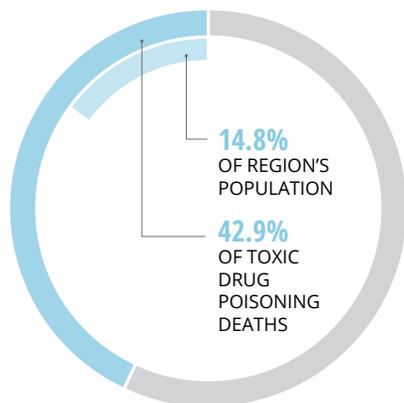
TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DIED
OF TOXIC DRUG POISONING



EQUALS
10 DEATHS

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE ARE
DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED
IN TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS



TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

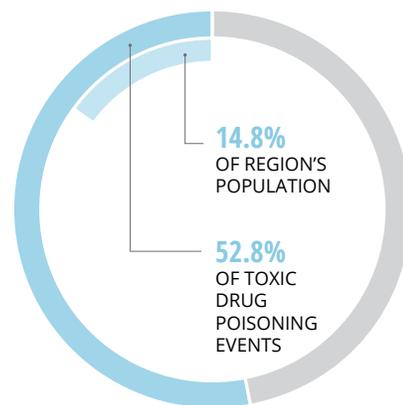
NUMBER OF
TOXIC DRUG
POISONING
EVENTS ATTENDED
BY PARAMEDICS

612

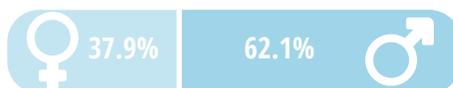
22.9↑

PERCENTAGE
CHANGE COMPARED
TO 2020

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.



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

A MESSAGE FOR YOU

“Toxic drugs are taking a high toll on our people. Our people are taking their lives as nobody knows what’s in these drugs, maybe just the drug dealers. Our ancestors took care of the land as it nourished our bodies. The land is there to help and protect our bodies. Now all that is ingested by our people is not of our lands and is very unknown. Please know your body as you respect the lands.”

Wilf Adam

Elder, Lake Babine Nation

ACTIONS THE FNHA IS TAKING TO SAVE LIVES AND SUPPORT HEALING IN 2022

Programs and initiatives the FNHA is currently providing or developing that will positively and directly impact Indigenous people in 2021:

- An Indigenous harm reduction portal, created in partnership with Indigenous peers, will provide resources and supports.
- Community events funded through the Indigenous harm reduction grants will assist in bringing supports and services closer to home.
- The Courageous Conversations toolkit will support communities in fostering ongoing community conversations and support healing.
- The Sharing-from-the-Heart Circle is a safe virtual space where people who have lost loved ones can share hardships and heal.
- A digital story-sharing platform will connect people to share stories about the loved ones they’ve lost and help people find a community of support.
- The Toxic Drug Response Framework outlines in detail the services and programs available to communities in Northern Region.
- Drug alerts for Northern Region were co-developed with and distributed by people with lived and living experience.
- Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) and nurse prescribing training is being provided to community nurses in Northern Region.
- Wellbriety Medicine Wheel (12-Step training program) and Northern Sky Traditional Wellness Circle (a weekly virtual space to learn and share ideas that provide support and healing) are supporting people in Northern Region.

WELLNESS & CULTURAL SUPPORTS IN NORTHER REGION

Northern Mental Health & Wellness Requests

MWRResponse.North@fnha.ca

Harm Reduction Educator

Jody.Youb@fnha.ca

Regional Addictions Specialist

Anita.Andreychuk@fnha.ca

Traditional Wellness Specialist

Carla.Lewis@fnha.ca

Emotional and Cultural Support is available:

Northern BC Crisis Line

Call 1-888-562-1214, 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

KUU-US Crisis Service

Call 1-800-KUU-US17 (588-8717) for an immediate response. 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Tsow Tun Le Lum Society

1-888-403-3123 (toll-free)
www.tsowtunlelum.org

Indian Residential School Crisis

Line CallToll-free 1-866-925-4419.

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 by phone or online chat. Call toll-free 1-855-242-3310 or start a confidential chat with a counsellor at hopeforwellness.ca