

TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS AND EVENTS NORTHERN REGION

JANUARY - JUNE 2021



TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS

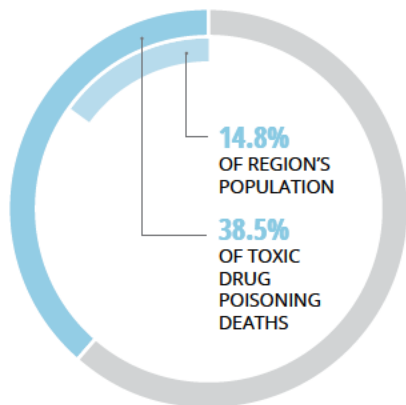
NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DIED
OF TOXIC DRUG POISONING



25

 EQUALS
10 DEATHS

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE ARE
DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED
IN TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS



TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

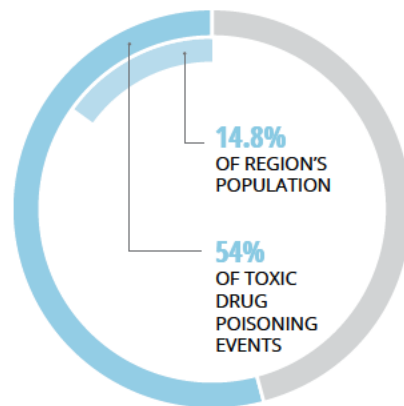
NUMBER OF
TOXIC DRUG
POISONING
EVENTS ATTENDED
BY PARAMEDICS

258

59.3↑

PERCENTAGE
CHANGE COMPARED
TO 2020 (JAN-JUNE)

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE ARE
DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED
IN TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS



PERCENTAGE OF EVENTS BY SEX



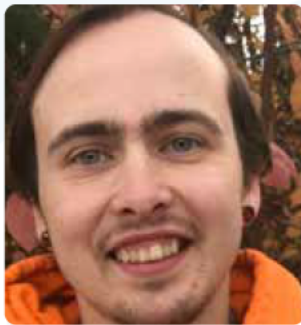
NOTES ABOUT TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS:

- 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.

Are you a frontline worker in Northern BC supporting Indigenous people who use drugs?

You can join a weekly Community of Practice meeting to share resources, concerns and frustrations. You'll also learn about best practices and what other communities are doing to support people during this challenging time.

HARM REDUCTION EDUCATORS



BRYN HANKS BSW (They/Him)

Bryn.hanks@fnha.ca | 250-640-6198

"Drug use is often a trauma response, a response to the toxic legacy of colonialism. I work in harm reduction because decolonizing drug use reduces the ongoing stigma and violence experienced by Indigenous peoples. Stigma is what keeps people from speaking up, and people are getting lost and dying in that silence."



JODY YOUB LPN (She/Her)

Jody.youb@fnha.ca | 250-640-6093

"Healing doesn't mean the damage never existed. It means the damage no longer controls our lives." ~ Akshay Dubey

Need a fast response? Not sure who to contact?

EMAIL: northern.naloxone@fnha.ca