

# TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS AND EVENTS FRASER SALISH REGION

JANUARY - JUNE 2021



## TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS

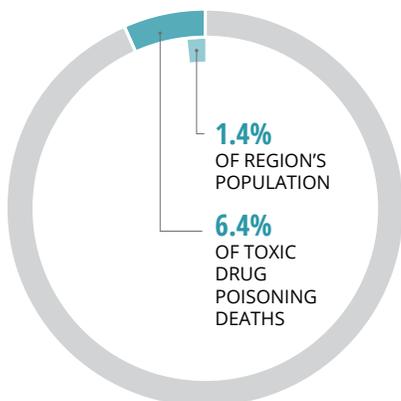
NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DIED  
OF TOXIC DRUG POISONING



22

 EQUALS  
10 DEATHS

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE ARE  
DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED  
IN TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS



## TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

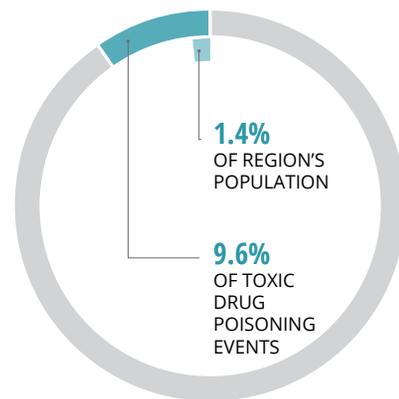
NUMBER OF  
TOXIC DRUG  
POISONING  
EVENTS ATTENDED  
BY PARAMEDICS

260

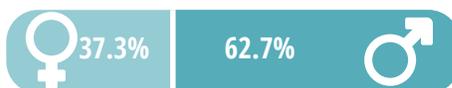
58.5↑

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](http://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.



# FRASER SALISH COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS TEAM

Navigation of mental health and substance use services including accessing harm reduction supplies and services, treatment options, virtual psychiatry services, counselling options and/or traditional wellness.

## A Healing Prayer

Good Grandmothers,  
Good Grandfathers,  
Creator of all good  
things.

Hear the loved ones  
asking for support and  
love, pick up their spirits.

Take away what is  
harming them. Leave  
them here in a good way  
to carry on their path in  
life.

They are loved and they  
are needed to fill their  
life's purpose.

Help them to think and  
see clearly, and to use  
their bodies in a good  
way.

All my relations

- Th'et-simiya, Wendy Ritchie



### MEHRDAD GHAFOURI Harm Reduction Educator

Mehrdad.ghafouri@fnha.ca | 778-554-9140

*"I want to help people and live a meaningful life in service of others. I believe that I will learn more about myself as I learn more about this community's stories."*



### TRACEY JIRAK Harm Reduction Educator

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*"Harm Reduction teaches love; I want to help people learn to love themselves and find the inner strength to heal"*



### SIERRA KORTENBACH Mental Health and Wellness Liaison

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*"Harm reduction is important to me because it allows us to meet individuals where they are at, honouring that everyone's journey is different. Harm reduction offers individuals the dignity, respect, and love that they deserve."*



### NARDIA BROWN Wellness System Navigator

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*"Harm reduction shows the vulnerability and strength we have within and humanity as is. We are not here to fix or control it but to meet people where they are at and honour the individuality of each journey."*

## DID YOU KNOW ?

Illicit drugs are more dangerous than ever due to interruptions in supply chains and unknown substances being added. Toxic drug poisoning has been a public health emergency since 2016.

Cultural healing works. Get out on the land, connect with nature, smudge, sweat, pray – it heals our spirits.

