



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

# Toxic Drug Poisoning Trends among First Nations Youth (aged 15-29) Fraser Salish Region



Colonization and intergenerational trauma have negatively impacted First Nations' health, including increased harms caused by toxic drug poisoning. Note that the data presented here is sensitive in nature and represents individuals, their families and loved ones.

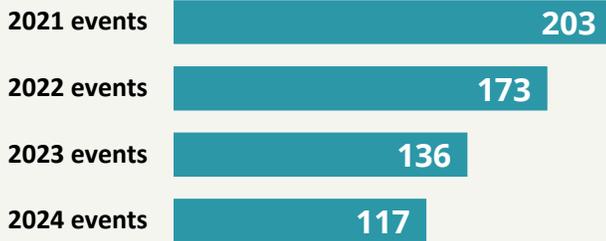
## Toxic drug poisoning events

### Provincial comparison and regional overview



Between 2021 and 2024:

Fraser Salish First Nations youth experienced the following number of events in each year:



# 28%

Fraser Salish First Nations youth made up 28 per cent of all toxic drug events among First Nations people in the region in 2021-2024.

## Comparison to other residents in the Fraser Salish Region

In 2024:

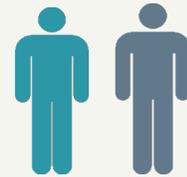


26x

The rate of toxic drug events among First Nations female youth was 26 times higher than other resident female youth.

The rate of toxic drug events among First Nations male youth was 6.4 times higher than other resident male youth.

6.4x

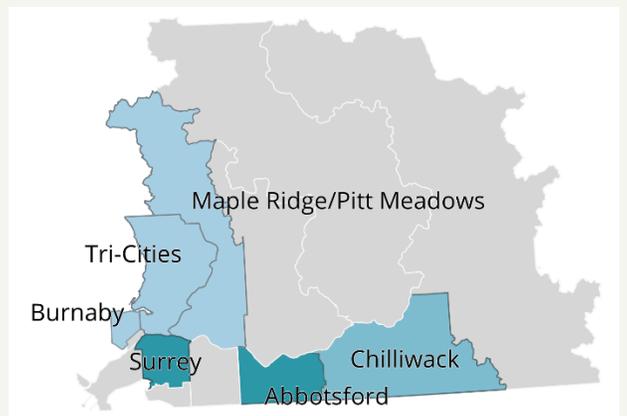


## Geography

Between 2023 and 2024:

The highest number of toxic drug events among First Nations youth in the Fraser Salish Region was reported in:

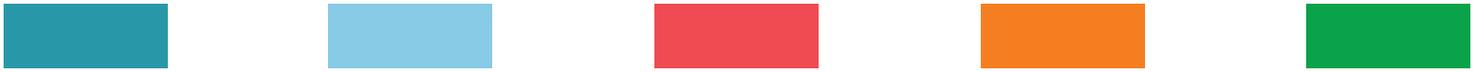
- Surrey = 74
- Chilliwack = 45
- Abbotsford = 40
- Tri-Cities = 19
- Burnaby = 15
- Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows = 15





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## Toxic drug poisoning deaths

### Provincial comparison and regional overview

Between 2023 and 2024:



9%

Fraser Salish First Nations youth experienced 20 toxic drug deaths, out of a total of 182 deaths among BC First Nations youth.

Fraser Salish First Nations youth made up 9 per cent of the region's total youth deaths in 2023/24, even though they only make up 2 per cent of the Fraser Salish youth population.

### Female youth in the Fraser Salish Region

Between 2021\* and 2024:



34.7%

First Nations female youth made up 34.7 per cent of First Nations youth toxic drug deaths in the Fraser Salish Region.



17

First Nations female youth experienced 17 toxic drug deaths in the Fraser Salish Region (102 per 100,000 First Nations female youth).

### Time trend

2023-2024



Fraser Salish First Nations youth experienced 20 toxic drug deaths in 2023/24, compared to 29 toxic drug deaths in 2021/22.

2021-2022



\*A longer time frame is required to protect the anonymity of individuals represented in the data.



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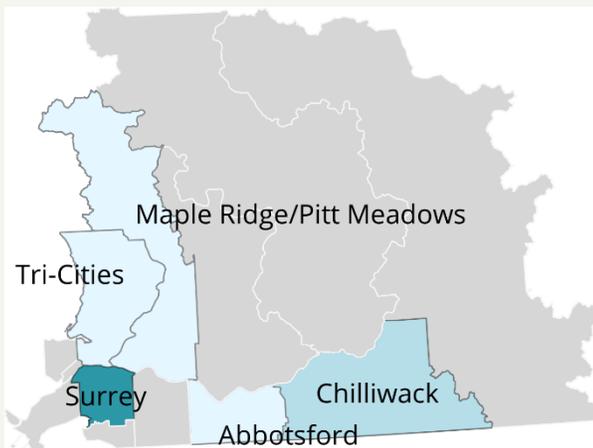
## Opioid use disorder (OUD)



There were an estimated 380 First Nations youth who had health care interactions\* coded as being related to OUD in 2022.



This number is a 5.9 per cent decrease from 404 youth in 2021.



The number of First Nations youth who might have OUD in 2022, based on related health care interactions, was highest in:

- Surrey = 113
- Chilliwack = 60
- Abbotsford = 48
- Tri-Cities = 28
- Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows = 27

## Alcohol use disorder (AUD)



There were an estimated 935 First Nations youth who had health care interactions coded as being related to AUD in 2022.



This number is a 0.4 per cent decrease from 939 youth in 2021.



The number of First Nations youth who might have AUD in 2022, based on related health care interactions, was highest in:

- Surrey = 226
- Chilliwack = 162
- Burnaby = 99
- Abbotsford = 91
- Tri-Cities = 63



## OUD and AUD related health care interactions

There were an estimated 186 First Nations youth who had health care interactions\* coded as being related to both OUD and AUD in 2022.



This number represents a 5.1 per cent decrease from 196 youth in 2021.

\*The health care interactions were coded for AUD or OUD, but don't necessarily indicate a confirmed a diagnosis.



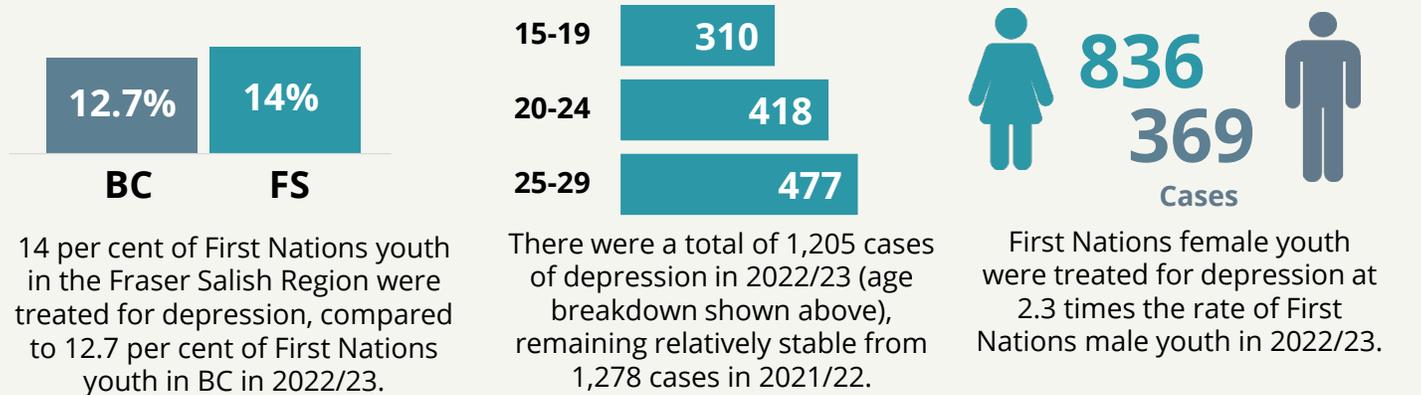
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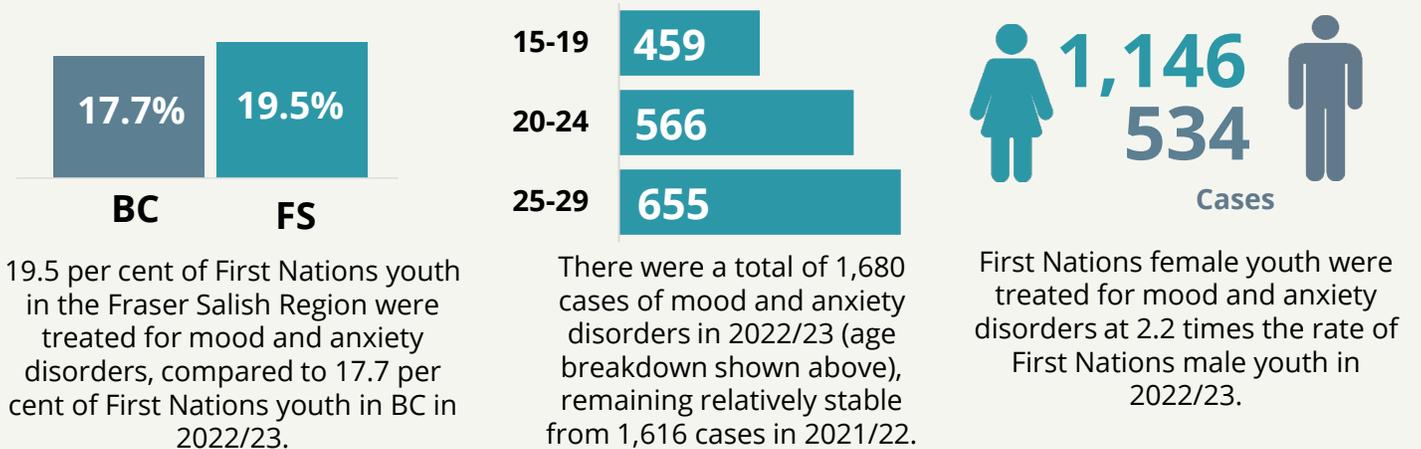
## Mental health and hospital service use

Depression, mood and anxiety disorders, and health services use are examined due to their relationship with substance use.

### Depression

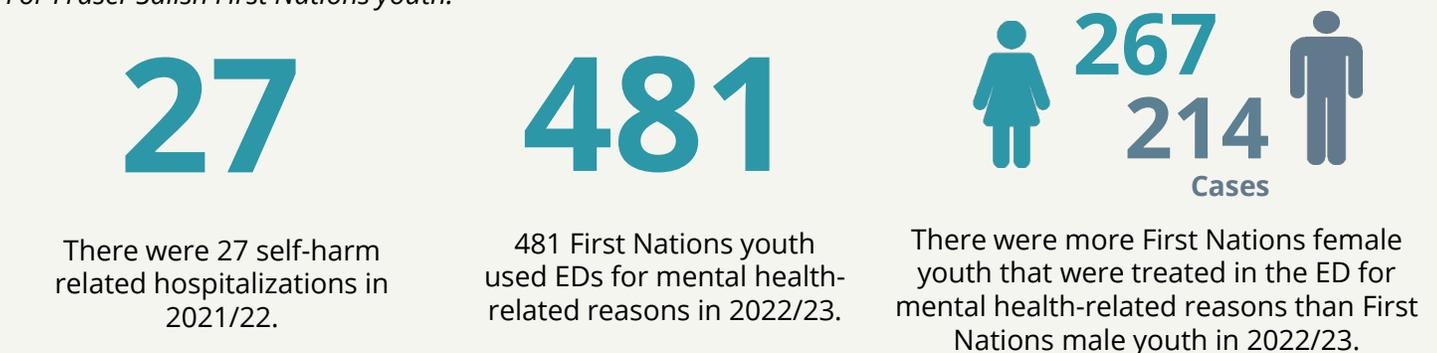


### Mood and anxiety disorders



## Emergency departments (ED) and hospitalization use for mental health

For Fraser Salish First Nations youth:



Note: The mental health data in this iteration of this report is sourced from a different dataset than the previous iteration of this report with data up to 2020/21, therefore the numbers will not be directly comparable.