

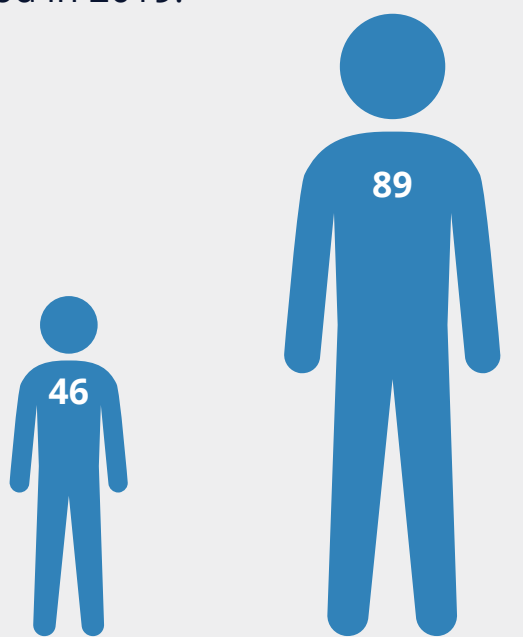
FIRST NATIONS IN BC AND THE OVERDOSE CRISIS

COVID-19 PANDEMIC SPARKS SURGE IN OVERDOSE DEATHS

FIRST NATIONS OVERDOSE DEATHS ALMOST DOUBLED BETWEEN JANUARY AND MAY 2020

93% 

increase in deaths **from January to May 2020** compared to the same period in 2019.



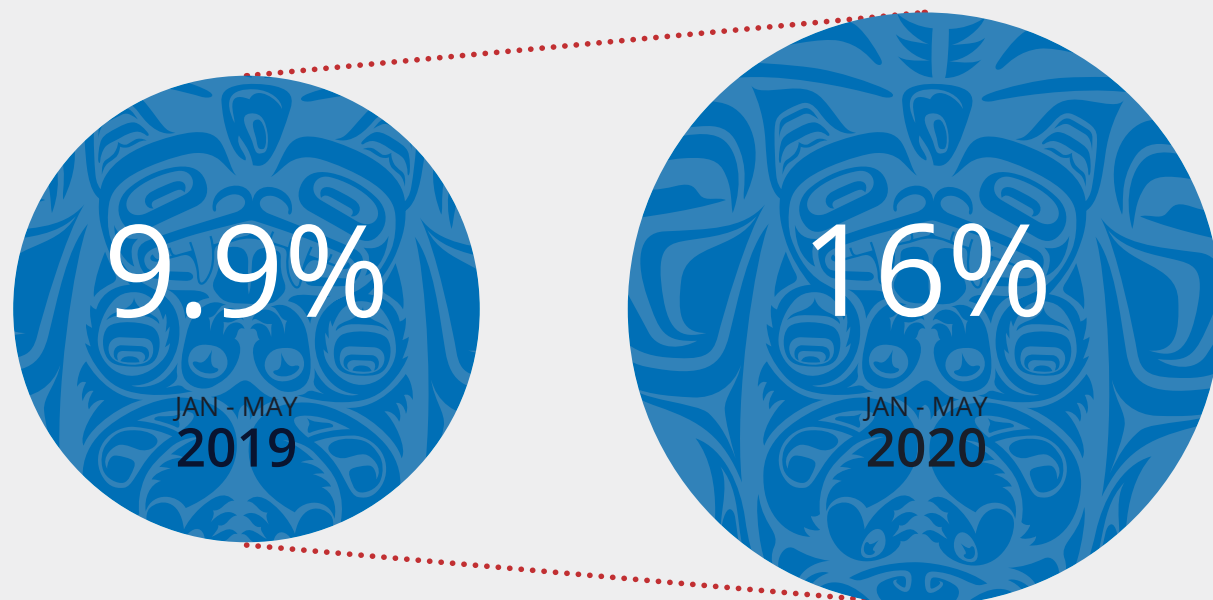
JAN-MAY 2019

JAN-MAY 2020

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED IN OVERDOSE DEATHS

16%

of all overdose deaths **between January and May 2020** are First Nations people. This number was 9.9 per cent in 2019. **First Nations represent only 3.3 per cent of the province's population.**



THE RATE AT WHICH FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE DIE HAS ALSO INCREASED

3.8x JAN - DEC 2019

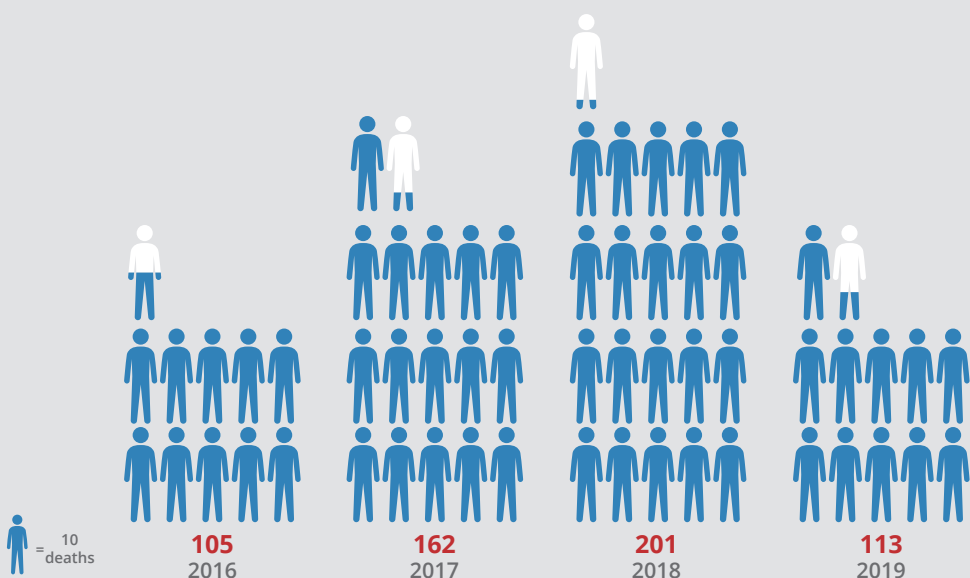
First Nations people died at 3.8 times the rate of other BC Residents.



5.6x JAN - MAY 2020

First Nations people died at 5.6 times the rate of other BC Residents.

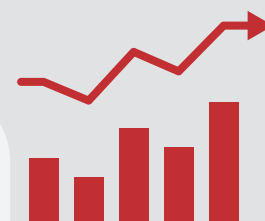
FIRST NATIONS OVERDOSE DEATHS, 2016-2019



FIRST NATIONS WOMEN EXPERIENCE VERY HIGH RATES OF OVERDOSE

8.7x

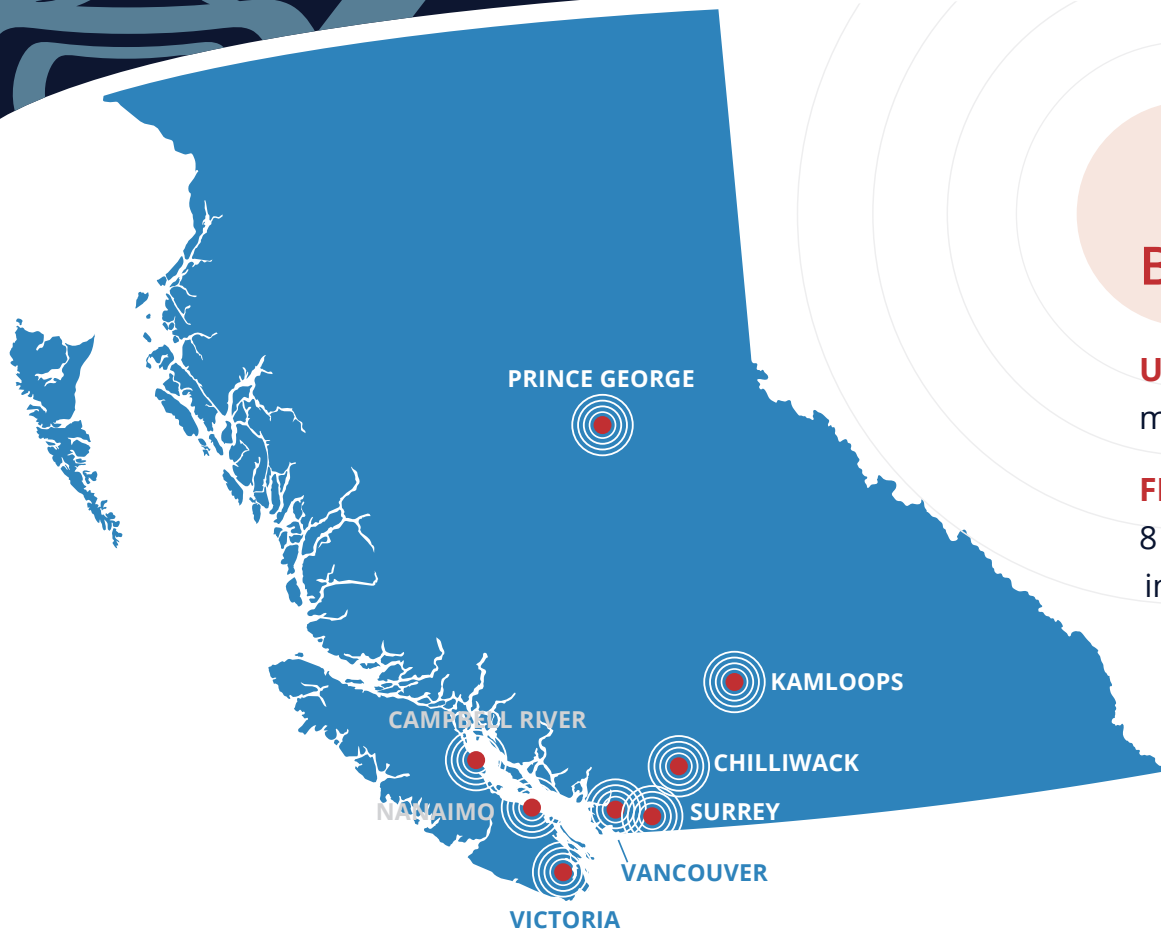
First Nations women died from overdose at 8.7 times the rate of other women in BC in 2019.



Among First Nations men, there have been large fluctuations from year to year in the number of overdose deaths.



ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BY FNHA TO PREVENT OVERDOSE IN 2019-2020



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

URBAN FOCUS: The impact of the overdose crisis is most acute in urban areas.

FNHA partnered with established organizations in 8 cities to increase capacity in peer-driven outreach in the community and in primary care.

PILLAR 1

PREVENT PEOPLE WHO OVERDOSE FROM DYING

- **NALOXONE:** 6,315 Naloxone kits were delivered through First Nations sites and Aboriginal Friendship Centers
- **GRANTS:** 16 harm reduction champions received “kick starter” grants to deliver Naloxone, harm reduction, and substance use training in their communities.

PILLAR 2

KEEP PEOPLE SAFE WHEN USING

- **FACILITATED DIALOGUES** to develop innovative and sustainable improvements in harm reduction services:
 - 61 days of engagement
 - 279 peers
 - 324 service providers
 - 14 senior leaders
- **INDIGENOUS PEERS** at the Crosstown Clinic in the DTES supported over 200 people who use substances

PILLAR 3

CREATE AN ACCESSIBLE RANGE OF TREATMENT OPTIONS

- **OPIOID AGONIST TREATMENT (OAT):** 7 community health centers are delivering Suboxone; 7 more are planned for 2020/21.
- **INDIGENOUS TREATMENT AND LAND-BASED HEALING SERVICES:** 98 new sites providing mental health and addictions services
- **OAT CLINIC FEES:** 226 people received subsidies to access OAT in private clinics
- **FIRST NATIONS TREATMENT CENTRES:** \$60 million to build and revitalize First Nations treatment centers in BC.

PILLAR 4

SUPPORT PEOPLE ON THEIR HEALING JOURNEYS

- **COMMUNITY EDUCATION:** 5 FNHA Indigenous Wellness Educator positions are being established to facilitate community conversations about harm reduction.
- **UNLOCKING THE GATES:** 173 people supported. There is a strong link between overdose and people transitioning out of BC Corrections facilities.

