

TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS AND EVENTS FRASER SALISH REGION

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022



TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS

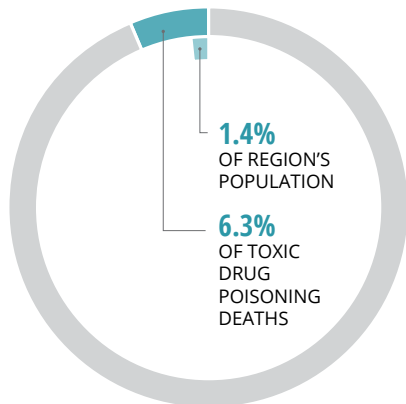
NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DIED
OF TOXIC DRUG POISONING



43


EQUALS
10 DEATHS

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE ARE
DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED
IN TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS



TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

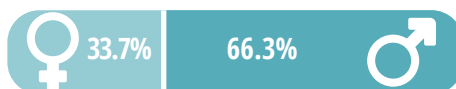
NUMBER OF
TOXIC DRUG
POISONING
EVENTS ATTENDED
BY PARAMEDICS

514

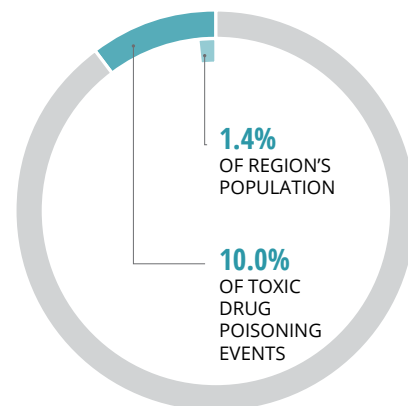
23.1↓

PERCENTAGE
CHANGE COMPARED
TO 2021

PERCENTAGE OF EVENTS BY SEX



FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE ARE
DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED
IN TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS



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

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ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE FNHA TO SAVE LIVES AND SUPPORT HEALING

Province-wide Initiatives:

- FNHA has prioritized the Toxic Drug Emergency by moving into a Level 2 Emergency response structure.
- **Harm Reduction Hub** provides community workers and healthcare providers with easy access to harm reduction services and supplies while building networks of support to help expand harm reduction options in First Nation communities.
- **Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT)** is a medical harm reduction tool to help people through withdrawal from opioids. Email harmreduction@fnha.ca to learn more.
- FNHA worked with First Nations communities in preparation for the decriminalization of possession of small amounts of illicit substances, including the [production of FAQs](#).
- Community events funded through the Indigenous harm reduction grants. Email HRgrants@fnha.ca to learn more.
- Honouring Our Loved Ones is a [digital space](#) to honour and share stories (video, photos, artwork or audio recording) to remember the loved ones we've lost to the toxic drug supply crisis.
- The **Courageous Conversations** tool kit is being developed to support ongoing community conversations about harm reduction, substance use and stigma.

Region-specific Programs & Initiatives:

- 'Finding Indigenous Solutions to Health' (F.I.S.H) Soup Initiative is grounded in culture, builds healthy families, and empowers communities through awareness, literacy, workshops, resource development and other supports.
- 'Addictions Specialist Lead Wellness' Initiatives support outside-the-box, culturally-grounded, urgent and immediate responses.
- Enhanced systems support to connect First Nations communities, individuals and families into available services such as OAT, Managed Alcohol Programs (MAP), stabilization, detox, treatment and other specialized services.
- Community-specific program and service development to empower community to build their own specific supports for family wellness, trauma, prevention and healing.
- Partnership development with service providers to support urban and away-from-home populations.
- Literacy and resource development at request of and in partnership with community to support front-line service providers and community citizens to connect into service provider processes.
- Land-based healing projects in collaboration with communities to support community-driven initiatives and address population-specific needs for women, youth, those living away from home and unsheltered populations.

REGIONAL WELLNESS AND CULTURAL SUPPORTS

Navigation of services includes access to treatment, harm reduction, counselling and/or traditional wellness.

Regional Addictions Programs Specialist

Sierra.Kortenbach@fnha.ca

Regional Addictions Specialist

Leah.Brody@fnha.ca

Harm Reduction Educator

Tracey.Jirak@fnha.ca

Harm Reduction Educator

Mehrdad.Ghafouri@fnha.ca

Wellness System Navigators assist individuals to navigate the health care system, connect to and access services, and link with appropriate health, wellness and social services.

Senior Wellness & Systems Navigation

Nardia.Brown@fnha.ca

Emotional and Cultural Support

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

