

TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS AND EVENTS FRASER SALISH REGION

JANUARY - JUNE 2023



TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS

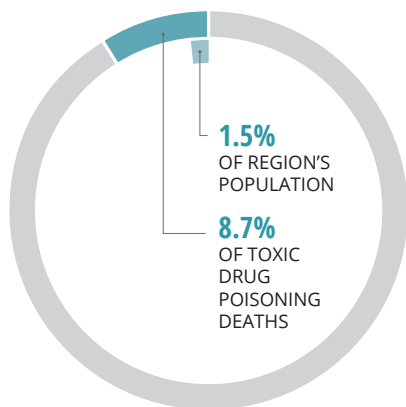
NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DIED
OF TOXIC DRUG POISONING



30

 EQUALS
10 DEATHS

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE ARE
DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED
IN TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS



TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

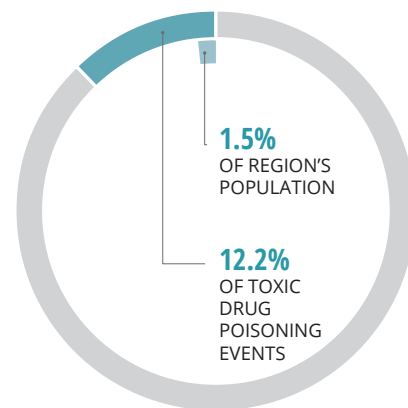
NUMBER OF
TOXIC DRUG
POISONING
EVENTS ATTENDED
BY PARAMEDICS

221

19.3↓

PERCENTAGE
DECREASE COMPARED
TO 2022 (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.



RESPONDING TO AND HEALING FROM TOXIC DRUG SUPPLY POISONING

FRASER SALISH REGION JANUARY - JUNE 2023

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE FNHA TO SAVE LIVES AND SUPPORT HEALING

Province-wide Initiatives:

- The FNHA is in a Level 2 Emergency response structure to the Toxic Drug Emergency.
- First Nations harm reduction grants funded 106 community-based events, harm reduction positions and projects. Email HRgrants@fnha.ca to learn more.
- Harm Reduction Hub provides community workers and health care 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 (email harmreduction@fnha.ca for access).
- **Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT)** is a medical harm reduction tool to help people through withdrawal from opioids (email harmreduction@fnha.ca to learn more).
- The FNHA dispenses **injectable and nasal naloxone** to individuals and communities. *Not Just Naloxone* training is provided in workshops to learn how to use naloxone within a wholistic, decolonizing context.
- Courageous Conversations webinar series and events to start conversations around substance use and harm reduction. The FNHA also launched the *Courageous Conversations on Substance Use Toolkit* and *Healing Indigenous Hearts Facilitator Guidebook*.
- The FNHA continues to offer the **First Nations Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service**, connecting psychiatrists and addictions specialists with First Nations people and their family members for culturally safe care planning, treatment and healing.

Region-specific Programs & Initiatives:

- Finding Indigenous Solutions to Health (FISH) 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

Regional Wellness Lead

Nadine.Mross@fnha.ca

Traditional Wellness Coordinator

Jody.Jones@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

Children, Youth and Families

Helena.Visona@fnha.ca

Kegan.Madeira@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.