

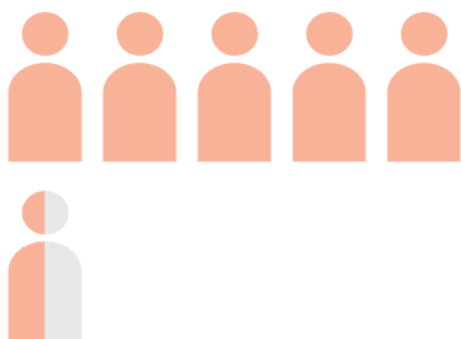
TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS AND EVENTS VANCOUVER COASTAL REGION

JANUARY - JUNE 2021

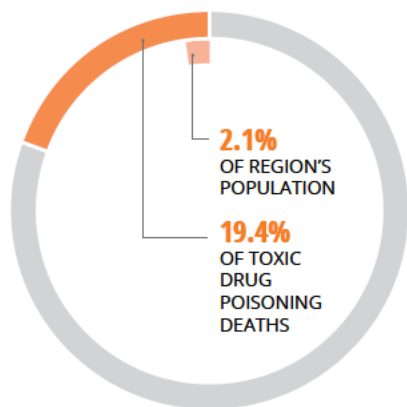


TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DIED
OF TOXIC DRUG POISONING



FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE ARE
DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED
IN TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS



TOXIC DRUG POISONING EVENTS

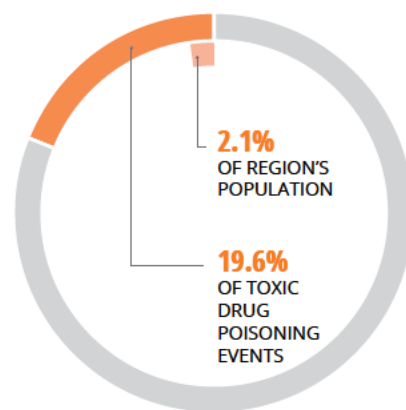
NUMBER OF
TOXIC DRUG
POISONING
EVENTS ATTENDED
BY PARAMEDICS

447

24.9↑

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
- 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.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY FNHA TO PREVENT TOXIC DRUG POISONING DEATHS IN VANCOUVER COASTAL REGION

JANUARY - JULY 2021

The Vancouver Coastal Region's Mental Health and Wellness team collaborates with local health partners to promote health, wellness, safety and healing for all Indigenous people living in the 14 First Nations communities and urban areas in the region.

ADDICTIONS SUPPORT AND TREATMENT SERVICES

For support with addictions and treatment, contact

Sean O'Donaghey

Sean.ODonaghey@fnha.ca

Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) and Nurse Prescribing: Increased access to OAT by supporting the development of community initiatives in Tla'amin and Nuxalk First Nations.

Urban and Away-From-Home Funding Initiatives: Worked in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health to develop and collaborate on programs that provide culturally safe and trauma-informed spaces for Indigenous people who use substances.

- **Culture Saves Lives** – offers inclusive cultural support through a harm reduction lens
- **Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society** – provides a culturally-safe episodic overdose prevention site
- **Kilala Lelum Health Centre** – offers wholistic care of Indigenous people in partnership with Elders, physicians, primary care services, cultural programming and provides healthy foods
- **Community Managed Alcohol Program** – a peer-driven program providing a harm reduction approach to alcohol use disorder
- **TORO SRO Collaborative** – provides cultural supports, peer-driven harm reduction education, and harm reduction supplies
- **St. Paul's Hospital Peer Support Program** – expert staff offer support between patients and health care providers within the hospital's Indigenous Wellness Program

Transitioning to Treatment: Supported individuals transitioning to recovery houses, programs accepting OAT patient, residential treatment centres, non-FNHA funded programs. Also supported people in receiving funding subsidies.

Providing an Indigenous Lens to Overdose Response Work: Participated in over 200 working group meetings focused on improving the substance use system of care ranging from community-driven responses to strategic planning at regional and provincial levels.

INDIGENOUS HARM REDUCTION

For support related to harm reduction, contact

Leah Brody

Leah.Brody@fnha.ca

Angel Gunn

Angel.Gunn@fnha.ca

Education and Training: Offered a variety of customized workshops and information sessions:

- Naloxone training and train-the-trainer workshops
- OAT workshops
- *Re-energizing Wellness* workshops about the importance of wholistic wellness and having courageous conversations
- *Understanding Managed Alcohol Programs* information sessions
- *Two-Eyed Approach to Trauma-Informed Care* workshops
- Education and training provided in Shishalh, Tla'amin, Squamish, and Nuxalk First Nations

South Coast Sub-Regional Peer Coordinator Program: Worked in partnership with the Community Wellness Coordinator from Canadian Mental Health Association and our South Coast Sub-Region to create the Circle of Peers, which provides:

- Bi-weekly social support sessions and virtual education sessions
- Skill-development – topics covered include grief and loss, non-violent communication, uses of traditional plant medicines, and much more.