



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

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

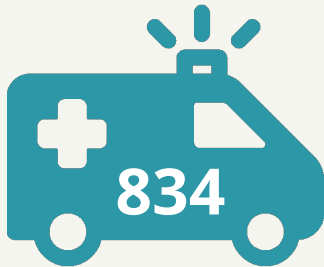


Colonization and intergenerational trauma have negatively impacted First Nations' health, including increased harms caused by toxic drug poisoning. Note that the data presented here is sensitive in nature and represents individuals, their families, and loved ones.

Toxic Drug Poisoning Events

Provincial comparison

Between 2018 and 2022:



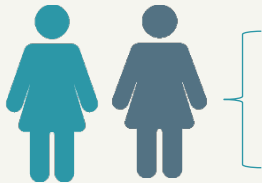
Fraser Salish First Nations youth experienced 834 paramedic-attended toxic drug events out of a total of 4,412 events among BC First Nations youth

36.7%

Fraser Salish First Nations youth experienced over a third (36.7 per cent) of toxic drug events among First Nations people in the region

Comparison to other residents in Fraser Salish Region

In 2022:

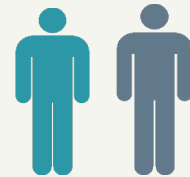


9x

The rate of toxic drug events among First Nations female youth was 9 times higher than other resident female youth

The rate of toxic drug events among First Nations male youth was 11 times higher than other resident male youth

11x

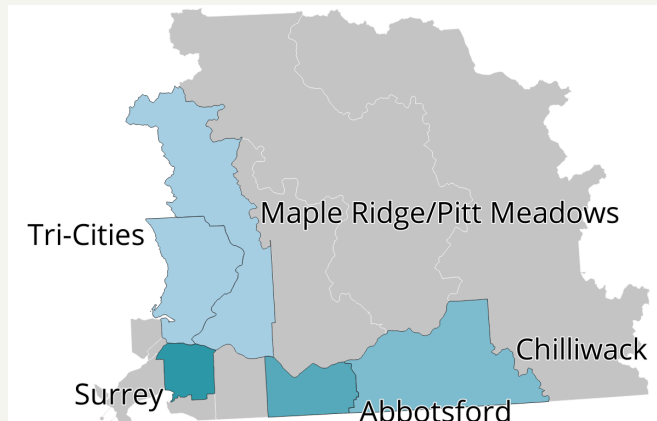


Geography

Between 2018 and 2022:

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

- Surrey = 235
- Abbotsford = 172
- Chilliwack = 109
- Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows = 70
- Tri-Cities = 65





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Toxic Drug Poisoning Deaths

Provincial comparison

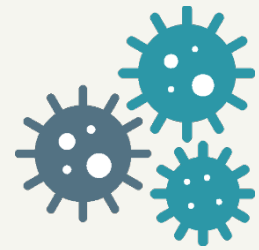
Between 2017 and 2022:



Fraser Salish First Nations youth experienced 68 toxic drug deaths, out of a total of 318 deaths among BC First Nations youth

9.5%

Fraser Salish First Nations youth made up 9.5 per cent of the region's total youth deaths, even though they only make up 2 per cent of the Fraser Salish youth population



Fraser Salish First Nations youth experienced increased rates of drug poisoning deaths during the pandemic

Female youth in the Fraser Salish region

Between 2017 and 2022:



44%

First Nations female youth made up 44 per cent of First Nations youth toxic drug deaths in Fraser Salish



30

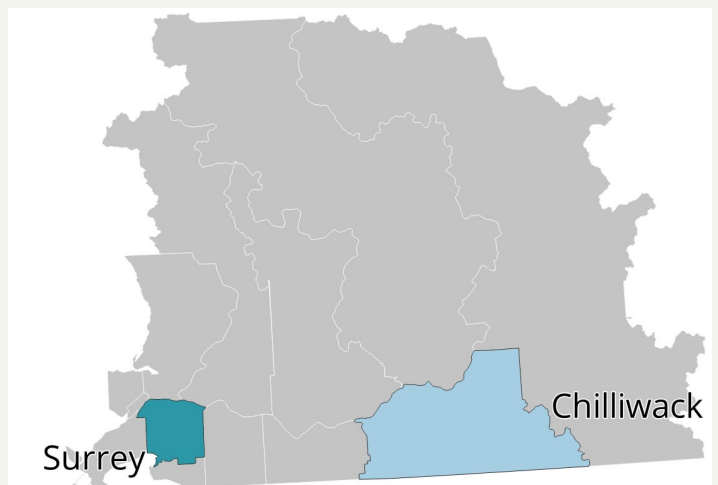
First Nations female youth experienced 30 toxic drug deaths in Fraser Salish (116 per 100,000 First Nations female youth)

Geography

Between 2017 and 2022:

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

- Surrey = 20
- Chilliwack = 11

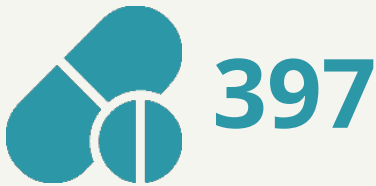




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Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)



There were an estimated 397 First Nations youth who had healthcare interactions* coded as being related to OUD in 2021



The percent of 20 to 24-year-olds who might have OUD based on related health care interactions gradually increased to 5.6 per cent in 2021 from 4 per cent in 2017



The number of First Nations youth who might have OUD in 2021, based on related health care interactions was highest in:

- Surrey = 116
- Chilliwack = 60
- Abbotsford = 39
- Tri-Cities = 33
- Burnaby = 33

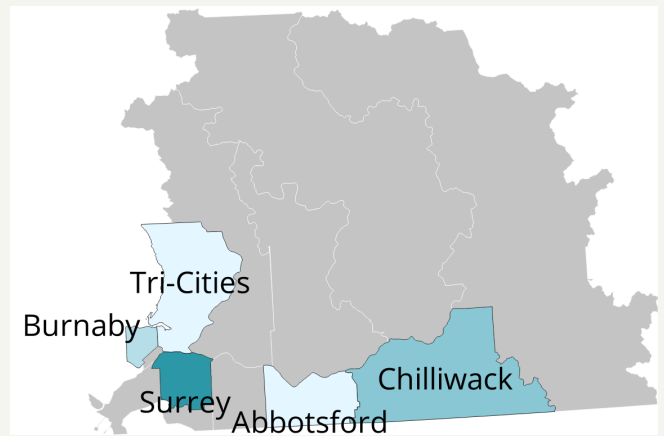
Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD)



There were an estimated 903 First Nations youth who had healthcare interactions coded as being related to AUD in 2021



The percent of 20 to 24-year-olds who might have AUD based on related health care interactions slightly increased to 12.6 per cent in 2021 from 11.9 per cent in 2017



The number of First Nations youth who might have AUD in 2021, based on related health care interactions was highest in:

- Surrey = 224
- Chilliwack = 160
- Burnaby = 101
- Abbotsford = 80
- Tri-Cities = 61

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



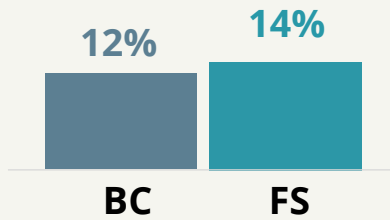
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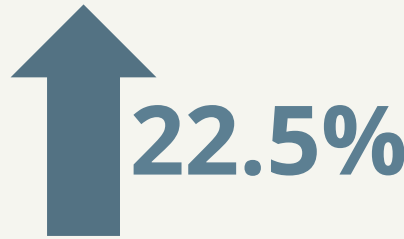
Mental Health and Hospital Service use

Depression, Mood and Anxiety disorders and health service use are examined due to their relationship with substance use.

Depression



14 per cent of First Nations youth in Fraser Salish region were treated for depression, compared to 12 per cent of First Nations youth in BC in 2020/21

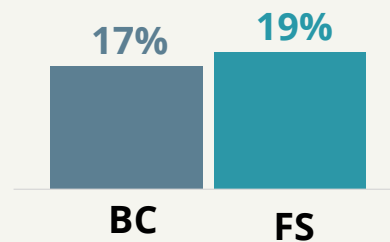


Between 2017 and 2020/2021 the number of First Nations youth dealing with depression increased by 22.5%

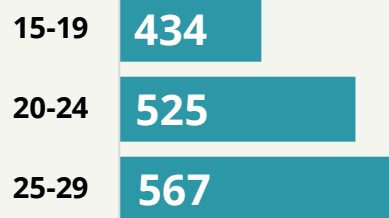


First Nations female youth were treated for depression 2.1 times more than First Nations male youth in 2020/21

Mood and Anxiety Disorder



19 per cent of First Nations youth in Fraser Salish were treated for Mood and Anxiety Disorder, compared to 17 per cent of First Nations youth in BC in 2020/21



Total cases of Mood and Anxiety Disorder were 1,526 in 2020/2021 (age breakdown shown above), an increase from 1,298 in 2017



First Nations female youth were treated for Mood and Anxiety Disorder 2.1 times as more than First Nations male youth in 2020/21

Emergency departments (ED) and hospitalization use for Mental Health

For First Nations youth in the Fraser Salish region in 2020/2021:

499

499 First Nations youth used EDs for mental health-related reasons



There were slightly more First Nations female youth that were treated in the ED for mental health-related reasons than First Nations male youth

28

There were 28 self-harm related hospitalizations