



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

Toxic Drug Poisoning Trends among First Nations Youth (aged 15-29) Interior 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:



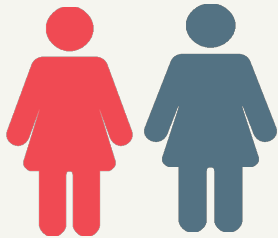
Interior First Nations youth experienced 670 paramedic-attended toxic drug events out of a total 4,412 events among BC First Nations youth

37%

Interior First Nations youth experienced over a third (37 per cent) of toxic drug events among First Nations people in the region

Comparison to other residents in Interior Region

In 2022:

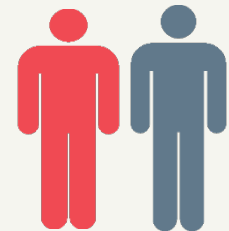


5.6x

The rate of toxic drug events among First Nations female youth was 5.6 times higher than other resident female youth

The rate of toxic drug events among First Nations male youth was 3.8 times higher than other resident male youth

3.8x

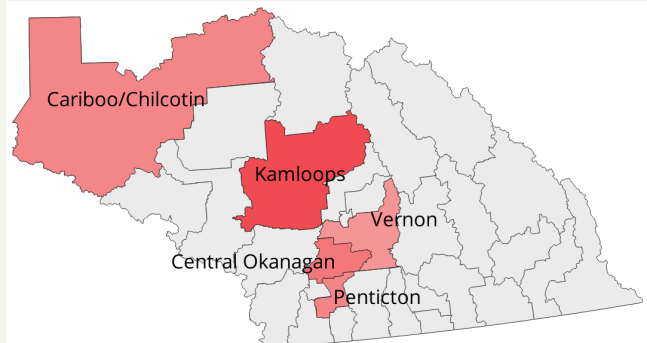


Geography

Between 2018 and 2022:

The highest number of toxic drug events among First Nations youth in Interior region was reported in:

- Kamloops = 259
- Central Okanagan = 142
- Penticton = 68
- Cariboo / Chilcotin = 62
- Vernon = 48





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Toxic Drug Poisoning Deaths

Provincial comparison

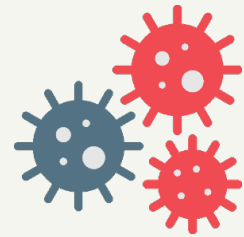
Between 2017 and 2022:



Interior First Nations youth experienced 54 toxic drug deaths, out of a total 318 among BC First Nations youth



Interior First Nations youth made up 16.5 per cent of the region's total youth deaths, even though they only make up 6 per cent of the Interior youth population



Interior First Nations youth experienced increased rates of toxic drug deaths during the pandemic

Female youth in the Interior region

Between 2017 and 2022:



First Nations female youth made up 37 per cent of First Nations youth toxic drug deaths in Interior



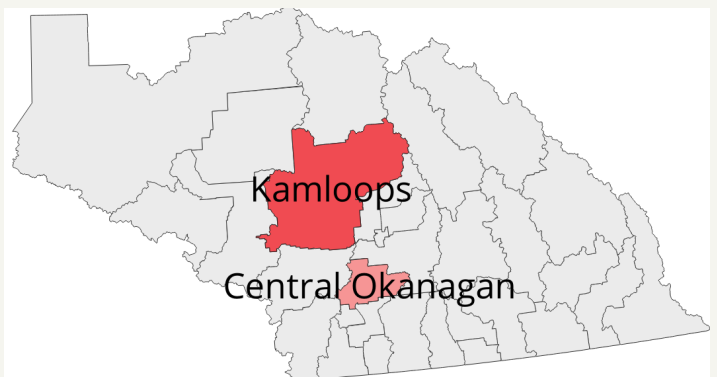
First Nations female youth experienced 20 toxic drug deaths in Interior (71 per 100,000 First Nations female youth)

Geography

Between 2017 and 2022:

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

- Kamloops = 21
- Central Okanagan = unable to share the specific number to prevent identification.

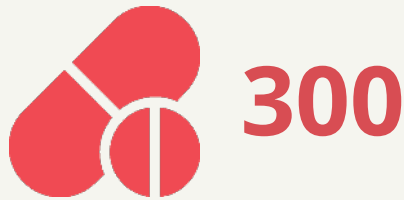




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Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)



There were an estimated 300 First Nations youth who had healthcare interactions* coded as being related to OUD in 2021



The percent of 25 to 29-year-olds who might have OUD based on related health care interactions gradually increased to 6.7 per cent in 2021 from 4.5 per cent in 2017

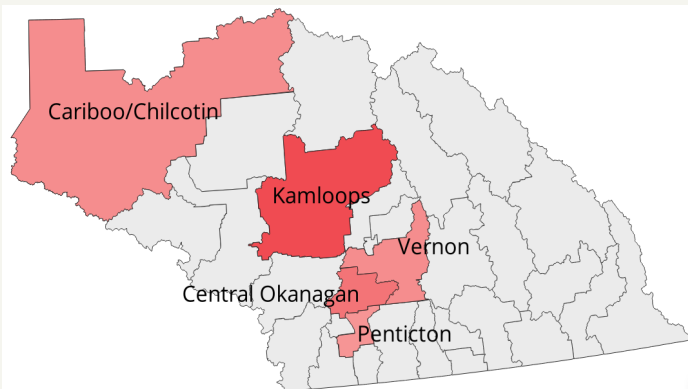
Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD)



There were an estimated 666 First Nations youth who had healthcare interactions coded as being related to AUD in 2021

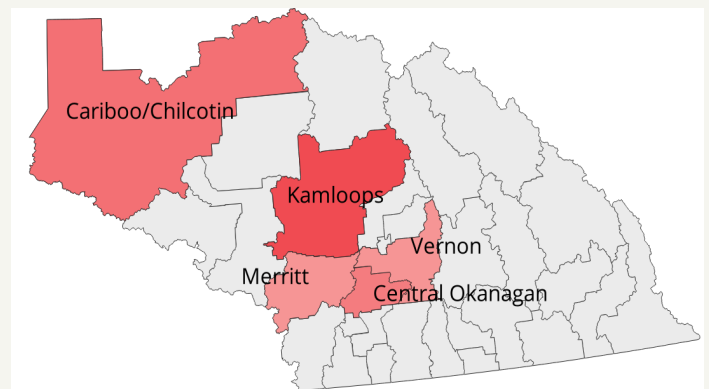


The percent of 20 to 29-year-olds who might have AUD based on related health care interactions gradually declined to 9.8 per cent in 2021 from 11.3 per cent in 2017



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

- Kamloops = 108
- Central Okanagan = 58
- Vernon = 28
- Cariboo / Chilcotin = 22
- Penticton = 17



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

- Kamloops = 166
- Cariboo / Chilcotin = 106
- Central Okanagan = 87
- Vernon = 46
- Merritt = 45

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



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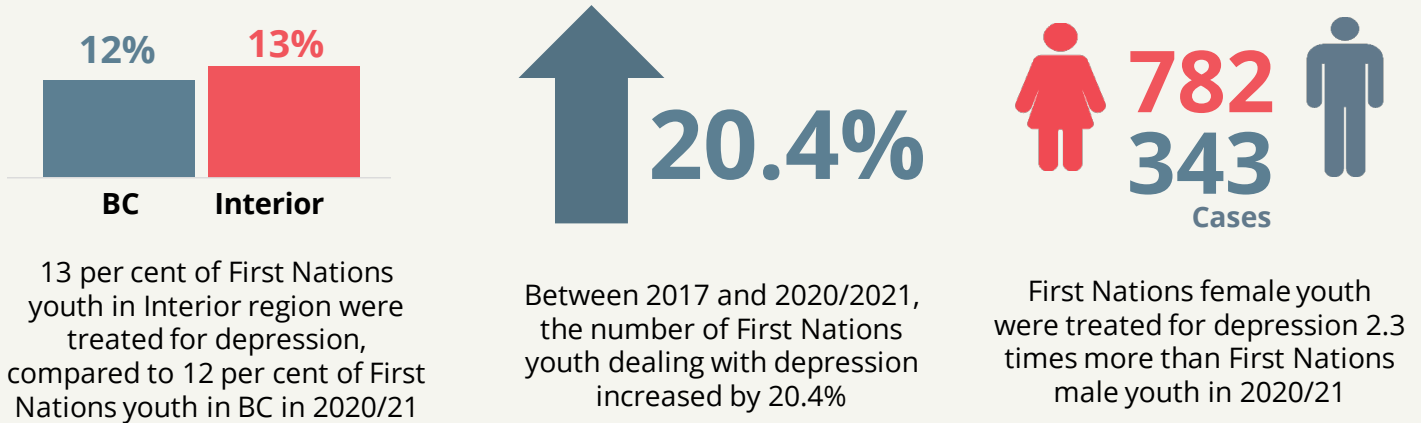
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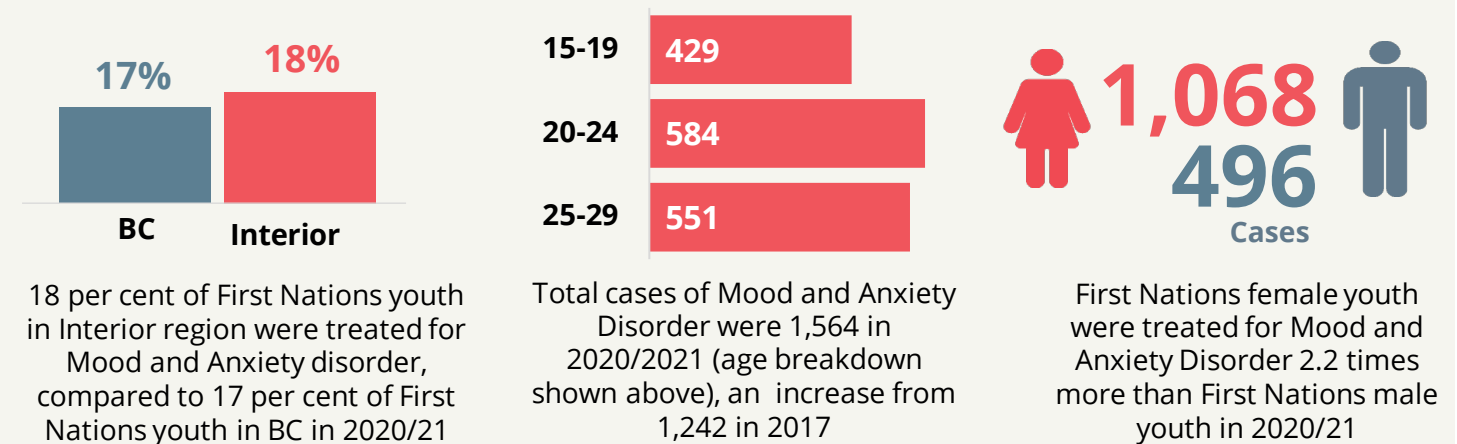
Mental Health and Hospital Service use

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

Depression



Mood and Anxiety Disorder



Emergency departments (ED) and hospitalization use for Mental Health

For First Nations youth in the Interior region in 2020/2021:

