



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

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

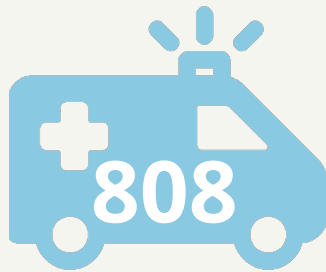


Colonization and intergenerational trauma have negatively impacted First Nations' health, including increased harms caused by toxic drug poisoning. Note that the data presented here is sensitive in nature and represents individuals, their families, and loved ones.

Toxic Drug Poisoning Events

Provincial comparison

Between 2018 and 2022:



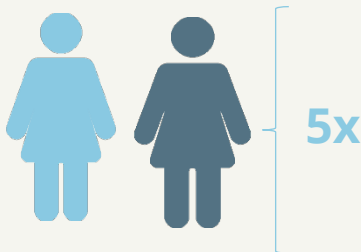
Northern First Nations youth experienced 808 paramedic-attended toxic drug events out of a total 4,412 events among BC First Nations youth

34.7%

Northern First Nations youth experienced over a third (34.7 per cent) of toxic drug events among First Nations people in the region

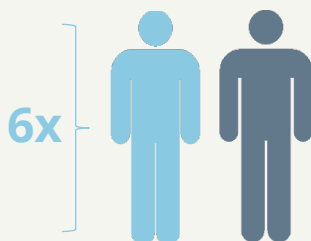
Comparison to other residents in Northern Region

In 2022:



The rate of toxic drug events among First Nations female youth was 5 times higher than other resident female youth

The rate of toxic drug events among First Nations male youth was 6 times higher than other resident male youth

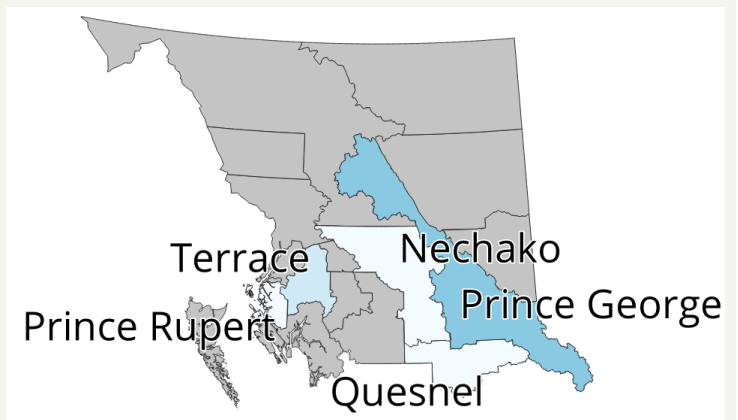


Geography

Between 2018 and 2022:

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

- Prince George = 373
- Terrace = 170
- Quesnel = 49
- Prince Rupert = 37
- Nechako = 36





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Toxic Drug Poisoning Deaths

Provincial comparison

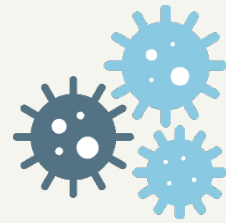
Between 2017 and 2022:



Northern First Nations youth experienced 55 toxic drug deaths, out of a total 318 among BC First Nations youth

41.7%

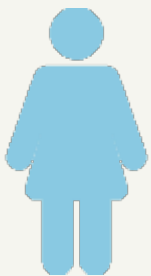
Northern First Nations youth made up 41.7 per cent of the region's total youth deaths, even though they only make up 17 per cent of the Northern youth population



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

Female youth in the Northern region

Between 2017 and 2022:



49%

First Nations female youth made up 49 per cent of First Nations youth toxic drug deaths in Northern



27

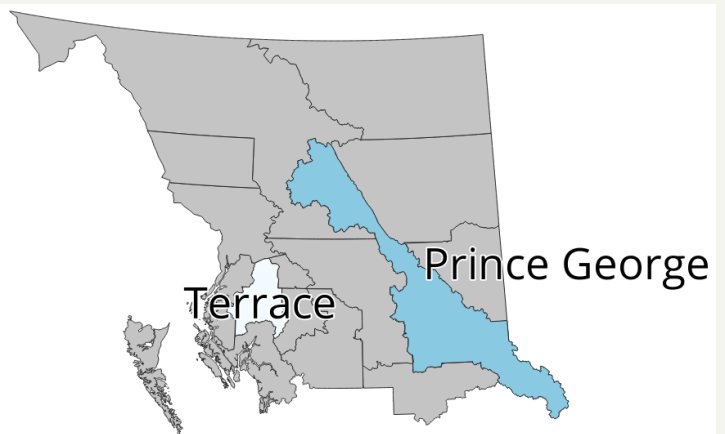
First Nations female youth experienced 27 toxic drug deaths in Northern (82 deaths per 100,000)

Geography

Between 2017 and 2022:

The highest number of toxic drug deaths among First Nation youth in Northern was reported in:

- Prince George = 13
- Terrace = 12

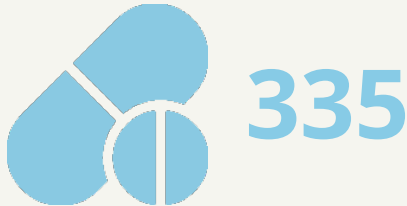




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Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)



There were an estimated 335 First Nations youth who had healthcare interactions* coded as being related to OUD in 2021



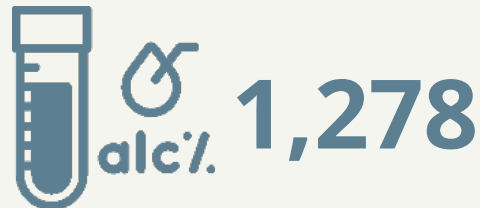
The per cent of 20 to 24-year-olds who might have OUD based on related health care interactions increased to 3.1 per cent in 2021 from 2 per cent in 2017



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

- Prince George = 147
- Nechako = 34

Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD)



There were an estimated 1,278 First Nations youth who had health care interactions coded as being related to AUD in 2021



The per cent of 20 to 24-year-olds who might have AUD based on related health care interactions gradually decreased to 12 per cent in 2021 from 13.7 per cent in 2017



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

- Prince George = 327
- Prince Rupert = 185
- Terrace = 160
- Nechako = 95
- Burns Lake = 69

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



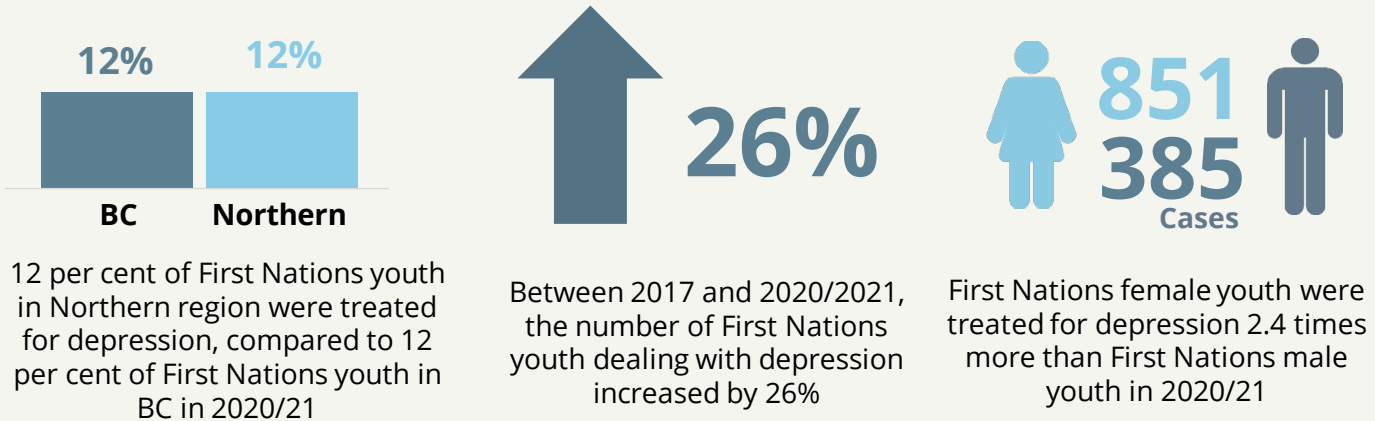
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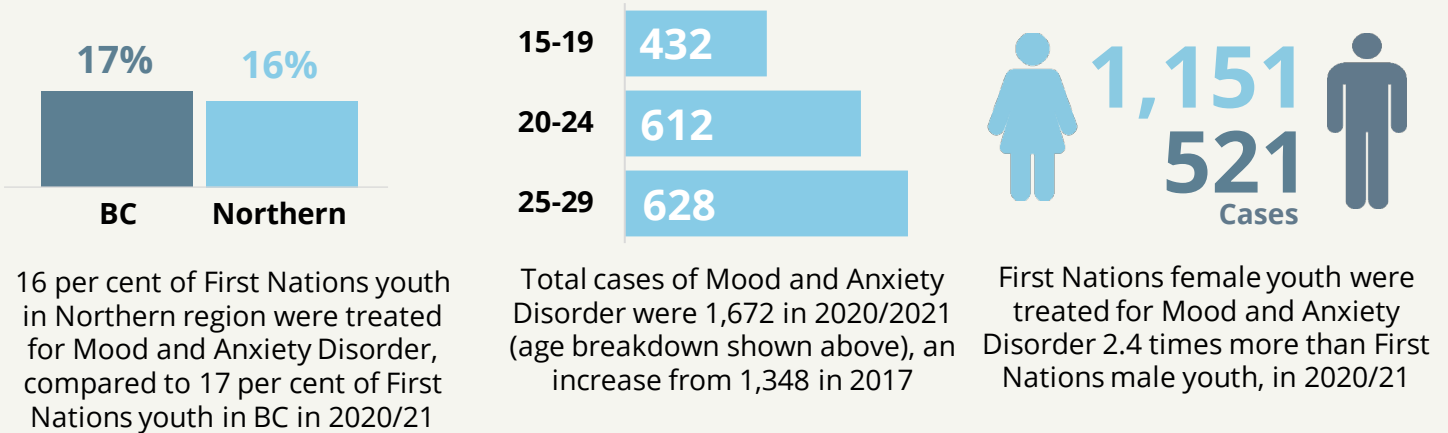
Mental Health and Hospital Service use

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 Northern region in 2020/2021:

