

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths

Description of Measure	The rate of illicit drug overdose deaths
Definitions	<p>Case Definition: Illicit drug overdose deaths reported by the BC Coroners Service (BCCS) include overdose deaths involving street drugs (heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, illicit fentanyl etc.), medications that were not prescribed to the deceased, combinations of the above with prescribed medications, and those overdoses where the origin of drug is not known. Both open and closed cases are included.</p> <p>Geography: Geography is assigned based on the availability of place of injury, or if missing, place of death. Depending on the report, the indicator may be available for the province, by Health Authority, Health Service Delivery Location, or Local Health Area. A small percentage of deaths do not have sufficient location information to assign any LHA, so only appear in BC counts.</p> <p>Frequency: This indicator is based on calendar year months and refreshed monthly.</p> <p>Lag: Data from BC Coroners Service typically becomes available 6 weeks after the end of the month.</p> <p>Format: Available as aggregate numbers by geography, month, sex, and age group.</p>
Data Source (s)	BC Coroners Service
Caveats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BCCS operates in a live database environment. Some data for more recent years is based on preliminary circumstances and is subject to change as investigations are concluded. • Date of death used where date of injury is unknown. • Rates are provided per 100,000 population • BC population estimates for previous years were taken from: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/people-population-community/population/population-estimates • Current year population projections were taken from: http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/people-population-community/population/population-projections