

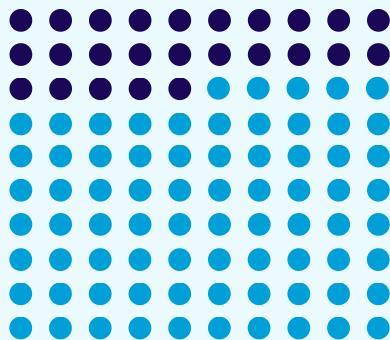
Who is in the BC Provincial Overdose Cohort?

January 2026

BC's Provincial Overdose Cohort (BC-ODC) represents people who were identified as having an unregulated drug poisoning event (i.e. overdose) between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2023, and who had linked demographic data available in BC's administrative health datasets.

66,229 people experienced a drug poisoning event from 2015-2023

From January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2023...



16,271 people
(24.5%)
had a fatal drug
poisoning event

49,958 people
(75%) had a non-
fatal drug
poisoning event

The BC-ODC undercounts non-fatal drug poisoning events. Some non-fatal drug poisoning events happen in community with no contact from health care, so the BC-ODC cannot capture these.

**Many people experienced
multiple drug poisoning events**



**1 in 3 people
who had a drug
poisoning event**

(36%) have had multiple
drug poisoning events.



**1 in 3 people
who died of a drug
poisoning**

(35%) had a non-fatal
drug overdose event
prior to their death.

Men and 19-39 year olds are over-represented in drug poisoning events

■ % of people who experienced a drug poisoning ■ % of BC Population (Population data extracted from BC Stats for 2023 via Population Estimates)

Sex



Age



Visit the [BC-ODC website](#) for more information and findings from research using the BC-ODC.