Opioid Overdose Crisis Update

Dr. Patricia Daly
Chief Medical Health Officer
January 30, 2019
BC Overdose Deaths 1992 – Nov. 30, 2018

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths and Death Rate per 100,000 Population [2,5]

 Deaths | Rate |
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Deaths:
- 1992: 162
- 1993: 354
- 1994: 308
- 1995: 217
- 1996: 301
- 1997: 400
- 1998: 272
- 1999: 236
- 2000: 236
- 2001: 172
- 2002: 190
- 2003: 183
- 2004: 230
- 2005: 229
- 2006: 202
- 2007: 183
- 2008: 201
- 2009: 211
- 2010: 294
- 2011: 270
- 2012: 336
- 2013: 526
- 2014: 993
- 2015: 1486
- 2016: 1380

Death Rate per 100,000 Population:
- 1992: 4.7
- 1993: 9.9
- 1994: 8.4
- 1995: 5.7
- 1996: 7.8
- 1997: 7.6
- 1998: 10.0
- 1999: 6.8
- 2000: 5.8
- 2001: 5.8
- 2002: 4.2
- 2003: 4.6
- 2004: 4.4
- 2005: 5.5
- 2006: 5.4
- 2007: 4.7
- 2008: 4.2
- 2009: 4.6
- 2010: 4.7
- 2011: 6.5
- 2012: 5.9
- 2013: 7.3
- 2014: 7.9
- 2015: 11.2
- 2016: 20.9
- 2017: 30.9
- 2018: 30.9
Drug Overdose Deaths and Rates
Vancouver Coastal Health 2008 – Nov. 2018
Vancouver Coastal Deaths (Jan. 2016 - Nov. 2018)

Gender
- Female: 20%
- Male: 80%

Fentanyl
- Not Detected: 16%
- Detected: 84%

Age
- 10-18 yrs: 1%
- 19-29 yrs: 17%
- 30-39 yrs: 23%
- 40-49 yrs: 24%
- 50-59 yrs: 25%
- 60+ yrs: 11%

Fentanyl detection Jan.-Sept. 2018
Drug Overdose - Location of Death

### Vancouver Coastal

- **Private residence**: 38%
- **Other residence**: 47% (Social/supportive housing, SROs, shelters, hotels)
- **Outside**: 11%
- **Other inside**: 3%

### Other BC Regions

- **Private residence**: 69%
- **Other residence**: 14%
- **Outside**: 12%
- **Other inside**: 4%
Life Expectancy Decline in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) - Impact of Overdose Deaths

- Life expectancy for men in the DTES has dropped by 4 years
- **17 year gap** compared to men on the Westside of Vancouver
- **11.5 year gap** between men and women in DTES

• People dying of overdoses in VCH are more disadvantaged than in the rest of BC
  • 72% unemployed (versus 51% for BC deaths)
  • 34% lived in social housing (versus 13% for BC deaths)
• 10% Aboriginal people (similar to BC deaths)
• Most people dying are known to the health care system
  • 88% had contact with health services prior to death (21% within one week of death)
  • Emergency department most common site of contact
• Most people (75%) who used opioids daily had been offered treatment, but were not retained in care
Chart Review – VCH Opioid Overdose Deaths 2017

• Most people who died consumed drugs daily
  • 39% daily opioids
  • 44% daily alcohol, stimulants, other drugs

• People with alcohol or stimulant use disorder are dying of opioid overdoses
Overdose Prevention Sites

• 8 locations in Vancouver: 7 in the DTES and at St. Paul’s Hospital
• Many “HOPS”: Housing Overdose Prevention Services in supported housing
Opioid Agonist Therapy - OAT (e.g. Suboxone™ or Methadone) is protective against overdose death.
Other VCH Initiatives

• **Drug Checking Services**
  • Identifies drug composition

• **VCH Overdose Outreach Team**
  • Connects people to care
  • Takes referrals from Emergency Departments, police, fire department

• **BOOST Collaborative**
  • Improving retention on treatment for those with opioid addiction in VCH primary care clinics
Recommendations – 2019 Priorities

1. Establish a system of care for people with addictions
   – *Implement treatment standards, monitor outcomes*

2. Expand access and remove barriers to Opioid Agonist Therapy

3. Establish a safe, regulated supply of drugs
   – *Pilot underway to distribute oral Dilaudid™ pills*

4. Expand programs that can prevent addiction
   – *Focus on vulnerable youth, Aboriginal people, people living with physical pain*