

Inclusion Criteria: This report summarizes all deaths that occurred between January 1, 2012 and June 30, 2016 for which fentanyl was detected, whether alone or in combination with other drugs, and the death resulted from illicit drug use. In deaths occurring after November 1, 2015, 'fentanyl' includes acetyl fentanyl. In the majority of deaths, fentanyl was detected in combination with other drugs. Deaths were excluded if the decedent used their own fentanyl prescription or if the death was due to intentional self-harm.

This data has been compiled to better understand overall illicit drug overdose trends in British Columbia and to inform other agency public safety strategies. Please see the BC Coroners Service website for a summary of illicit drug overdose deaths:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/death-investigation/statistical-reports>.

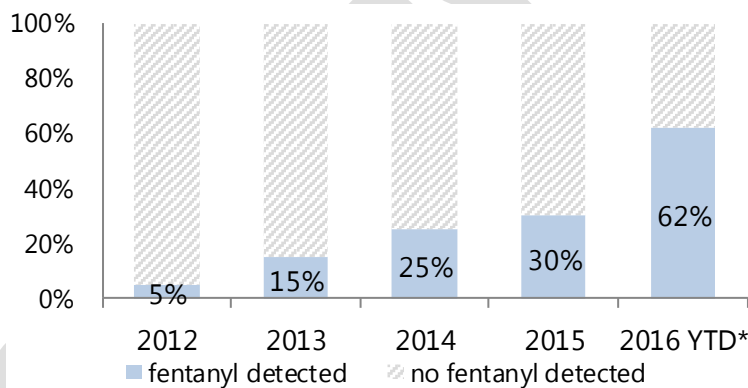
Caveats: The BCCS operates in a live database environment. Some data for more recent years is based on preliminary circumstances and is subject to change as investigations are concluded. Data are not directly comparable to published counts from previous years.

Summary:

- There were 238 illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected from January 2016 through June 2016. This is a 250% increase over the number of deaths (68) occurring during the same period in 2015.
- From 2013 – 2016, the Northern region consistently shows the highest percentage of apparent illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected. In 2016 (January through June), the breakdown is as follows:
 - Northern region: 75%
 - Island region: 71%
 - Fraser region: 60%
 - Interior region: 58%
 - Metro region: 58%
- The three townships with the most fentanyl-detected illicit drug overdoses from January 2012 – June 2016 are Vancouver, Surrey, and Nanaimo.

- A review of toxicological findings for 207 fentanyl-detected illicit drug overdose deaths in 2016 was conducted. In 96% of these deaths, at least one substance other than fentanyl was detected.¹ The four most frequently detected drugs were as follows:
 - cocaine (46% of deaths)
 - ethyl alcohol (36% of deaths)
 - methamphetamine (34% of deaths)
 - heroin (30% of deaths)

- Preliminary data for January 1 – June 30, 2016 suggest that the proportion of apparent illicit drug overdose deaths with fentanyl detected (alone or in combination with other drugs) increased to approximately 62% in 2016. Proportions in previous years were as follows:
 - 2012 = 5%
 - 2013 = 15%
 - 2014 = 25%
 - 2015 = 30%



Percentage of Illicit Drug Deaths in Which Fentanyl Detected, 2012-2016 YTD*

*Data to June 30th, 2016.

¹ Substances detected in toxicology testing may be illicit or licit, and are not necessarily relevant to death.

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Month

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 YTD*
January	-	5	5	20	40
February	-	3	5	8	29
March	-	5	9	8	47
April	1	8	8	13	47
May	1	3	8	8	34
June	1	2	6	11	41
Subtotal	3	26	41	68	238
July	-	1	3	14	
August	1	4	8	16	
September	2	2	9	15	
October	-	4	13	16	
November	4	6	6	12	
December	3	6	11	12	
Total	13	49	91	153	238

*Data to June 30th, 2016.

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Sex

Sex	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 YTD*
Female	2	8	21	26	48
Male	11	41	70	127	190
Total	13	49	91	153	238

*Data to June 30th, 2016.

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Age Group

Age Group	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 YTD*
10-19	-	3	2	5	10
20-29	3	17	26	39	62
30-39	2	10	33	46	76
40-49	6	12	19	29	49
50-59	2	5	7	25	33
60-69	-	2	4	9	7
70-79	-	-	-	-	1
Total	13	49	91	153	238

*Data to June 30th, 2016.

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Region					
Region	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 YTD*
Fraser	6	11	29	49	72
Metro	3	14	26	47	54
Island	1	14	17	22	54
Interior	2	3	9	21	37
Northern	1	7	10	14	21
Total	13	49	91	153	238

*Data to June 30th, 2016.

BC CORONERS SERVICE

Fentanyl-Detected Deaths by Township of Injury, 2012-2016 YTD*

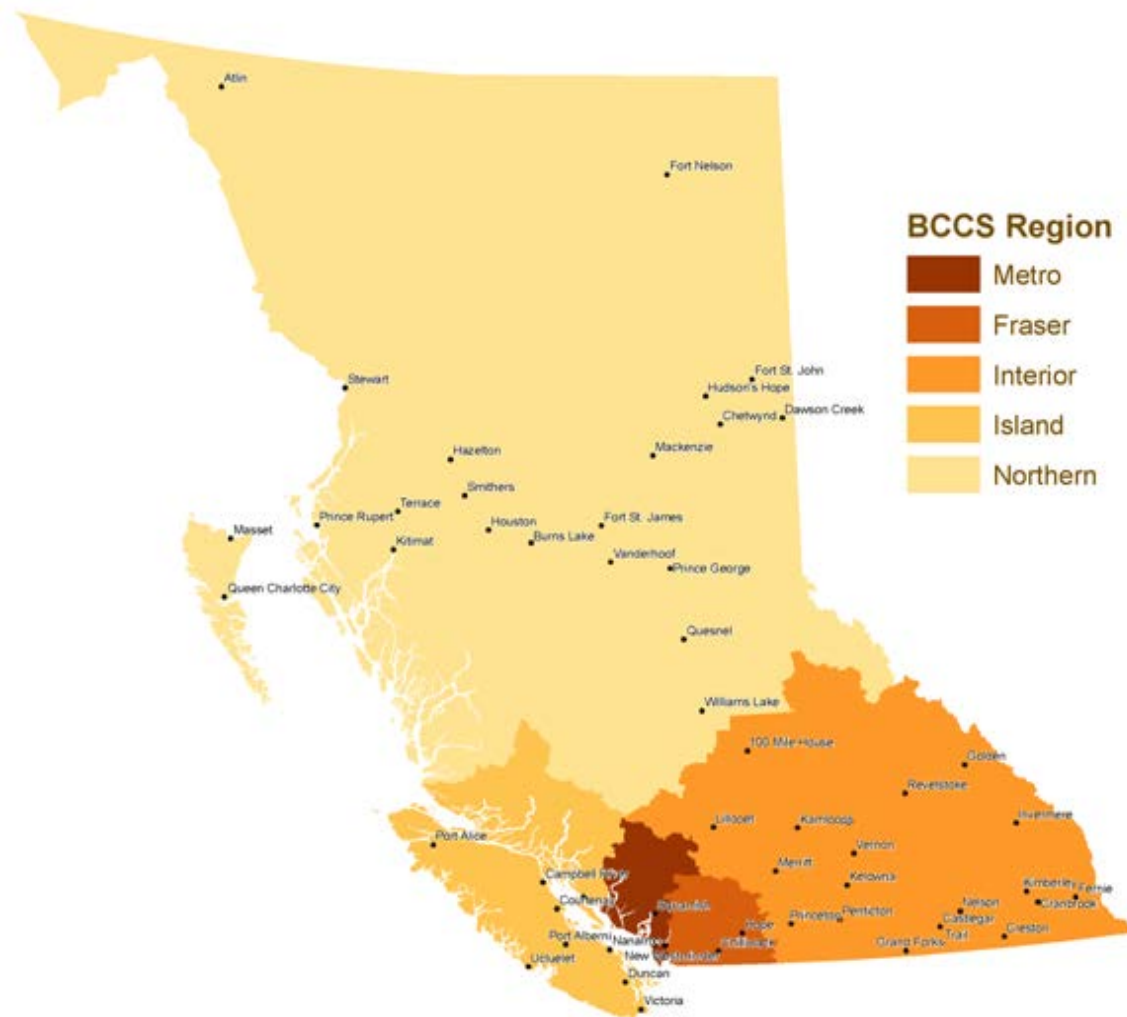
Township†	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 YTD*	Total
Vancouver	2	5	22	32	40	101
Surrey	3	4	8	11	24	50
Nanaimo	-	8	12	9	13	42
Maple Ridge	-	3	7	12	13	35
Victoria	-	3	2	8	21	34
Prince George	1	3	4	7	9	24
Langley	1	1	5	6	9	22
Kelowna	-	-	1	6	13	20
Abbotsford	-	1	1	6	10	18
Kamloops	-	1	2	3	12	18
Burnaby	-	2	-	6	8	16
Fort St. John	-	2	4	1	6	13
Coquitlam	-	-	4	4	4	12
North Vancouver	-	-	3	3	3	9
New Westminster	1	-	-	3	4	8
Pitt Meadows	-	-	2	2	2	6
West Kelowna	1	-	1	2	2	6
Campbell River	-	-	2	2	1	5
Delta ^α	1	2	-	2	-	5
Mission	-	2	-	2	1	5
Powell River	-	-	-	1	4	5
Richmond	-	-	-	3	2	5
Saanich	-	-	-	-	5	5
Vernon	-	-	1	2	2	5
Unknown township	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other township	3	12	10	20	29	74
Total	13	49	91	153	238	544

*Data to June 30th, 2016.

†Table only includes townships with five or more deaths from 2012-2016 YTD. All other townships are grouped under 'Other township'.

^αIncludes deaths in Ladner, North Delta, and Tsawwassen.

BC CORONERS SERVICE REGIONS



Northern Region: Includes the region north, east and west from 100 Mile House to all Provincial borders, and Haida Gwaii.

Metro Region: Sunshine Coast, Sea to Sky Corridor, North Shore, Vancouver, UBC, Burnaby, Richmond, and Delta.

Fraser Region: Includes Coquitlam and Surrey to the Coquihalla Highway summit, east to Manning Park and north to Jackass Mountain bordering Merritt.

Interior Region: Includes the region north to 100 Mile House and Blue River, east to the Alberta border, south to the USA border and west to the Manning Park gate, including Ashcroft, Lytton and Lillooet.

Island Region: All of Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, and Powell River.