



LEPH Oct 23, 2018

Drug Overdose and Alert Partnership (DOAP); interpreting and sharing timely illicit drug information to reduce harms



BC Centre for Disease Control
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Jane Buxton Harm reduction lead BCCDC

Bill Spearn VPD;

Margot Kuo, Jason Curran & Sara Young BCCDC

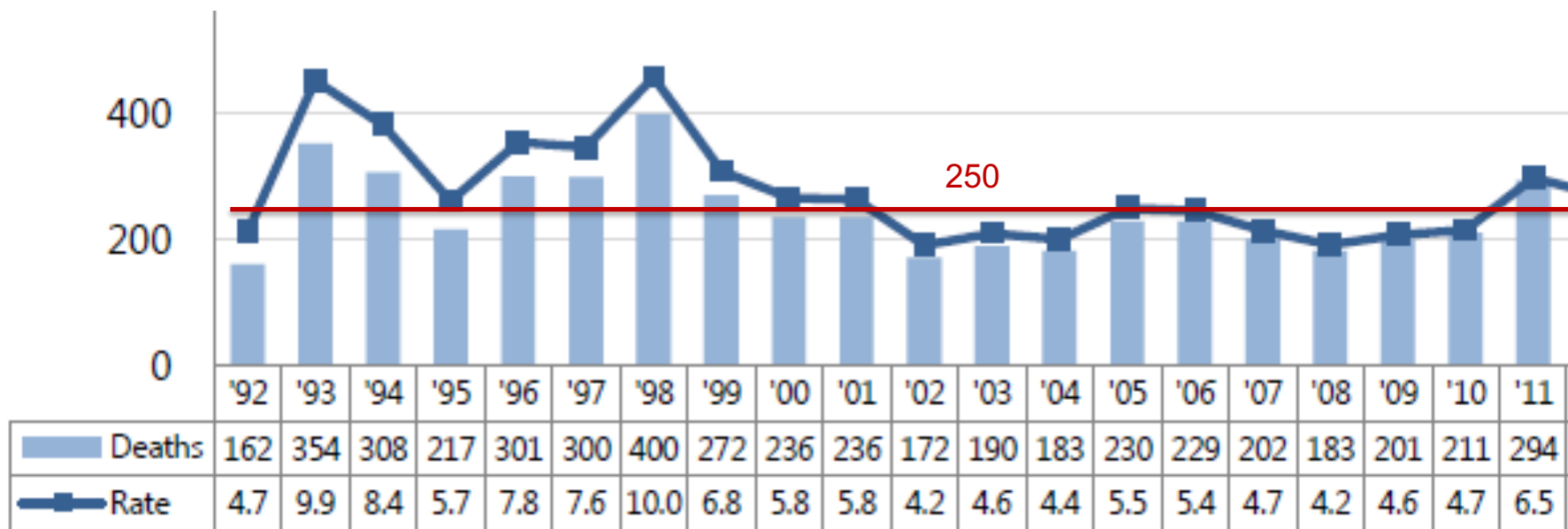
On behalf of DOAP



Overview

- Formation and membership of DOAP
- Sharing data and concerns online
- Collaborations: MMDA, alerts, posters
- Share laboratory data
 - Drug Analysis Lab (enforcement)
 - Stat analysis – as requested
 - Samples for prosecution – quarterly, now monthly line list
 - Lifelabs - urinalysis

Illicit drug overdose deaths (IDD) and death rate/100,000 population BC



Source BCCS: Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths in BC, Posted May 10, 2018

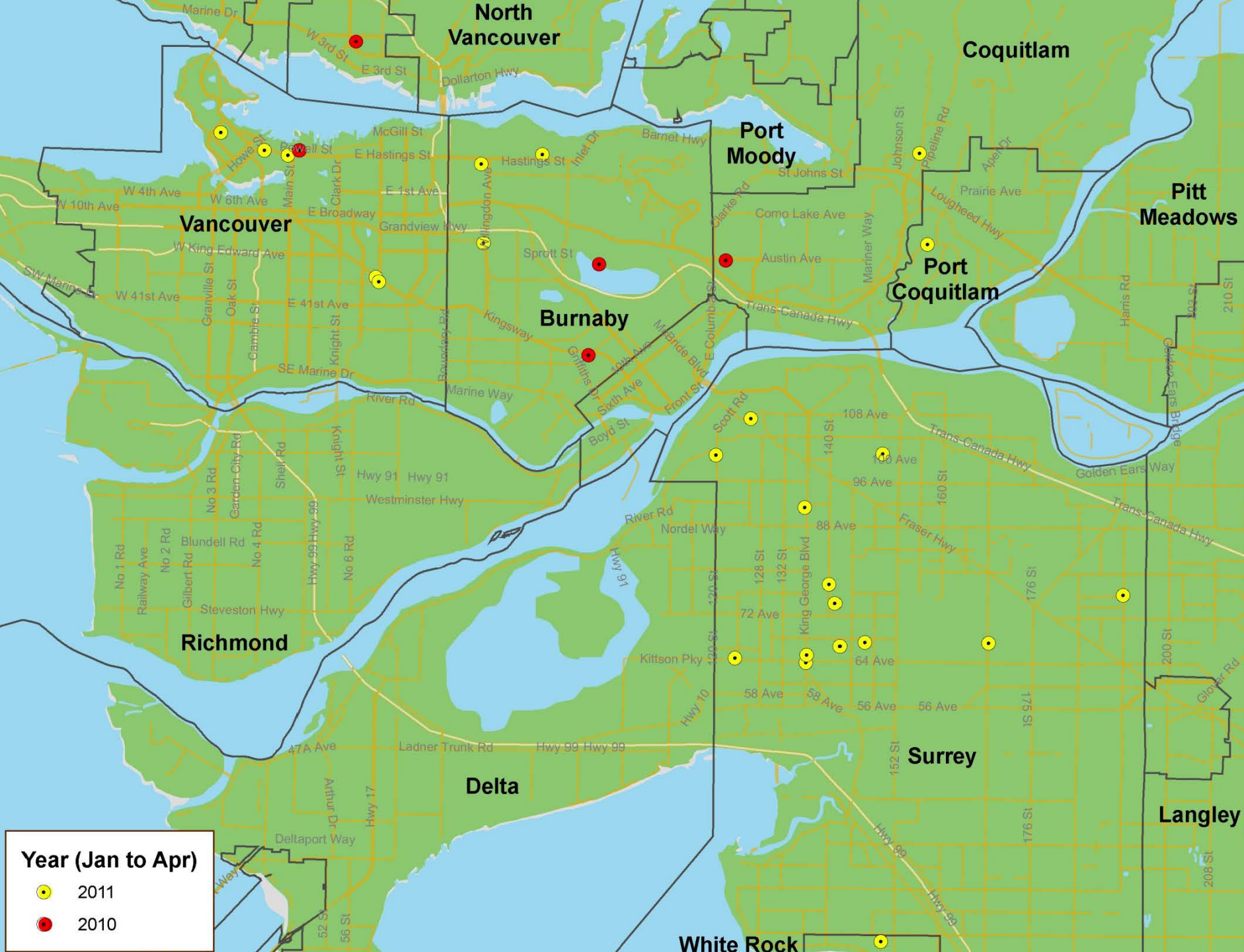
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/death-investigation/statistical/illicit-drug.pdf>

May 5, 2011, BC Coroners warning:

“A recent spike in the number of heroin-related fatalities in the **Lower Mainland** has prompted the BC Coroners Service to issue this public safety warning that **‘higher potency heroin’** is circulating in the province”

People who use drugs and service providers assumed was Vancouver DTES. In fact was adjacent region; RCMP confirmed heroin on the street was at 50% (normally 20%)

What happens when we announce strong or potent heroin is available?



Year (Jan to Apr)

- 2011
- 2010

What we learned about the messaging:

- Need to engage service providers & people who use drugs (PWUD) in development and dissemination of messaging
- Develop alert fan out by e-mail
- Face to face communication/collaboration of stakeholders enables interpretation and learning from each other
- Regular Drug Overdose and Alert Partnership (DOAP) meeting introduced

BC Drug Overdose & Alert Partnership

Aim:

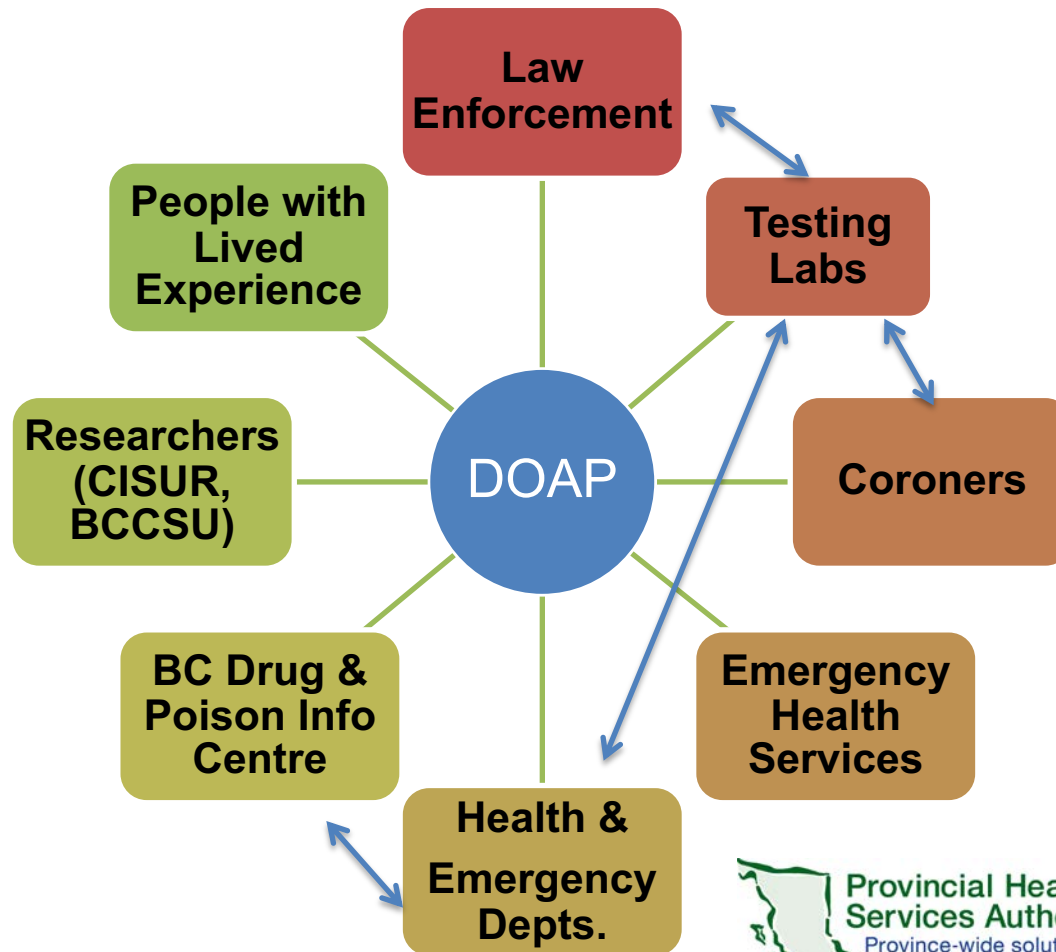
To formalise and strengthen existing partnerships, improve communication and develop trust

Goal:

To coordinate stakeholder communication and action to enable timely alerting and responses to illicit drug use issues

BC Drug Overdose & Alert Partnership

↑
Lab results
go to agency
requesting
them
↓



DOAP

The Drug Overdose and Alert Partnership (DOAP) Committee coordinates stakeholder communication and action to enable timely alerting and responses to illicit drug use issues.

Internal Information Sharing

Drank/Lean – Update May 10th, 2018

A red or purple liquid, called 'lean' or 'drank', has been confirmed by DAS to contain caffeine, promethazine, and cyclopropylfentanyl.

The sample was obtained in Vancouver.

This substance is known in multiple regions to be used by young adults and associated with rapper, hip-hop culture.

Some info here:: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purple_drink

While this drink is known to commonly contain codeine and promethazine, this sample also contained the fentanyl analog, cyclopropylfentanyl, with implications for increased overdose risk.

Please circle back with any relevant additions. We will update this as learn more.

High Fentanyl Percentages Since April 23rd - Update May 8th, 2018

BCCSU reps (K. Tupper/Karen McCrae) report on increasing proportions of fentanyl found in drug samples.

The drug checking team reports over 20 samples in which fentanyl is detected at more than 10% of the signal (usually only detectable through a positive immunoassay test strip result, due to concentrations below the limit of detection for the FTIR spectrometer). The fact that fentanyl is now being detected with the FTIR, in some cases in amounts that make up 30-40% of the drug check signal, indicates that there may be more highly adulterated batches of "down" (i.e., opioids) on the streets in Vancouver recently.

This correlates with recent reports of increasing severity of overdose presentations: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-atypical-overdose-symptoms-becoming-a-growing-trend-after-high-dose/>

To date, this is Vancouver region reports only, a RADAR alert has gone out.

Fentanyl-induced rigidity document is posted to the right >> Supporting Documents >> BC. This is a public document. VCH is preparing another document for front line

Supporting Documents

(*P - in public domain)

BC

- Fentanyl-induced muscle rigidity *P
- DAS Summary - All Provinces Q1 2018
- DAS: 2017 Drug Summary Reports
- DAS: BC Fentanyl and Analogues 2017
- DAS: BC 2010 to 2017
- DAS Community Notifications Q4 2017 to Q1 2018

Other Provinces / Canada

- Alberta Carfentanil Bulletin - Dec. 5th, 2016 *P
- Cnd National Report: Apparent Opioid-Related Deaths (Q3 2017) *P

US & Int'l

- Chicago Illinois - Mar/Apr 2018 - Cannabinoid Outbreak
- Denver RADARS system quarterly technical report (Q1 2018)

Response to Unusual Events

- Recommendations for Communicating Drug Alerts
- Protocol for Responding to Unusual Drug-Related Events

responders.

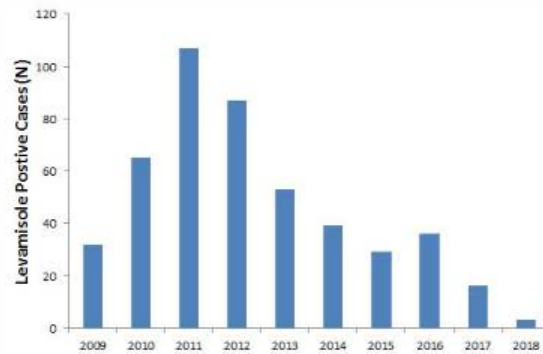
Please circle back with any relevant additions, particularly if outside of the lower mainland.

Levamisole in Cocaine - Update May 4th, 2018

In a recent media release, levamisole in cocaine was mentioned in relation to reports of skin necrosis. In the release, a 2014 study was cited:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4275458/>.

Dr. Aaron Shapiro, Provincial Toxicology Lab, shares a figure of levamisole detections in illicit drug death investigations by year showing declining levamisole detections in cases. (by permission of BCCS)



Historical: 7 years ago, in March 2011, BC had a cluster of agranulocytosis cases associated with levamisole in crack cocaine. Voluntary reporting of cases was used for a study and clinical recommendations were made including diagnostic tests and management. 2011 Article in BCMJ: <http://www.bcmj.org/bc-centre-disease-control/agranulocytosis-neutropenia-associated-levamisole-cocaine-british-columbia>)

At this time, there is no evidence to suggest levamisole contamination or associated conditions are on the rise in BC. Please circle back with any relevant updates

Chicago, Illinois - March-April 2018

April 19th, 2018:

On the right-hand side bar (>>Supporting Documents >> US & Int'l) is information on an outbreak of synthetic cannabinoid-associated coagulopathy. (118 cases, 12 jurisdictions, most hospitalized, 3 deaths, 20 - 30's, 74% male)

To date, we have no reports suggestive of this occurring in BC, this is an EW only. Please

Surveillance

Weekly Updates

- Provincial OD Surveillance Weekly Report - week 18
- FHA ED OD Surveillance - week 19 (biweekly reports)
- VCH OD Surveillance Updates - week 18
- Ambulance Alerts - week 18
- LifeLabs Weekly Carfentanil Report (week ending April 28, 2018)

BC Coroners Service

- BCCS Detailed HA Report on IDD to Sept 2017 *no distribution*
- MAP: IDD by HSDA (2010 to Feb 2018) -counts *no distribution*
- MAP: IDD by LHA (2010 to Feb 2018) - counts *no distribution*
- MAP: IDD by FSA (2010 to Feb 2018) - counts *no distribution*

ED Surveillance

- Descriptive ED OD surveillance June 2016 to March 2017 *stakeholder copy*

Ambulance Data

- Map: Naloxone Administration Jan 2010 to June 2017 (By HSDA)
- Map: Naloxone Administration Jan 2010 to Jun 2017 (By LHA)

Resources

- Jane's Slides_2018_03 *P
- Monthly Illicit Drug Deaths by HA, Jan 2015 - Mar 2017 *P

Meeting Info



Examples of collaboration



Ecstasy deaths

Deaths late 2011/early 2012 - hyperthermia

- PMMA found in 5 cases
 - Slow onset effect so take more
 - Metabolism is genetically determined
- Developed consistent messaging
 - Don't take more than 1 or 2 doses in an evening
 - Party with someone able to get help/to hospital immediately
 - Symptoms: Confused, v. hot, unconscious, seizures
 - Stay hydrated – sports drinks and non caffeinated pop
- Police took messages into schools/university
- Media pick up
- Dissemination: Dance safe



Communicating drug &

Methods

- Focus groups PWUD

Recommendations

- Timely
- Share through different outlets
- Increase visibility, accessibility & relevance of postings
 - Use brief simple language
 - Use words that imply harm
 - Date posters & remove
 - Mention what to look out for
 - Actions for appropriate response
- Saying don't use doesn't work
- Health & police get input for message from local providers/people w. lived experience
- Consider language so doesn't perpetuate stigma.

OVERDOSE ALERT

There has been an increase in people needing medical support after consuming substances in Surrey.

Reports include:

- Loss of consciousness
- Overdoses that involve seizures
- Extreme muscle rigidity
- High risk of overdose (OD) even from smoking



Please look out for each other.

FOR YOUR SAFETY:

- ✓ Where possible, don't use alone
- ✓ If you do use alone, make a plan to have someone check on you
- ✓ Test by using small amounts first and go slowly
- ✓ Do not use with alcohol or other drugs

Plan to survive, know how to respond to an overdose:



If someone ODs, YOU can help!

- 1) CALL 9-1-1 immediately**
- 2) Open airway and give BREATHS**
- 3) Give naloxone (Narcan) if you can**



Switch to the bank with longer hours. Our branches are open later and longer.

YUP, S OPEN

NEWS CANADA

16 heroin overdoses at Vancouver injection site

JANE DEACON, QMI AGENCY

FIRST POSTED: MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2014 06:03 PM EDT | UPDATED: MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2014 06:16 PM EDT



VANCOUVER -- Sixteen people overdosed on heroin at Vancouver's supervised injection site Sunday -- well exceeding the weekly average of 10, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) spokesman Gavin Wilson said.



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Home » News » Local » Overdoses at Vancouver's INSITE caused by straight Fentanyl

Text: A A



Overdoses at Vancouver's INSITE caused by straight Fentanyl There were 31 ODs over a two-day period

News1130 Staff October 15, 2014 5:14 pm

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CBCnews British Columbia navigation bar with search and menu options.

Vancouver overdoses caused by fentanyl, not heroin

Fentanyl, many times more powerful than heroin, responsible for more than 30 overdoses, 1 death, say police

CBC News Posted: Oct 15, 2014 8:44 PM PT | Last Updated: Oct 15, 2014 8:45 PM PT



A Vancouver police handout showing the fentanyl packaging that has been used in the cases that have led to more than 30 recent overdoses. (Vancouver Police handout)

VANCOUVER (NEWS1130) – Straight Fentanyl is to blame for a rash of overdoses at Vancouver's supervised injection site.

Canada tested the suspected heroin after 31 people overdosed at INSITE over a two-day period.

Vancouver Coastal Health says this year, contaminated heroin has caused 10 to 12 overdoses a week.

Police are urging drug users to be extremely cautious, not use drugs alone and to make use of the services provided by INSITE.

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University of Victoria Continuing Studies logo and Amazonia Se logo.

Provincial Health Services Authority logo: Province-wide solutions. Better health.



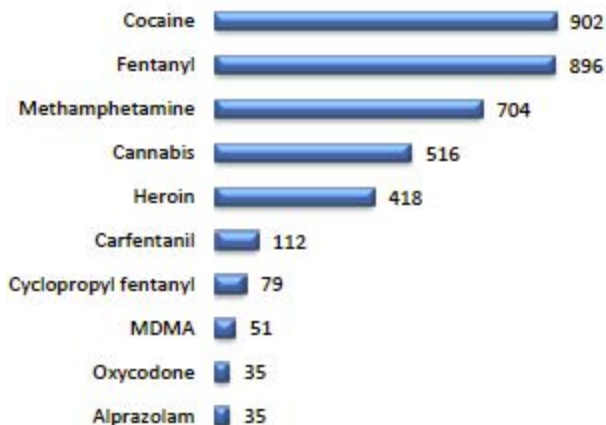


DRUG SITUATION SUMMARY REPORT – BRITISH COLUMBIA 1st Quarter 2018

Health Canada's Drug Analysis Service (DAS) operates laboratories across Canada that analyze suspected illegal drugs seized by Canadian law enforcement agencies. These statistics are based on samples analyzed by DAS and may not be representative of drug seizures in Canada, nor of what drugs are circulating on the market. DAS data should not be used as a basis for determining trends or making comparisons.

Please note that a single sample may contain more than one substance. Although DAS conducted some quantifications of substances seized for purity, these are only carried out on a very small subset of exhibits analyzed and are, therefore, not necessarily representative of the overall drug market. For the purpose of this report, U-47700 and W-18 were counted as opioids and Cannabis includes Marijuana, Resin and THC.

TOP 10 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

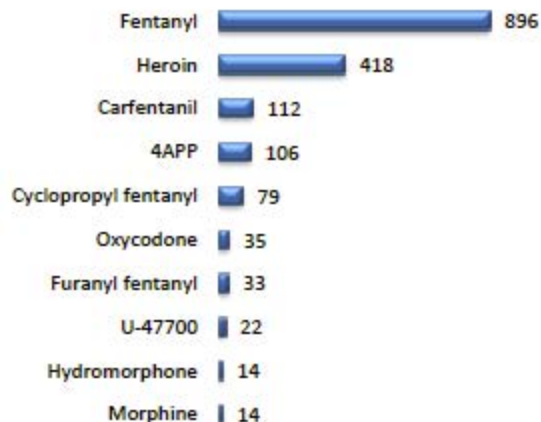


A total of **3,687** exhibits were submitted for analysis during the 1st quarter which represents a **2%** decrease over the last quarter.

NATIONAL QUANTITATION DATA

Drug	# of quant	% (w/w)
Cocaine	254	64
Heroin	32	34
Fentanyl	94	4.6
Carfentanil	11	0.15
Furanyl fentanyl	23	33

TOP 10 OPIOIDS

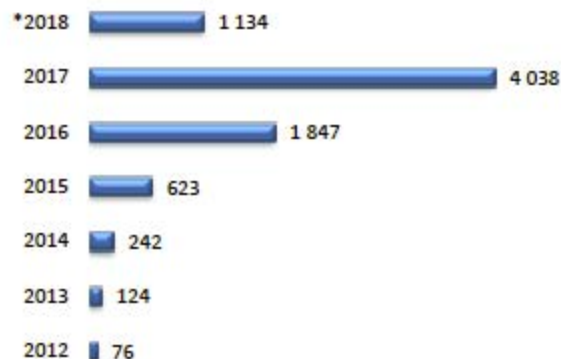


A total of **1,777** opioids were identified during the 1st quarter which represents a **15%** decrease over the last quarter. From all Heroin samples analyzed, **83%** also contained fentanyl or analogue(s).

INFORMATION RELATING TO THE ACT

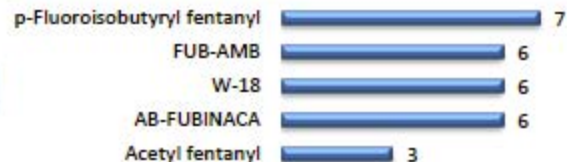
Nothing to report.

FENTANYL & ANALOGUES OVER YEARS



* From January 1st to March 31st.

OTHER SUBSTANCES OF INTEREST



For information regarding DAS sample submission guidelines, or to obtain the current version of the DAS Client Manual, please contact us:



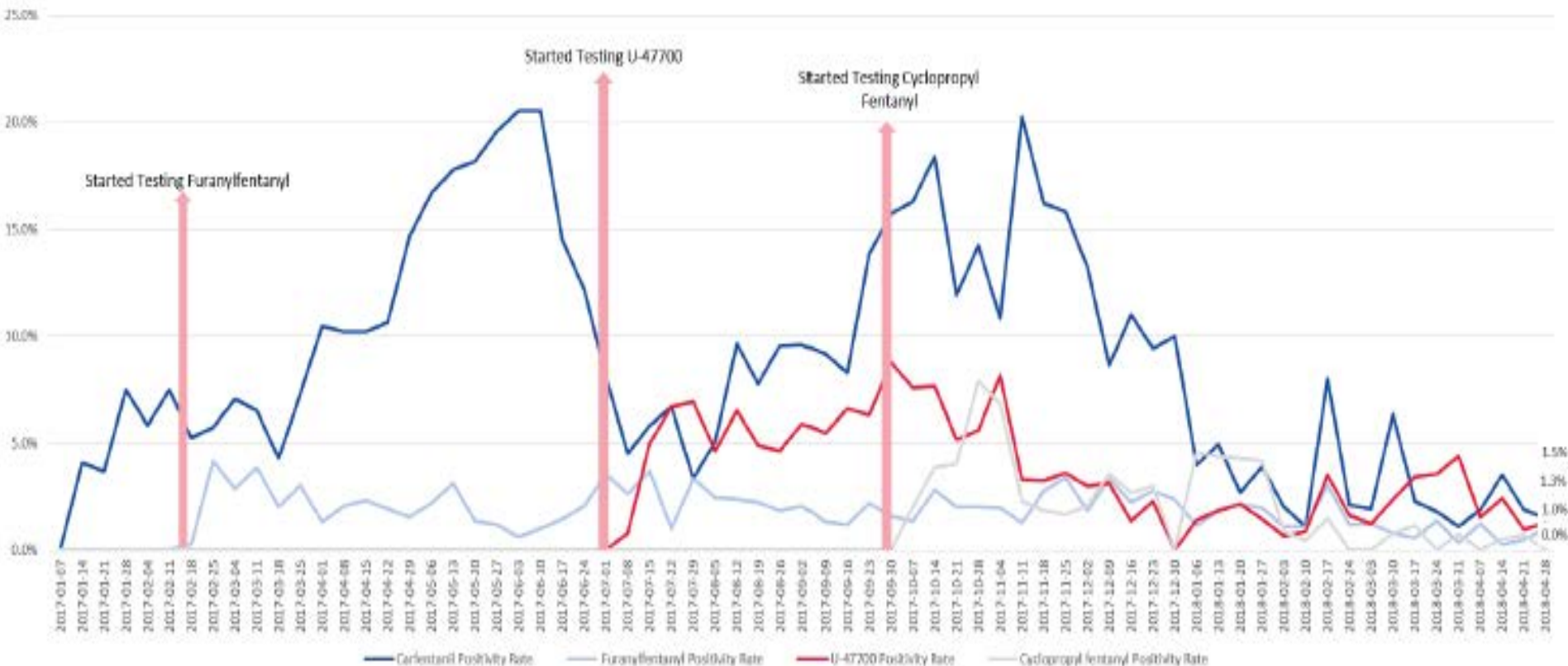
hc.bcdasexhibitcontrol.sc@canada.ca



604.666.3121

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Detection rate of drugs of interest in fentanyl-positive samples Life labs





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- Sharing data and concerns online
- Collaborations: MMDA, alerts, posters
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 - Drug Analysis Lab (enforcement)
 - Stat analysis e.g. abnormal presentations
 - Samples for prosecution – quarterly, now monthly line list
 - Lifelabs – urinalysis
- Develop trust and knowing who to call

