B.C.’s Response to the Overdose Emergency

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Illegal drug overdoses are the leading cause of unnatural death in B.C.

Key Facts from 2017

- 1,452 suspected illegal drug overdose deaths in B.C.
- 1/3 of overdose deaths in Canada, occurred in B.C. and B.C. represents 1/7 of the population in Canada
- 82% of those who died, were male
- 3 communities, Vancouver, Surrey and Victoria, had the highest # of overdoses

Using Inside and Alone Elevates Risk of Death

- 88% of deaths occurred inside (59.2% inside private residences and 28.2% inside other locations)

First Nations People are Affected Disproportionately

- 5x more likely to experience an overdose
- 3x more likely to die from an overdose
- Indigenous women are equally impacted as Indigenous men
People Who Have Died From Overdose Due to Illicit Drugs, BC

Illicit drug overdose deaths in BC: Jan 1, 20018 to Aug 30, 2018. BC Coroners Service.
Description of People Who Died (Jan - Aug 2018)

- 30 to 59 years old: 72%
- 19 to 59 years old: 90%
- Male: 80%
- Number of deaths:
  - Vancouver: 256
  - Surrey: 131
  - Victoria: 64

- 57% at private residences
- 30% at other inside locations (e.g., other housing, hotel/motel, public buildings)
- 12% at outdoor locations (e.g., parks, vehicles, streets)

Illicit drug overdose deaths in BC: Jan 1, 2018 to Aug 31, 2018. BC Coroners Service
Description of People Who Died (Jan - Aug 2018)

Illicit drug overdose deaths in BC: Jan 1, 2018 to Aug 31, 2018. BC Coroners Service (Fentanyl detection available June 2018)
3.4% of the population of BC is comprised of First Nations peoples.

14% of all overdose events in BC involved First Nations peoples.

10% of all overdose deaths in BC involved First Nations peoples.

First Nations people are 5X more likely than non-First Nations to experience an overdose event.

First Nations people are 3X more likely than non-First Nations to die due to an overdose.

The opioid emergency has equally affected First Nations men and women.

Across BC, First Nations population overdose events have affected: 52% men and 48% women.

Non-First Nations overdose events in BC have affected: 71% men | 29% women.

First Nations of all ages are at a higher risk of overdose events and death:

1,903 First Nations OD Events between January 1, 2015 - November 30, 2016

60 First Nations OD Deaths between January 1, 2015 - July 31, 2016.

A key priority is increasing access to naloxone

Naloxone is a life-saving medication which quickly reverses the effects of an opioid overdose

Take Home Naloxone (THN) program has been essential as only 51% of people call 911 during an overdose

61,824 THN kits distributed in 2017 and 29,021 to September 15, 2018

For every 10 THN kits used, one overdose death is estimated to have been prevented

Key focuses going forward:

Continue to increase access to Naloxone
Expand drug checking services
BC Take Home Naloxone sites

http://towardtheheart.com/naloxone/
Data to September 15, 2018
Saving Lives and Connecting People to Treatment

B.C. provides safer spaces for drug consumption and monitoring for signs of overdose through Supervised Consumption Services and Overdose Prevention Services

Staff able to connect clients to treatment and recovery services as well as counselling and medical care

9 Supervised Consumption Sites are operating in B.C.
  o Vancouver-based Insite, first legal location in North America, received 175,464 visits by 7,301 individuals in 2017 and zero deaths

Overdose Prevention Services have expanded and are operating in 21 standalone sites across the province. There are also other models of Overdose Prevention Services including housing-based services in BC (more than 25 such sites in Vancouver Coastal Health)
  o At 21 locations, at least 826,064 visits, 5,386 overdoses survived and no deaths

Key focuses going forward:
  • Expand access to overdose prevention and supervised consumption services
  • Accelerate access to treatment and recovery
Overdose Prevention Services
Many Different Forms
Ending Stigma

• People who use drugs alone and in the absence of medical intervention are at the greatest risk of overdose death.

• B.C. partnered with the Vancouver Canucks hockey team to launch an overdose awareness campaign.

• 69% of adults report hearing or seeing at least 1 element of the campaign and those who have are significantly more likely to see people who use drugs in a more constructive and empathetic manner.
Evidence of making a difference

Figure 1: Estimated impact of Take Home Naloxone (THN) Jan 2012 - Oct 2016 on overdose-related deaths.

Red = Observed number of illicit drug-related deaths
Blue = Deaths prevented by THN program
Black = THN kits distributed
Including Multiple Interventions

Take home naloxone, overdose prevention sites, opioid agonist therapy. *Preliminary

Model estimates would have seen 2.5 times more deaths if interventions not in place.

Figure provided by Michael Irvine, BCCDC/UBC. Preliminary results and subject to change.
Much work still to do
Cousin
Student
Drug User
Friend

People who use drugs are real people. Get involved. Get informed. Get help.

StopOverdoseBC.ca
Questions?