

BY THE NUMBERS: The Opioid Overdose Emergency in BC

In **April 2016**, British Columbia declared a provincial **Public Health Emergency** in response to the increasing rate of overdose deaths

From January - June 2018

Of paramedic attended overdoses

6,268  **65%**

number of illicit overdoses attended by BC Ambulance

of overdose calls are transported to hospital

Of people who died of overdose

744

unintentional illicit overdose deaths in BC

85%

of deaths had no associated 911 call

based on cohort study using BCCS data

72%

were **male**

76%

were between age **19-39**

81%

of illicit drug overdose deaths involved **fentanyl** or its analogues**

>50%

were using drugs **alone**

Overdoses and overdose deaths have been increasing because of **fentanyl**

There are different types (analogues**) of fentanyl, including **furanyl fentanyl** and **carfentanil**. These analogues vary in toxicity and their presence in the illicit drug supply is hard to identify and differs from community to community.

- People don't know **what** or **how much** is in their drugs.
- Since **fentanyl** appeared in the illicit drug supply, more people have reported having **repeat overdoses**



Fentanyl has been found in:

- **Pills** (fake oxys or other club drugs)
- **Powder mixed into other drugs** (crystal meth, cocaine, etc.)
- **Powder** (heroin or fent)
- **Liquid mixed into other drugs** (GHB, Ketamine, etc.)

Observed Consumption Sites include **Overdose Prevention Services (OPS)** and **Supervised Consumption Services (SCS)** sites

There are now **31** Observed Consumption Sites across BC

As of **June 2018** there have been **no deaths** at Observed Consumption Sites

Since **2012** the BC Take Home Naloxone program has distributed over **110,000 kits** through over **1,400** participating sites