

Public ED Enhanced Surveillance - Opioid or Suspected Opioid Overdoses in Northern Health:

Updated: May 3, 2018



Opioid or suspected opioid overdose (OD) case definition: a physiological event induced by the suspected introduction of an opioid into the body of a person that results in life-threatening situation and that a reasonable person would believe requires emergency medical assistance.

The data in this report comes from the Emergency Department (ED) Opioid OD Enhanced Surveillance System. Enhanced surveillance of ODs was implemented in response to the OD public health emergency declared by the Provincial Health Officer in April 2016. Data collection began on June 13, 2016 at all Northern Health Emergency Departments and Health Centres. To date we have had **980 overdoses** reported to Public Health.

Figure 1 shows OD counts by week. Figure 2 shows the frequencies of self-reported substances used prior to the OD (patients can select multiple substances). Figure 3 represents the place the Overdose occurred (if known). Figure 4 shows the self-reported history of drug use. Figure 5 provides a geographical picture of where OD's are reported. Figure 6 provides OD counts by reporting ED community. ED's with less than 5 cases reporting in a quarter are suppressed to maintain the confidentiality and privacy of the patients. Missing responses are not shown in the Figures.

****A new data collection form was implemented in December 2016 that allowed for more discrete substance classification. Previously Opioid Substances were either classified as Illicit/Illegal Opioid or Opioid Prescribed to the Patient etc. On the new form the specific type of opioid used is asked of the patient.****

This report only includes individuals who present to an ED with an overdose that is known or suspected to be an opioid. Individuals who overdose in the community and do **not** go to an ED are not presented in these numbers. Therefore, caution should be used when generalizing these findings to all overdoses that occur in Northern Health.

Data are subject to change.

For more information please go to the BCCDC site at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/harm-reduction/overdose-data-reports>

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Prepared by: Public Health
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Updated: May 3, 2018

Figure 1: Overdose Emergency Department Visits by Week
(Date Reflects Start of the week: Monday - Sunday)

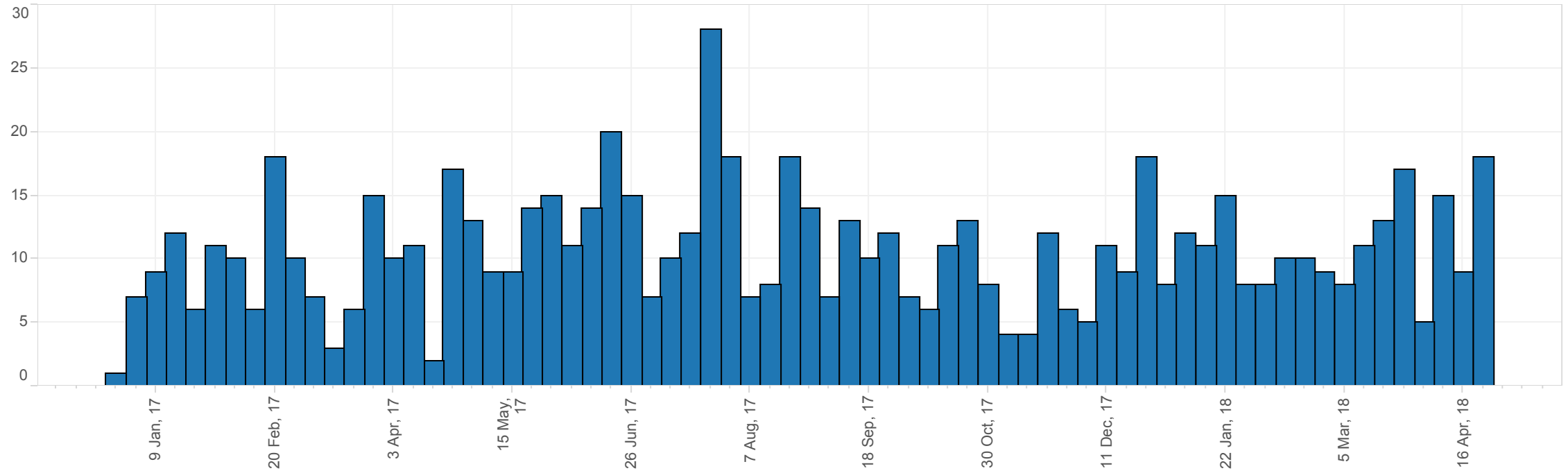


Figure 2. Substance(s) Used, as Reported by the Patient

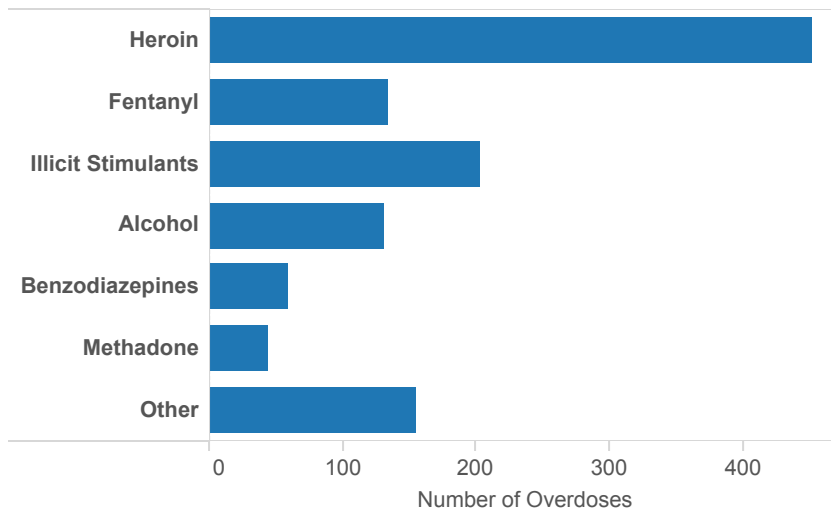


Figure 3: Location of Overdose

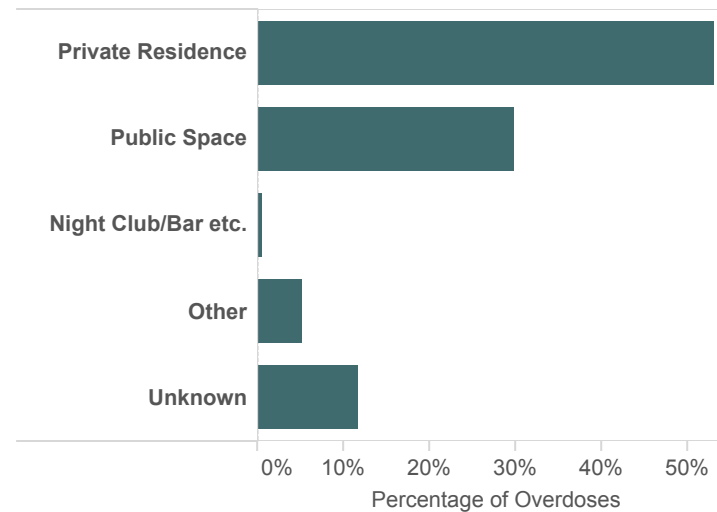
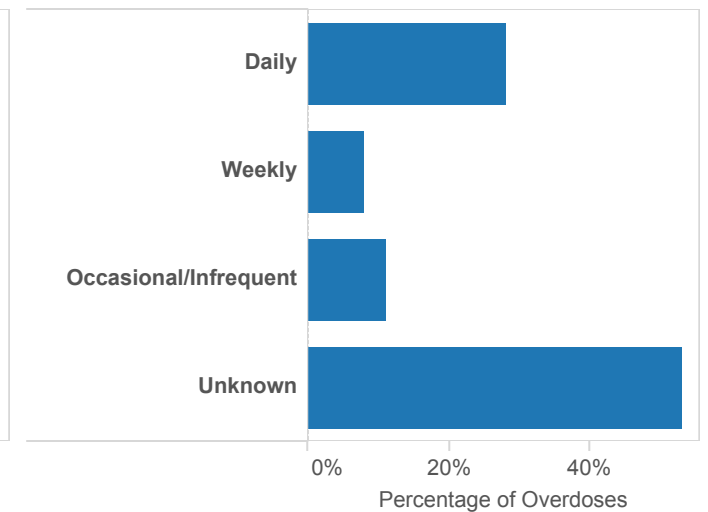


Figure 4: History of drug use in the past 6 months



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Figure 5: Location of Overdose Emergency Department Visit from June 13, 2016 - Current

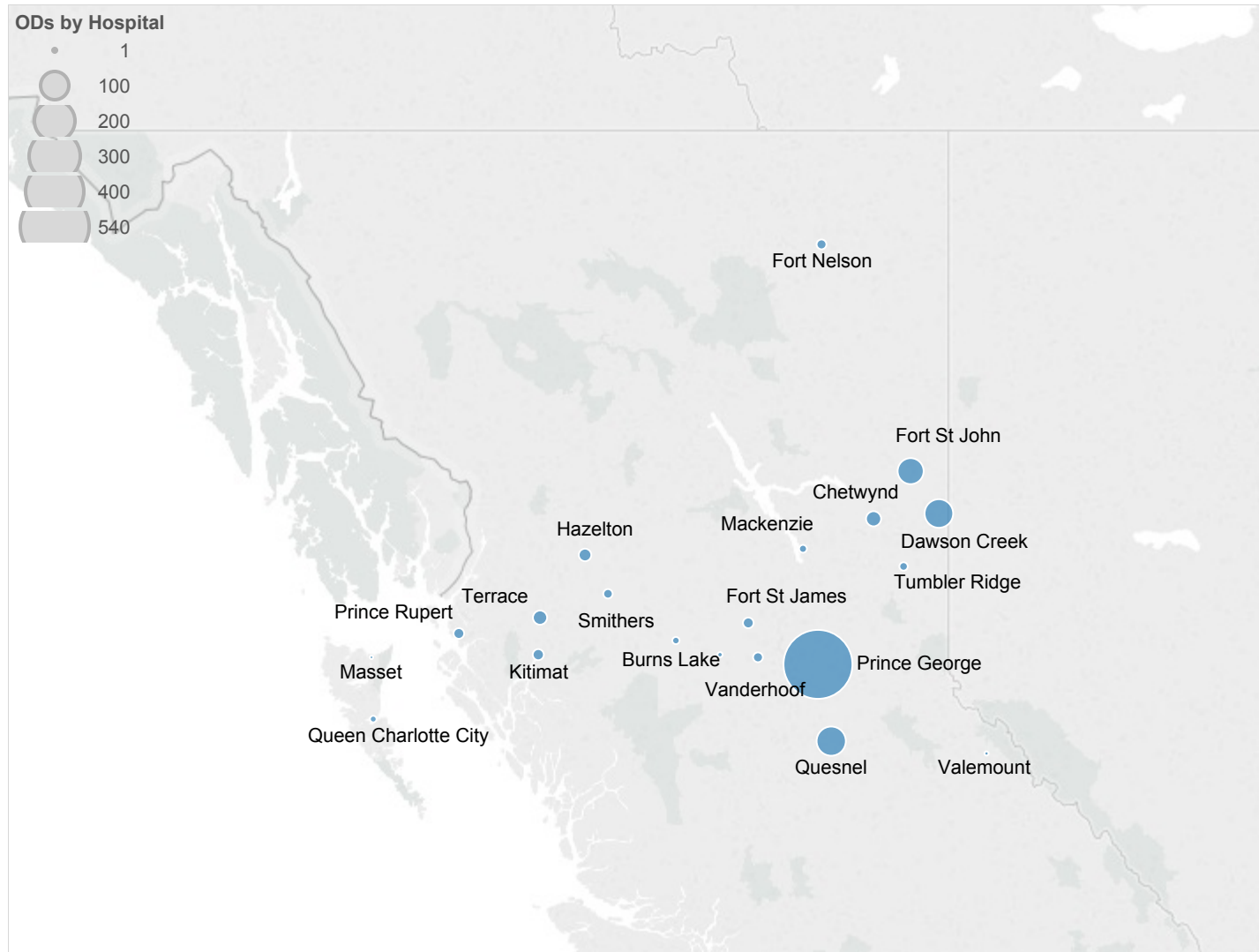


Figure 6. Number of Suspected Overdoses by Reporting ED Community by Quarter

	2016			2017				2018	
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Atlin							< 5		
Burns Lake				< 5	< 5			< 5	
Chetwynd	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	7	< 5	< 5	< 5	
Dawson Creek	< 5	< 5	< 5	13	23	14	15	13	< 5
Fort Nelson	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5		< 5		
Fort St James	< 5		< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5		< 5	
Fort St John	8	10	10	< 5	7	14	< 5	8	10
Fraser Lake		< 5				< 5	< 5		
Hazelton				9	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5
Kitimat		< 5		< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5
Mackenzie	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5			< 5	< 5	
Masset			< 5						
Prince George	19	37	68	58	85	90	65	84	34
Prince Rupert	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5		< 5			
Queen Charlotte City		< 5		< 5		< 5			
Quesnel	< 5	< 5	19	11	12	21	16	11	< 5
Smithers		< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5		< 5	
Stewart						< 5			
Terrace		< 5	< 5	< 5	6	6	< 5	< 5	
Tumbler Ridge	< 5	< 5		< 5	< 5	< 5			
Valemount						< 5			
Vanderhoof		< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5			

Note: This data is based on number of cases reported by Emergency Departments and is therefore an underrepresentation of the number of opioid OD's occurring in communities. In order to ensure individual privacy is maintained, overdose counts by community are reported by quarter, and small counts are reported as <5.

Q2 for 2018 is incomplete.

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