Overdose Emergency Update for City of Kelowna

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KELOWNA CAPITAL NEWS







Large crowd gathers for International Drug Overdose Awareness Day

Kelowna's first event was held yesterday with a Candle Light Vigil in Stuart Park









Spike in Kelowna overdose deaths prompts public alert

Interior Health warns drugs users to take precautions after 7 deaths in 9 days

By Bethany Lindsay, CBC News Posted: Aug 30, 2017 4 24 PM PT | Last Updated: Aug 30, 2017 4 24 PM PT



OVERDOSE DEATHS August 30, 2017 10:46 am

Updated: August 30, 2017 10:47 am

Drug overdose alert issued in Kelowna





KELOWNA HAS HIGHEST RATE OF OPIOID POISONING HOSPITALIZATION



MONIKA GUL Friday, September 15th 2017 - 9:49 am



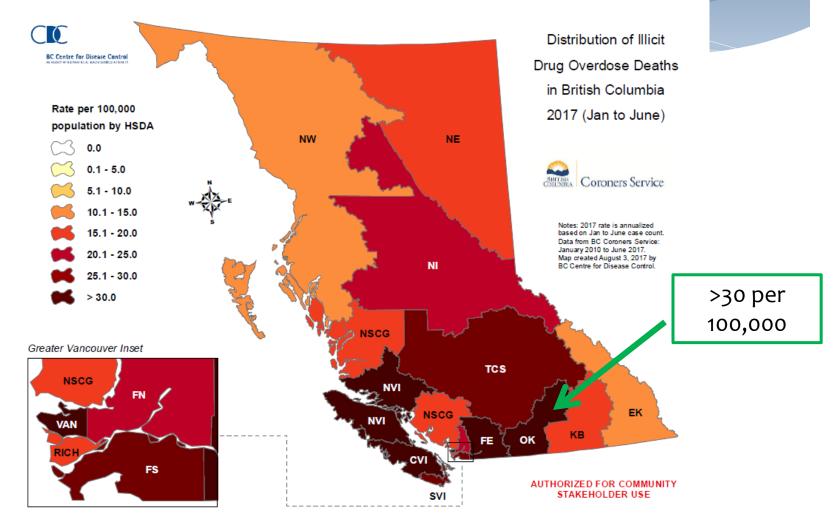


Federal Liberals from across the country - wrapped up their two-day caucus meeting in Kelowna - and today - one of the biggest crisis plaguing the Okanagan and all of BC - was brought up for debate. Top health officials in the province and at least one MP are advocating for drug decriminalization in wake of the Fentanyi crisis, but as Lauren Pullen reports that's not something we'll be seeing anytime soon.

Outline

- * Epidemiological update
- * Interior Health response
- * Community based response

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths in BC

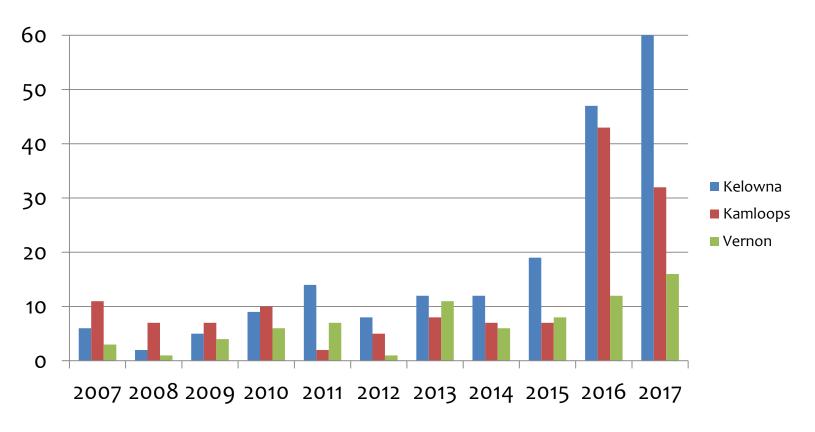


Illicit Drug Overdoses Kelowna

- * 60 deaths: January 1 to August 31, 2017
- * 47 deaths in all of 2016 (record year)
- * Approximately 90 deaths projected for 2017 at this pace
- * Illicit drug overdose death rate is higher than Vancouver
- * Kelowna Census Metropolitan Area ranked highest in the country among 34 for opioid poisoning hospitalizations in 2016/17



Overdose Deaths by Top Township, 2007-2017*



^{*2017} data includes January 1, 2017 to August 31, 2017



Who is affected?

- * Males aged 30-49
- * Aboriginal population
- * People using drugs alone and in private residences
- * Fentanyl detected in >90% of fatal overdoses
- * Various drug types and modes of consumption reported
- * Regular and occasional users





Components of Interior Health's Response

- * Take Home Naloxone program
- * Mobile supervised consumption services
- * Increased access to treatment







Community Response

- * Estimated 0.5% 1% of IH residents use illicit substance other than marijuana on a regular basis (prevalence similar across BC, Canada, other G8)
- * Social determinants of health such as housing, income, mental health, trauma are most common cause (80-85%), Chronic pain a significant contributor (15-20%)

Community Response

- * Overdose task groups are emerging across BC:
 - * To increase public knowledge regarding drug use
 - * To promote prevention of drug use in the first place
 - * To reduce stigma associated with overdoses, drug use, homelessness, harm reduction and mental health disorders
 - * To build compassion, inclusion and engagement of vulnerable individuals

Discussion and Questions