

Opioid Overdose Crisis Update

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Chief Medical Health Officer

January 30, 2019

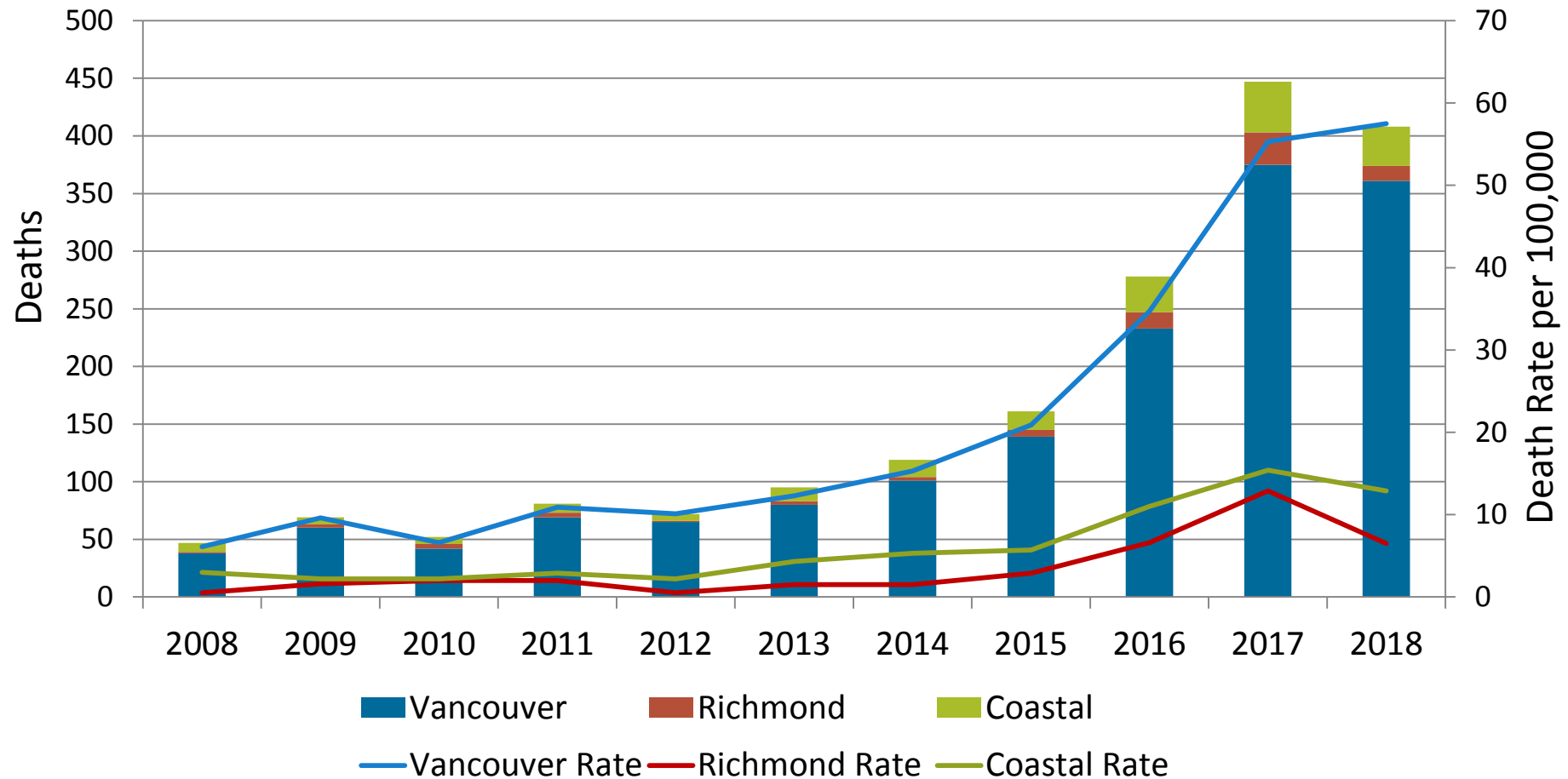
BC Overdose Deaths 1992 – Nov. 30, 2018

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths and Death Rate per 100,000 Population [2,5]



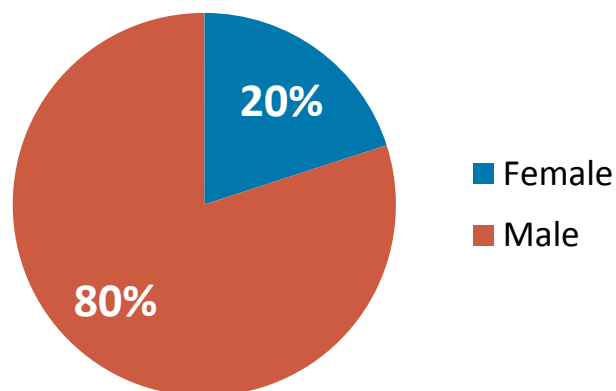
Drug Overdose Deaths and Rates

Vancouver Coastal Health 2008 – Nov. 2018

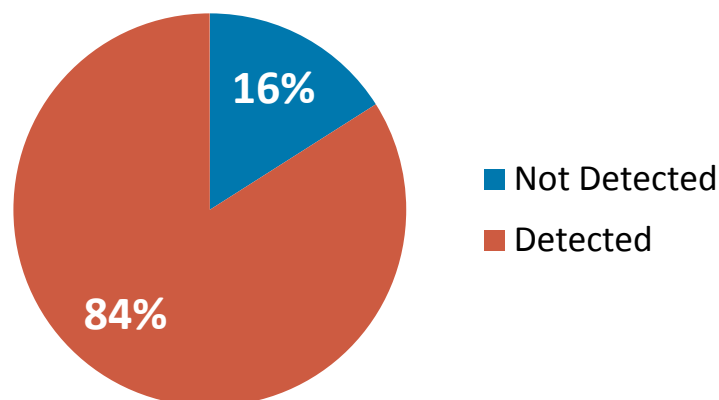


Vancouver Coastal Deaths (Jan. 2016 -Nov. 2018)

Gender

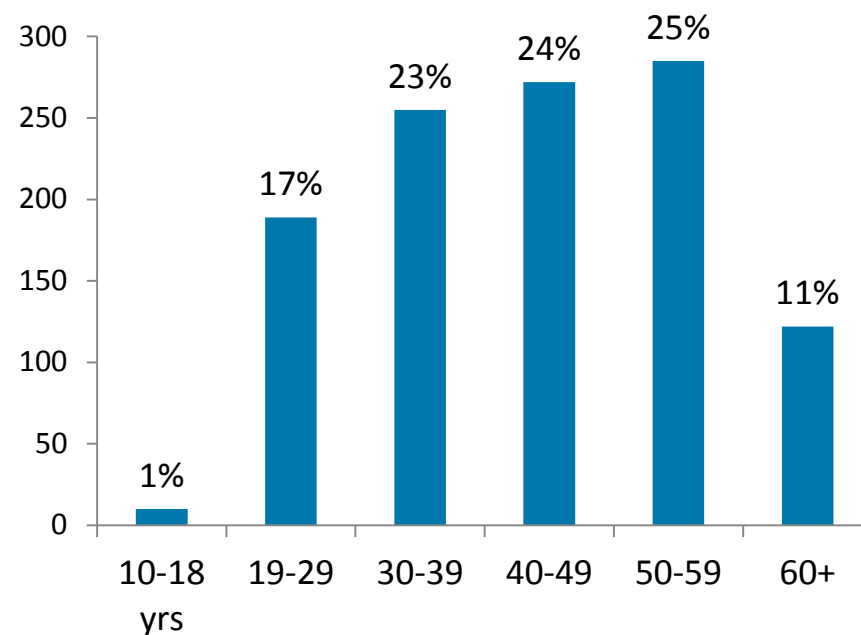


Fentanyl



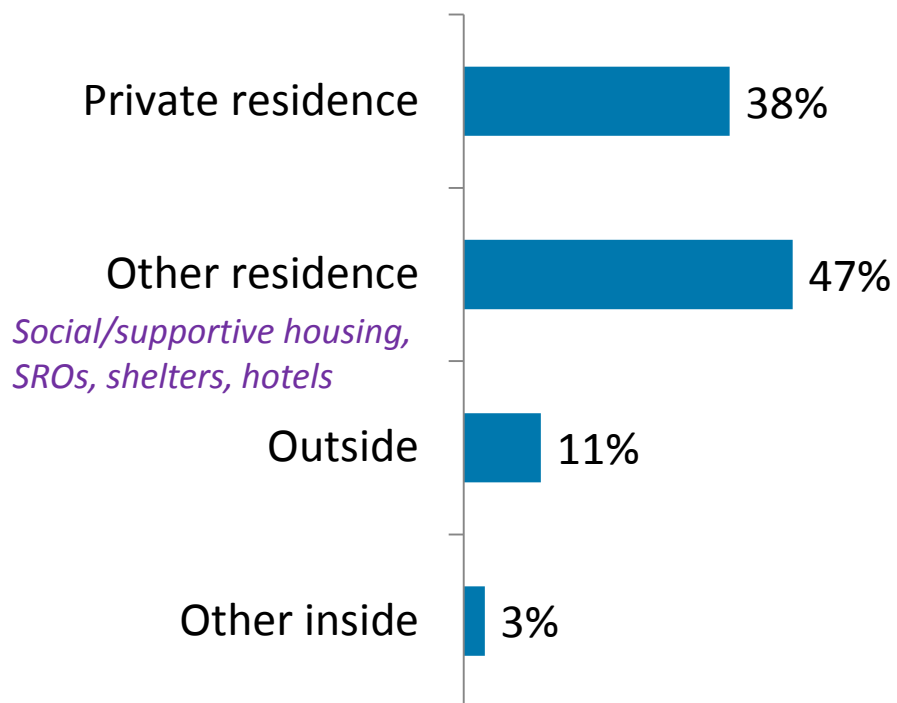
Fentanyl detection Jan.-Sept. 2018

Age

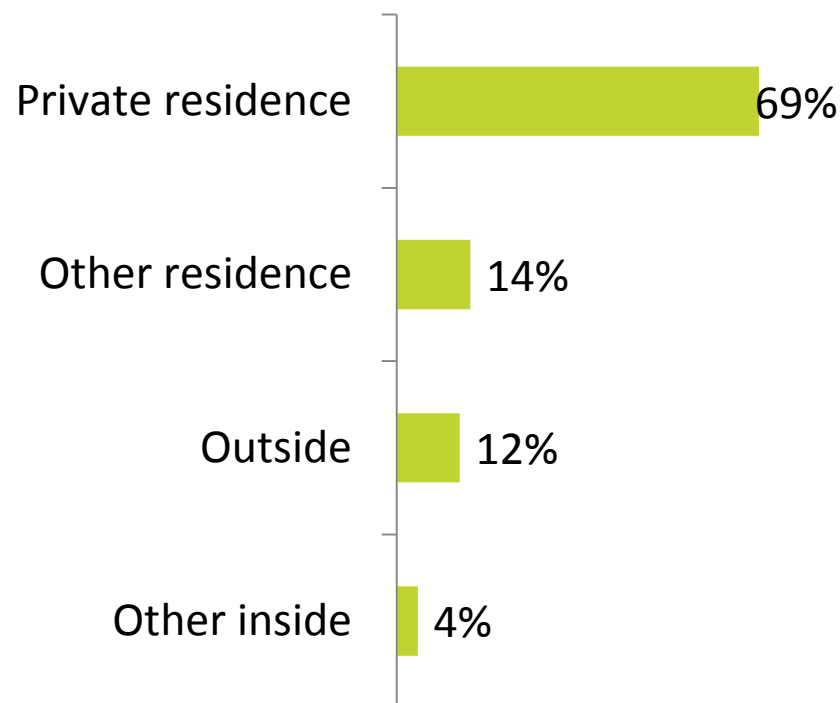


Drug Overdose - Location of Death

Vancouver Coastal



Other BC Regions



Life Expectancy Decline in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) - Impact of Overdose Deaths

- Life expectancy for men in the DTES has dropped by 4 years
- *17 year gap* compared to men on the Westside of Vancouver
- *11.5 year gap* between men and women in DTES

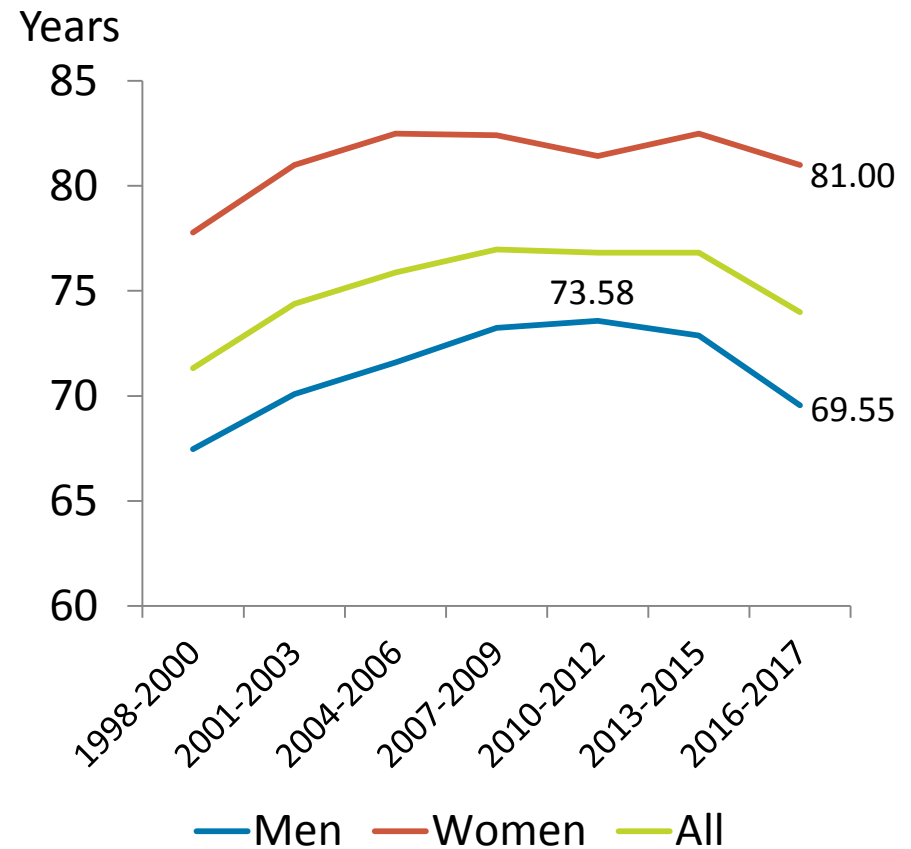


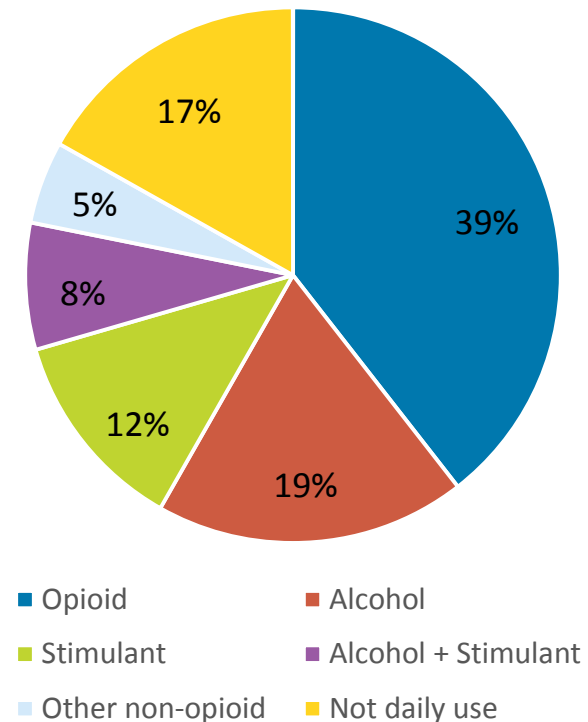
Chart Review – 424 VCH Overdose Deaths (2017)

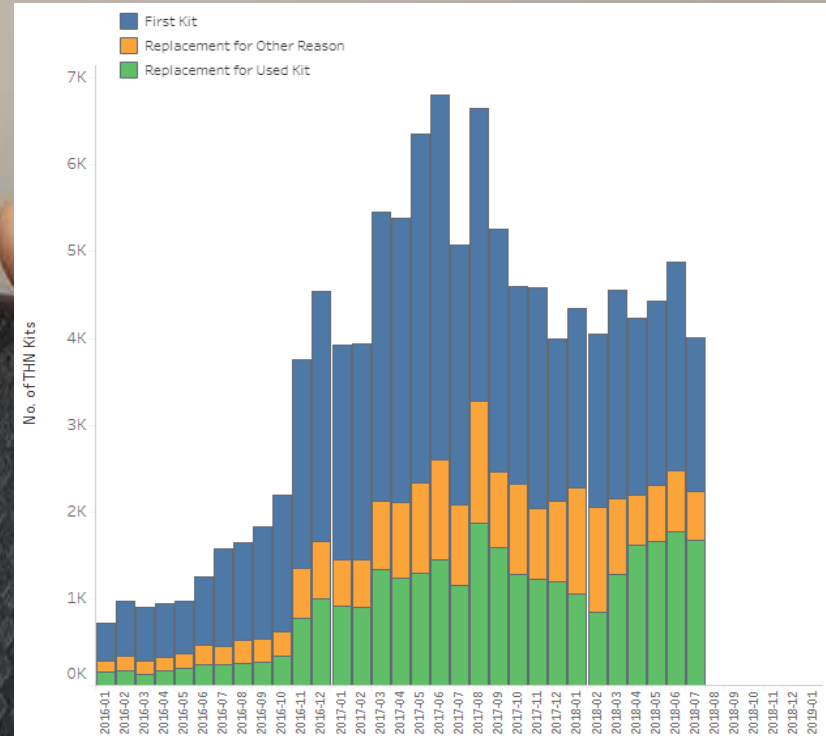
- People dying of overdoses in VCH are more disadvantaged than in the rest of BC
 - 72% unemployed (versus 51% for BC deaths)
 - 34% lived in social housing (versus 13% for BC deaths)
- 10% Aboriginal people (similar to BC deaths)
- Most people dying are known to the health care system
 - 88% had contact with health services prior to death (21% within one week of death)
 - Emergency department most common site of contact
- Most people (75%) who used opioids daily had been offered treatment, but were not retained in care

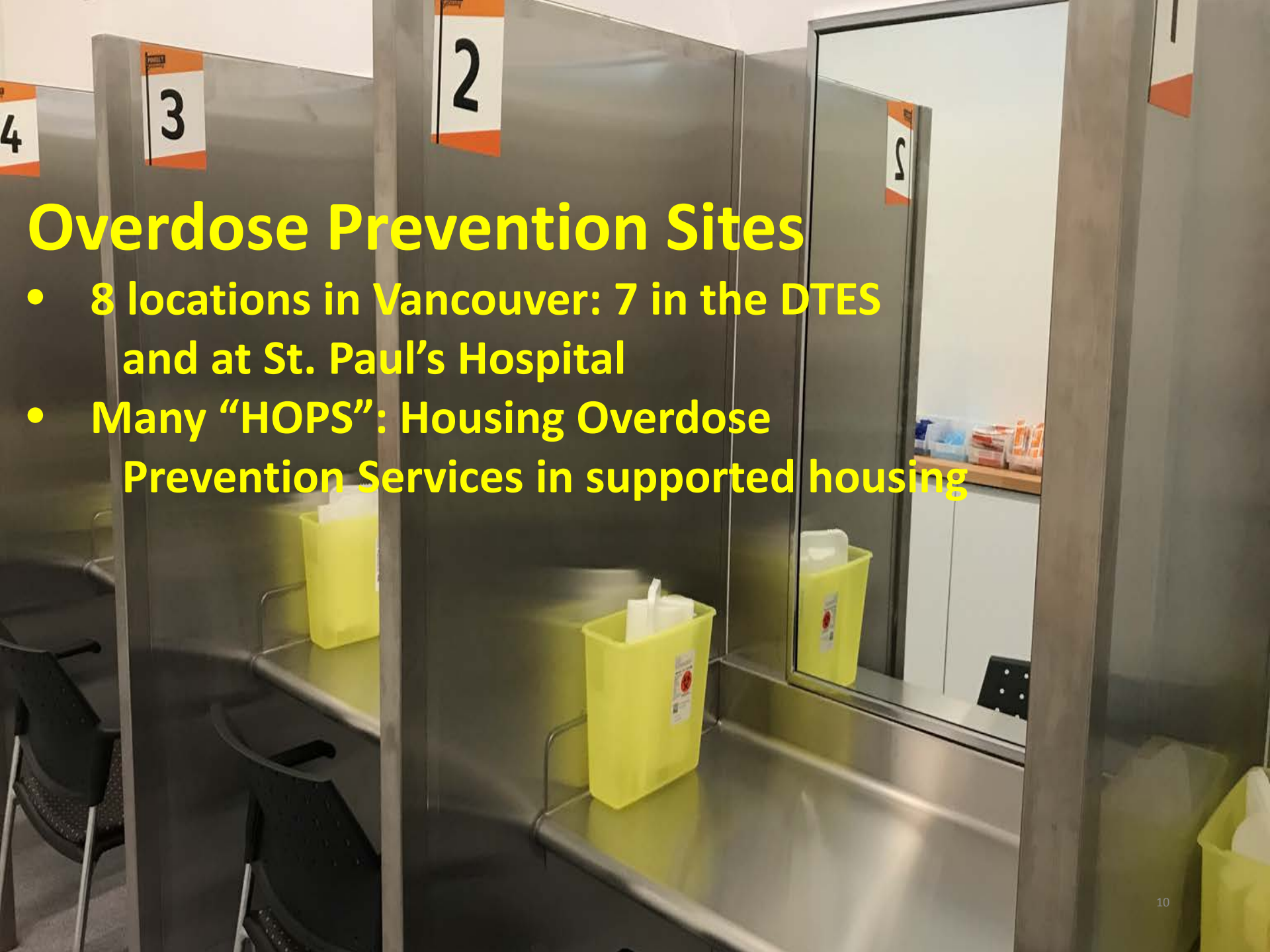
Chart Review – VCH Opioid Overdose Deaths 2017

- Most people who died consumed drugs daily
 - 39% daily opioids
 - 44% daily alcohol, stimulants, other drugs
- *People with alcohol or stimulant use disorder are dying of opioid overdoses*

Pattern of Daily Drug Use (261 charts)







Overdose Prevention Sites

- 8 locations in Vancouver: 7 in the DTES and at St. Paul's Hospital
- Many "HOPS": Housing Overdose Prevention Services in supported housing



PROVIDENCE
CROSSTOWN CLINIC



84 W. Hastings Street

A Guideline for the
Clinical Management of

Opioid Use Disorder



Ministry of
Health



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE ON
SUBSTANCE USE
Partnering researchers, educators & care providers

**Opioid Agonist Therapy - OAT
(e.g. Suboxone™ or Methadone)
is protective against overdose death**

Other VCH Initiatives

- **Drug Checking Services**
 - Identifies drug composition
- **VCH Overdose Outreach Team**
 - Connects people to care
 - Takes referrals from Emergency Departments, police, fire department
- **BOOST Collaborative**
 - Improving retention on treatment for those with opioid addiction in VCH primary care clinics



Recommendations – 2019 Priorities

1. Establish a system of care for people with addictions
 - *Implement treatment standards, monitor outcomes*
2. Expand access and remove barriers to Opioid Agonist Therapy
3. Establish a safe, regulated supply of drugs
 - *Pilot underway to distribute oral Dilaudid™ pills*
4. Expand programs that can prevent addiction
 - *Focus on vulnerable youth, Aboriginal people, people living with physical pain*