

# Fentanyl Overdose Crisis

Vancouver City Council

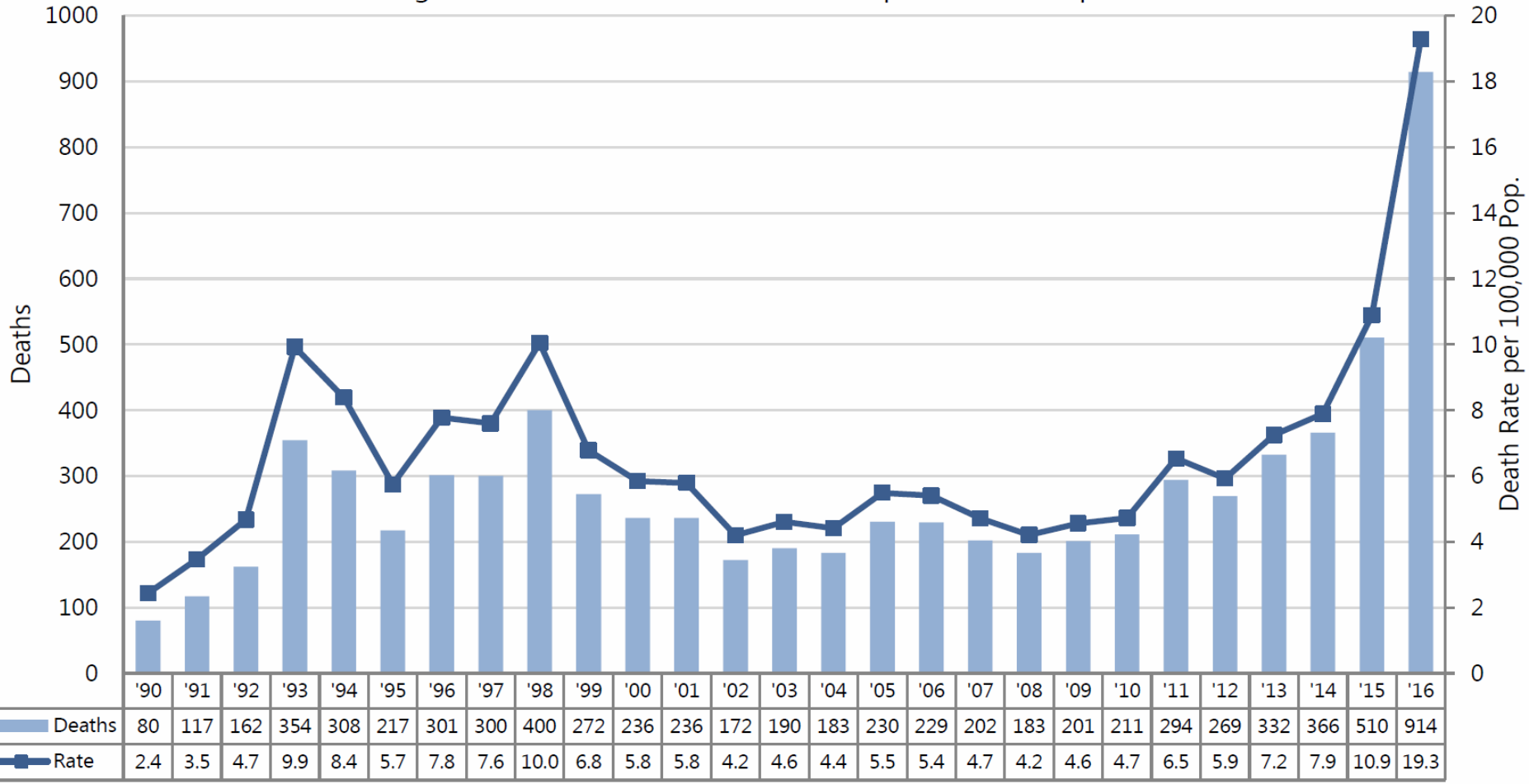
January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dr. Réka Gustafson

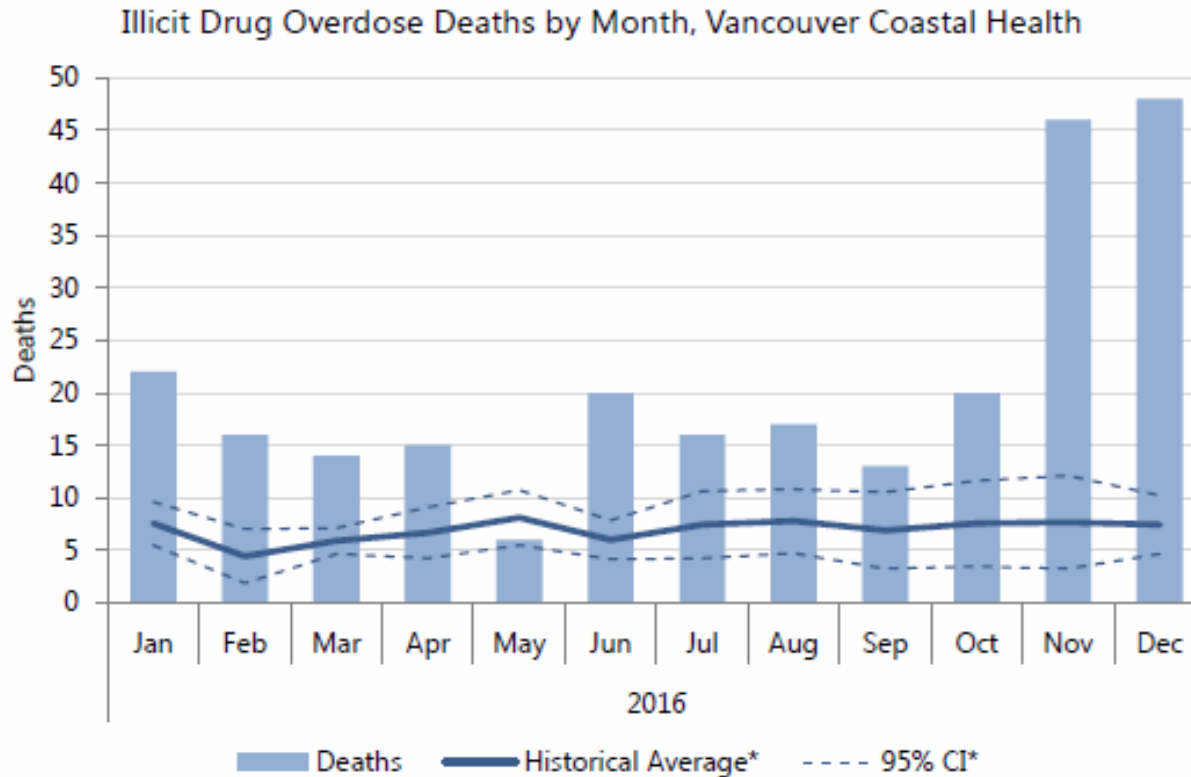
Medical Health Officer

Vancouver Coastal Health

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths and Death Rate per 100,000 Population<sup>[4]</sup>



Vancouver had the highest number (215) and highest rate of deaths of all municipalities (31.9 deaths per 100,000 people) in BC



# Highest number of deaths in VCH in “Other Residence”

Illicit Drug Overdose deaths by <b>place of injury</b> , VCH, 2016	
Private residence	100 (40%)
Other residence	117 (46%)
Other inside	13 (5%)
Outside	21 (8%)
Unknown	2 (1%)

**Private residence** – includes private residences (driveways and garage), trailer home. Own or another’s residence.

**Other residence** – includes hotels, motels, rooming houses, shelters, etc.

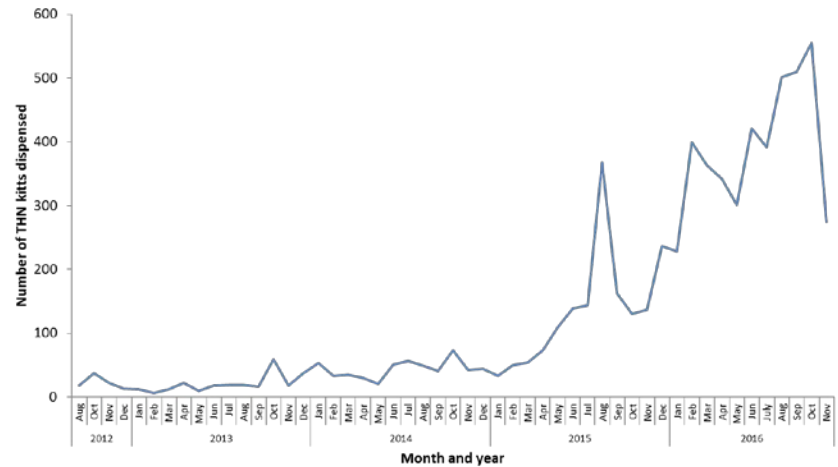
**Other inside** – includes facilities, occupational sites, public buildings and businesses

**Outside** – includes vehicles, streets, sidewalks, parking lots, public parks, wooded areas and campgrounds

Data source: BC Coroners Services Report: Illicit OD Deaths in BC – January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2016.

# Response: Naloxone

- 71 active distribution sites
- Training staff to administer it in supportive housing and shelters
- Outreach teams in the Downtown Eastside:
  - VANDU
  - “Spikes on Bikes” – Portland Hotel Society
- Overdose Prevention Boxes



# Response: Mobile Medical Unit

- Opened Dec. 13, 2016 at 58 West Hastings
- 613 patients to Jan. 15
  - Average 20/day
  - 262 (43%) had overdoses
  - Many others sought opioid replacement therapy (Suboxone)



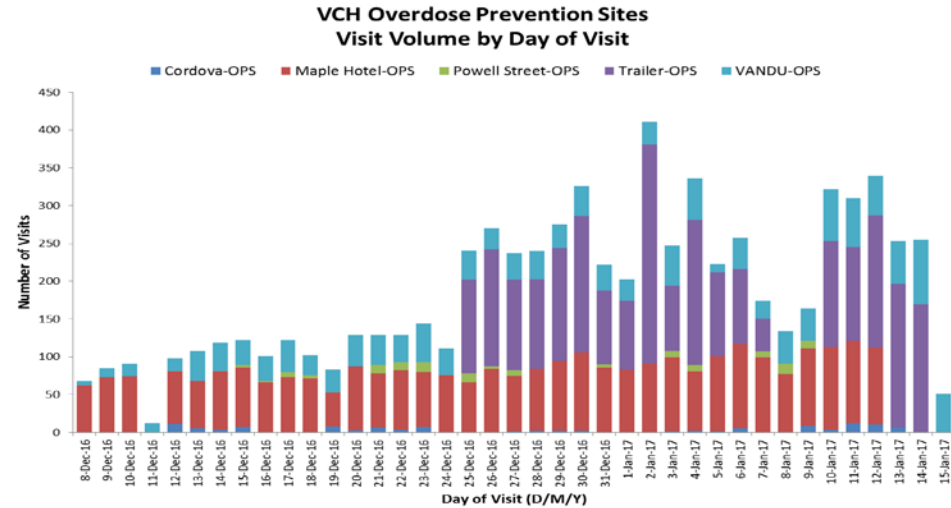
# Response: Expanded Supervised Injection Services

- InSite now open 24 hours for 3 days during week of social assistance cheque distribution
- Applications submitted to Health Canada for 2 new sites:
  - 528 Powell Street – new Mental Health and Substance Use Drop-In
  - 330 Heatley Street – Heatley Integrated Health Centre



# Response: Overdose Prevention Sites

1. **VANDU:** 380 East Hastings  
10 am-10 pm 7 days/week
2. **The Maple:** 177 East Hastings  
12 pm-10 pm 7 days/week
3. **Cordova:** 412 East Cordova  
10 am-4 pm Mon-Fri
4. **The Powell Street Getaway:**  
528 Powell St. 12 pm-8 pm 7 days/week
5. **Overdose Prevention Society Trailer:** 62 East Hastings  
10 am-10 pm 7 days/week



Source: VCH OPS Data Collection  
Prepared by: VCH PHSU





# Response: Expanding treatment access

## Expanded access:

St. Paul's Hospital:

- Rapid Access Addictions Team
- Suboxone Start Unit

Dr. Christy Sutherland and team

Crosstown Clinic: 84 West Hastings

- Injectable hydromorphone and diacetylmorphine

**Coming soon:** Connections Clinic March 1, 2017

**Removal of barriers:** Suboxone

**\$10 M announcement:**

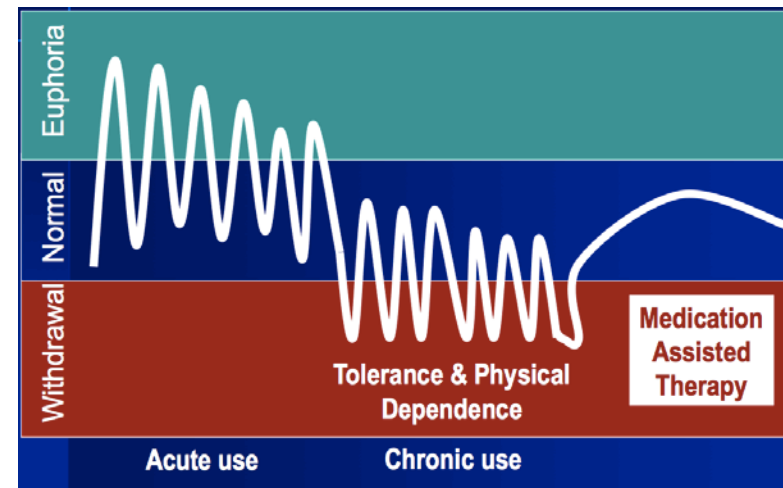
- 60 additional new beds
- 50 intensive outpatient treatment spaces



# Addressing the Stigma associated with Addiction

## Chronic relapsing medical conditions, like addiction

- Result from an interaction between genetics, environment, experiences and behaviour
- Poverty and early childhood experiences are strong determinants
- Relapses are common and expected
- A range of therapies are needed; there is no one solution for everyone
- The goals of therapy are to prolong and improve quality of life, restore function and reduce complications; not necessarily cure
- Are not a choice



# Next Steps

- Safe spaces in housing and improving social supports to reduce the likelihood of using alone
  - Stigma → social isolation → using alone → overdose
- Remove barriers to the full range of treatment options, including injectable opioid therapies (hydromorphone and diacetylmorphine)
- Public Health Approach: Regulate the production, distribution, form and concentration of psychoactive substances, to avoid preventable deaths from the consumption of substances with unknown composition and potency

