



# Update on the 2016/2017 Overdose Crisis

Presented by

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**Vancouver Coastal Health**



# Background on Opioid Crisis: Impact in BC in 2016

- Provincial Health Officer declared public health emergency one year ago: April 14, 2016
- Unprecedented total of 922 overdose deaths in 2016 in BC
- Tragic impact on families, friends, loved ones & communities
- Context: 3 times more people died from overdoses than motor vehicle accidents (300) in 2016

- 215 overdose deaths in Vancouver
  - Highest number of overdose deaths in BC
- 4,709 Vancouver Fire and Rescue response calls to overdose
- High levels of collaboration with partners in health, housing, first responders, community and evidence based research
- City staff monitoring data with VPD and VFRS

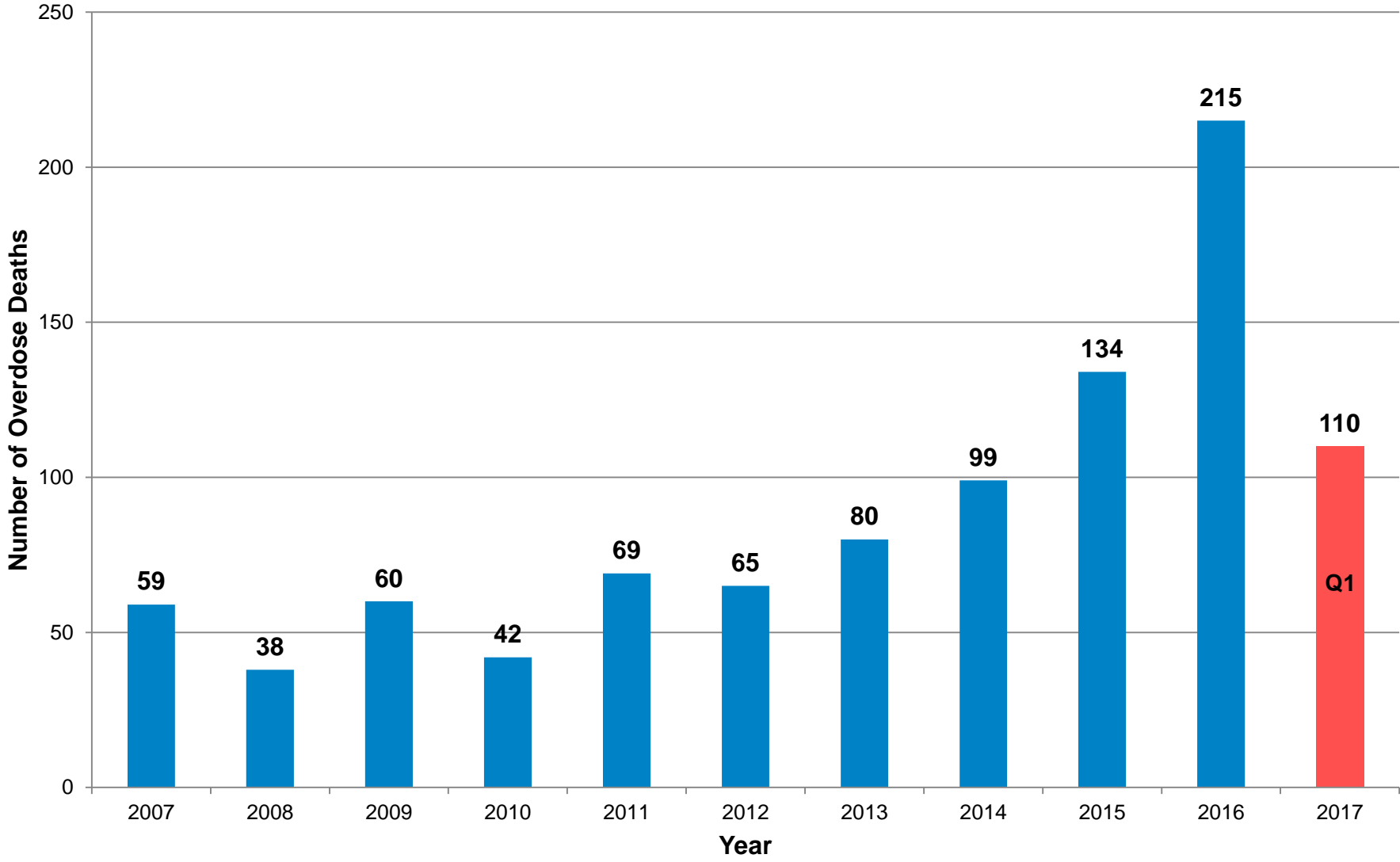
- 110 overdose deaths between January 1 and April 9, 2017 (est)\*
  - More than half the number of deaths for 12 months of 2016
  - 89% occurred inside
  - 83% male
- VFRS overdose calls up 109% for Q1 2017 relative to Q1 2016

\*Awaiting confirmation from BC Coroner toxicology reporting

# Overdose Deaths in Vancouver: 2007 – 2017 to date



Overdose Deaths in Vancouver | 2007 - 2017



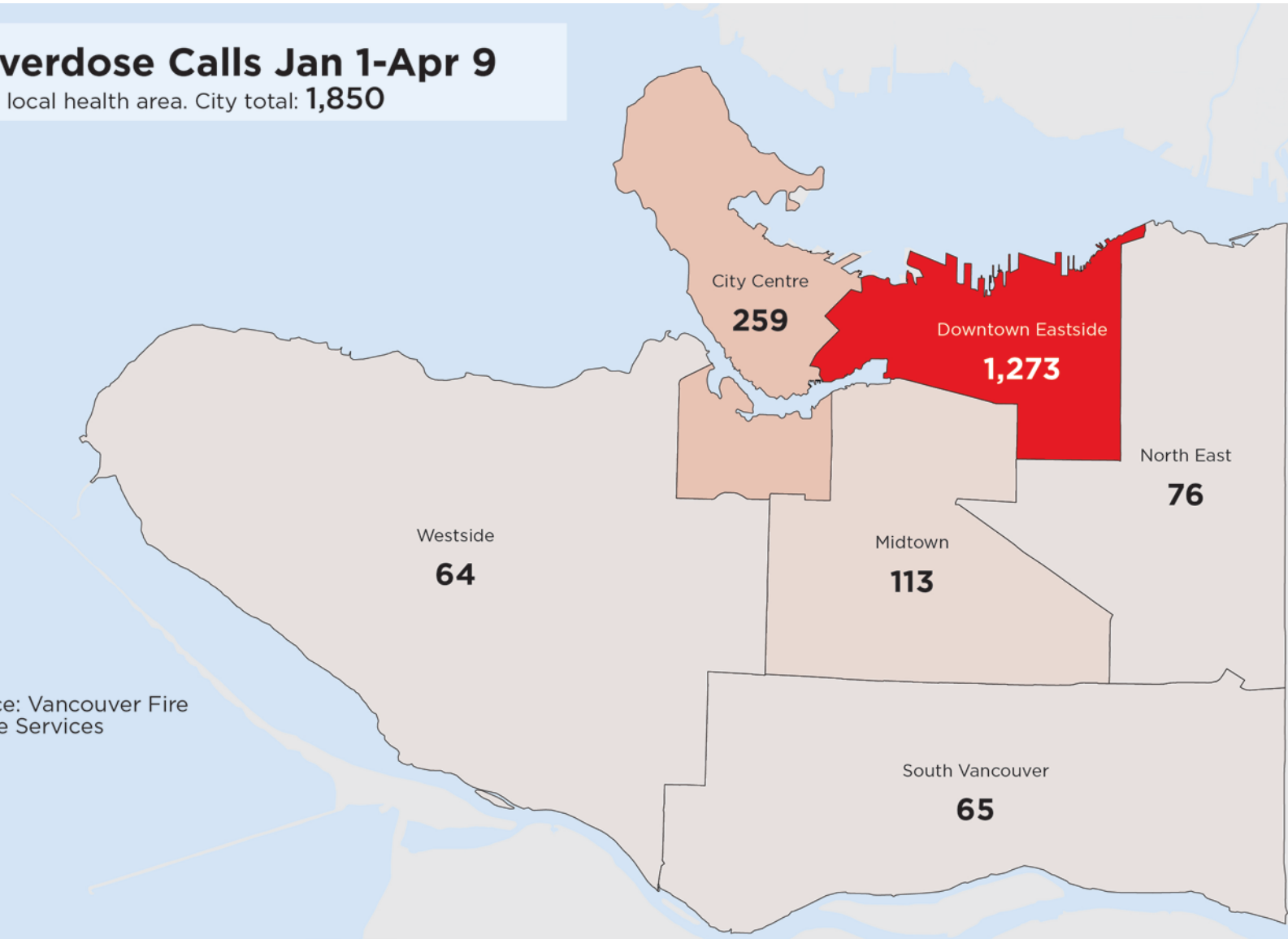
Source of Data: BC Coroner and VPD

# 2017 Fire & Rescue Overdose Responses = 1,850 YTD



## VFRS Overdose Calls Jan 1-Apr 9

Map shown by local health area. City total: 1,850



Data Source: Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services

# Interventions In DTES are Saving Lives

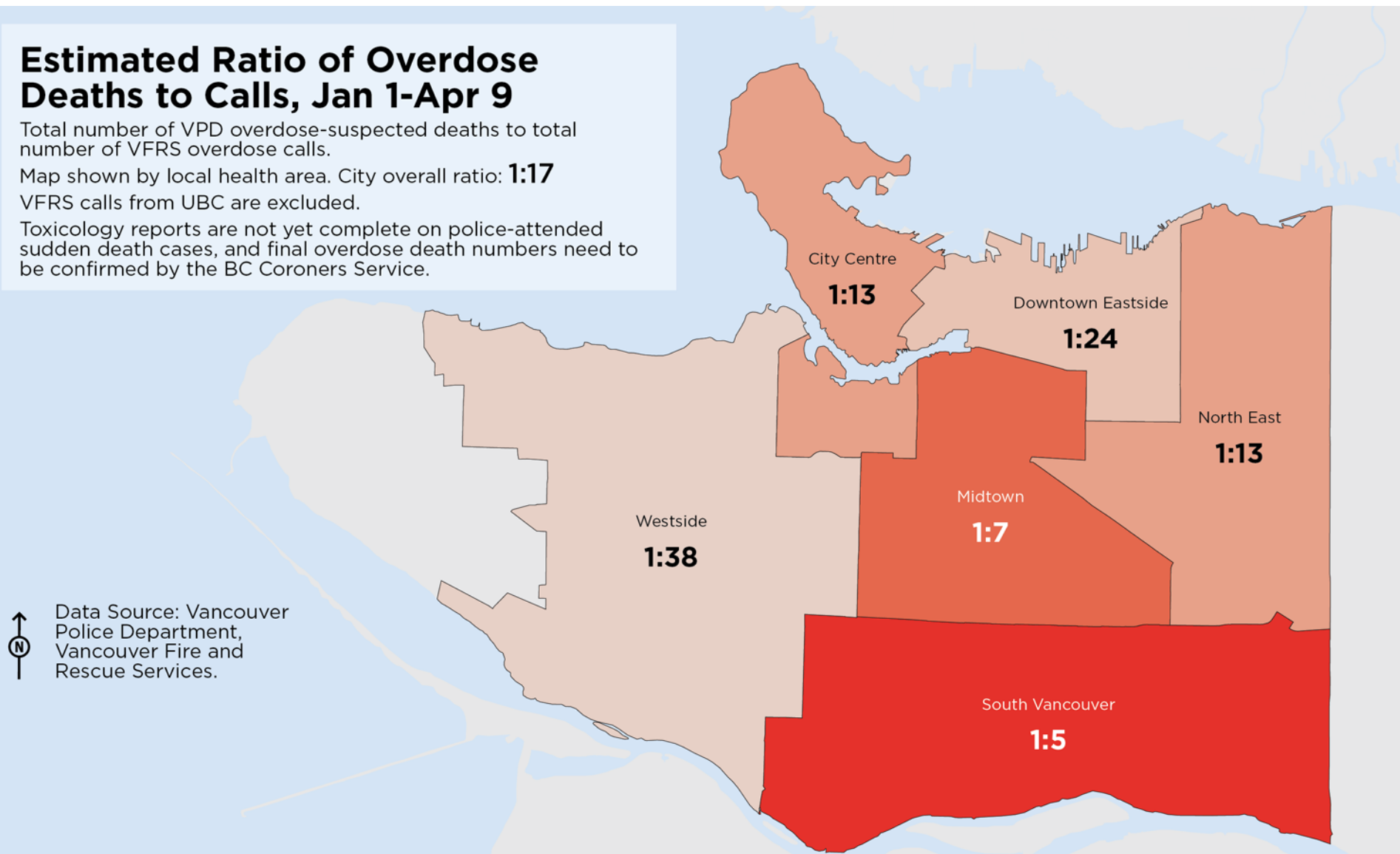
## Estimated Ratio of Overdose Deaths to Calls, Jan 1-Apr 9

Total number of VPD overdose-suspected deaths to total number of VFERS overdose calls.

Map shown by local health area. City overall ratio: **1:17**

VFERS calls from UBC are excluded.

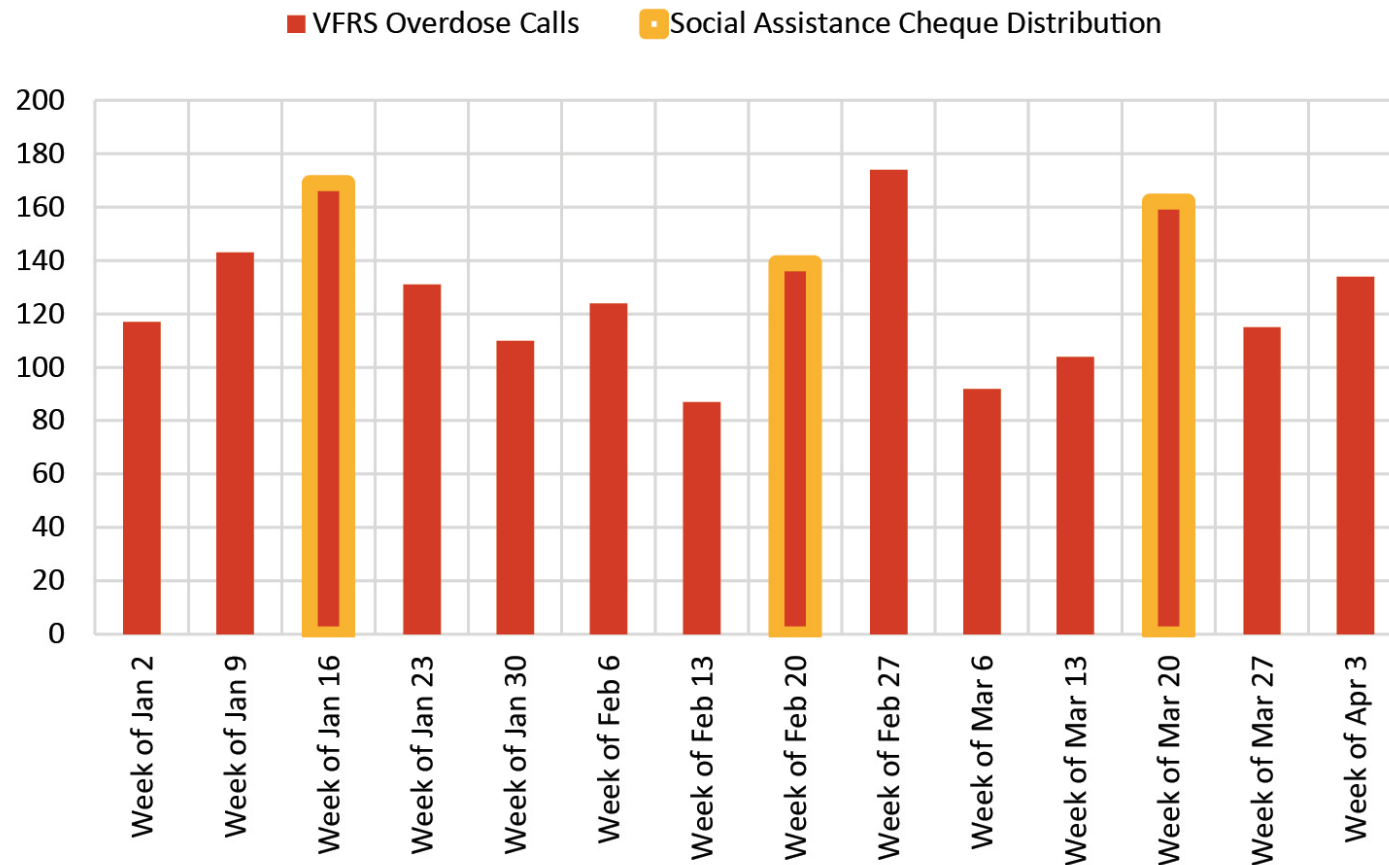
Toxicology reports are not yet complete on police-attended sudden death cases, and final overdose death numbers need to be confirmed by the BC Coroners Service.





# High Rates of Overdose Calls Across the Board

## VFRS Weekly Overdose Calls Jan 2-Apr 9, 2017



Data Source: Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services



- \$1M approved by Mayor and Council expended
- Estimated opening May 2017
- State of the art modular building
- Rapid access addictions clinic for patients



Photo: Westender

# 2017 Funding Allocation - VFRS

Initiative	Allocated Funding	Status
Additional Medic Unit (3-person crew)	\$1,900,000	Medic 23 operating out of Firehall #2 on DTES
Health and wellness for VFRS staff	\$150,000	Enhanced mental health services in place  Mental health coordinator role has been posted; appointment anticipated in near term
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$2,050,000</b>	

# 2017 Funding Allocation – CPC

Initiative	Allocated Funding	Status
Inflationary funding adjustment for Community Policing Centres	\$200,000 annual	Paid
New Community Policing Centre in Strathcona	\$100,000 one-time \$108,200 annual	Location has been identified  Interim board currently applying for registration as society
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$428,200</b>	

# 2017 Funding Allocation - Community Resources



Initiative	Allocated Funding	Update
Expanded training for City Staff	\$10,000	Continuing roll-out of first aid and naloxone training with support from VCH
Peer 'in-reach' activities	\$220,000	PAID: \$66,332 to DTES SRO Collaborative for outreach into high risk, private SROs  \$54,750 earmarked for ATIRA women's supervised consumption site
De-stigmatization programs	\$100,000	Focus of April 19 Healthy City Leadership Table meeting

# 2017 Funding Allocation - Community Resources cont.



Initiative	Allocated Funding	Update
Peer capacity and support	\$30,000	Engaging Housing Providers to Determine Best Use of Funds
Ray-Cam youth services	\$60,000	Half of money is paid Dispensing remaining Funds in April
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$420,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,908,200</b>	

- Urban Aboriginal community meetings convened in February and April, including MCFD and Ministry of Justice, focused on Aboriginal families
- Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive to coordinate urban Aboriginal response



- Federal government has provided:
  - \$10M (one-time) for British Columbia (not yet allocated by Province)
  - \$6M (one-time) for Alberta
  - \$100M nationally over 5 years announced in federal budget for a drugs and substances strategy



Photo: City News



- \$10M for BC has not been allocated
- City recommending \$8M for:
  - Scaling up injectable therapy
  - Increased psycho-social supports for patients in Vancouver
- Remaining to address opioid crisis across the province
- Invest in upstream measures to prevent the negative impacts of substance use
- Invest in early care and learning, housing affordability, and a national strategy for poverty reduction

- City presented to Standing Senate Committee on Bill C-37 on April 5, 2017 with Dr. Perry Kendall, BC Centre for Substance Use, and Canadian Nurses Association.
- City emphasized:
  - Approval to set up safe injection sites be delegated to the Province in cases of emergency
  - Streamlined application and approval process
  - Enhanced collaboration with municipalities as areas of 'first response'

- Launched in Jan 2017
- Chaired by Mayor Robertson
- Includes the Mayors of Calgary, Edmonton, Hamilton, Kitchener, London, Montreal, Ottawa, Regina, Saskatoon, Surrey, Toronto, and Winnipeg
- Planning joint Federal, Provincial, and Mayors meeting in June 2017 to coordinate crisis response
- Developing recommendations to Federal Government in Spring 2017

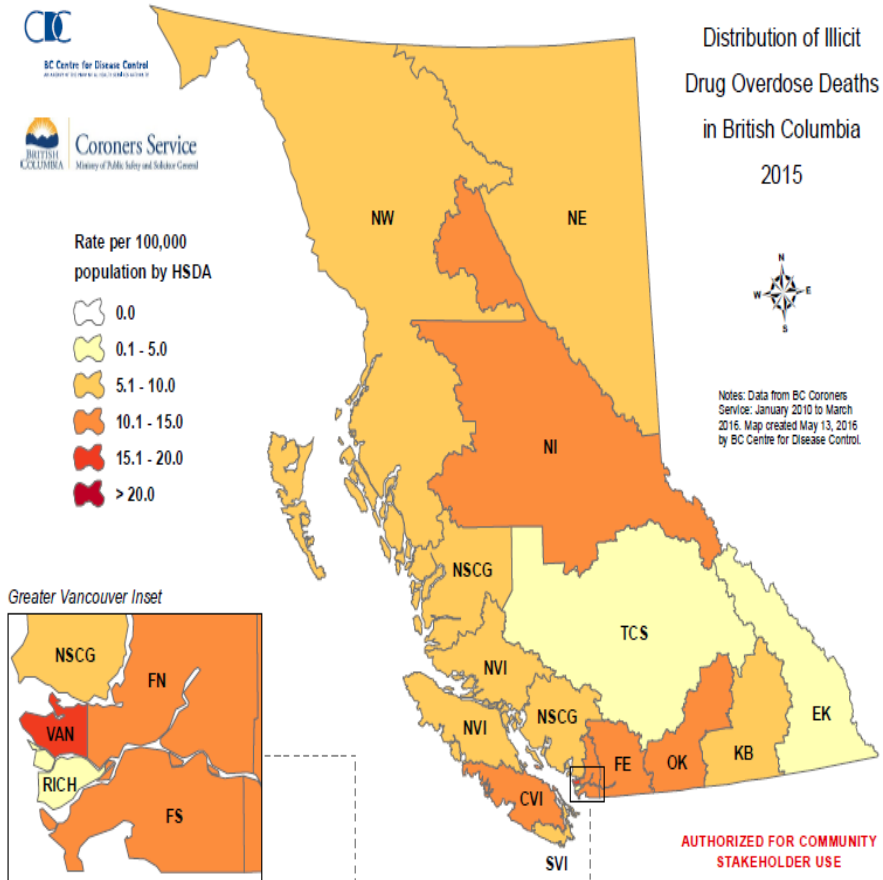


# Overview of Opioid Public Health Emergency in BC

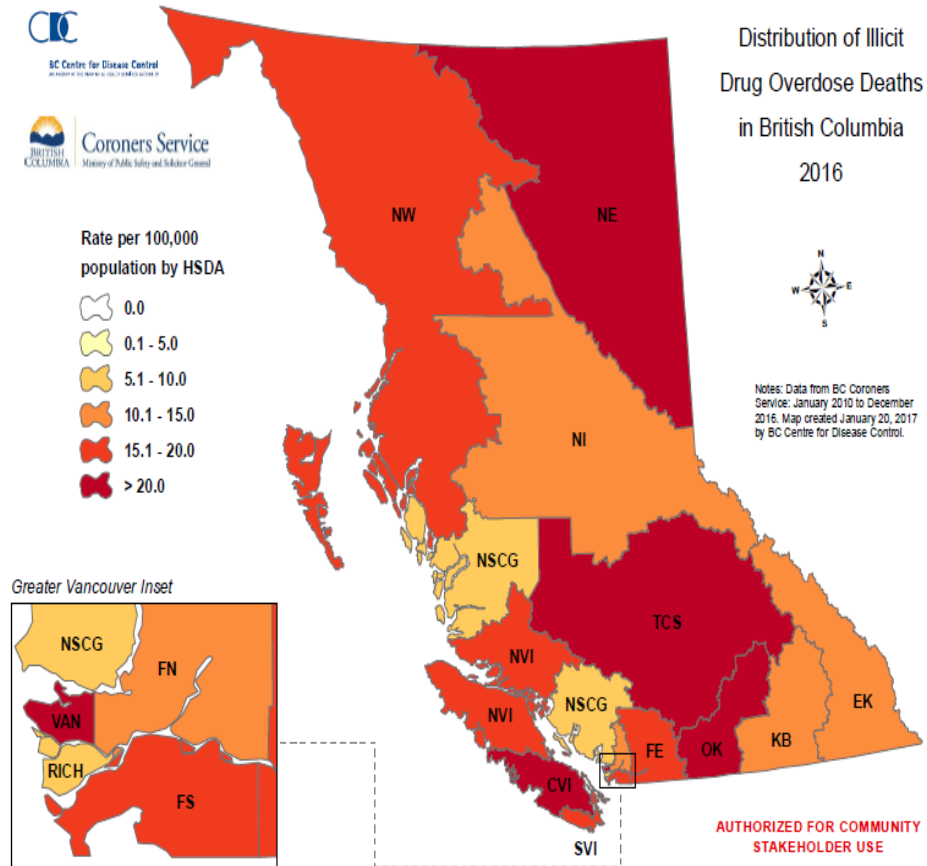
April 12, 2017

Dr. Perry Kendall  
BC Provincial Health Officer  
Vancouver City Council

# 2015

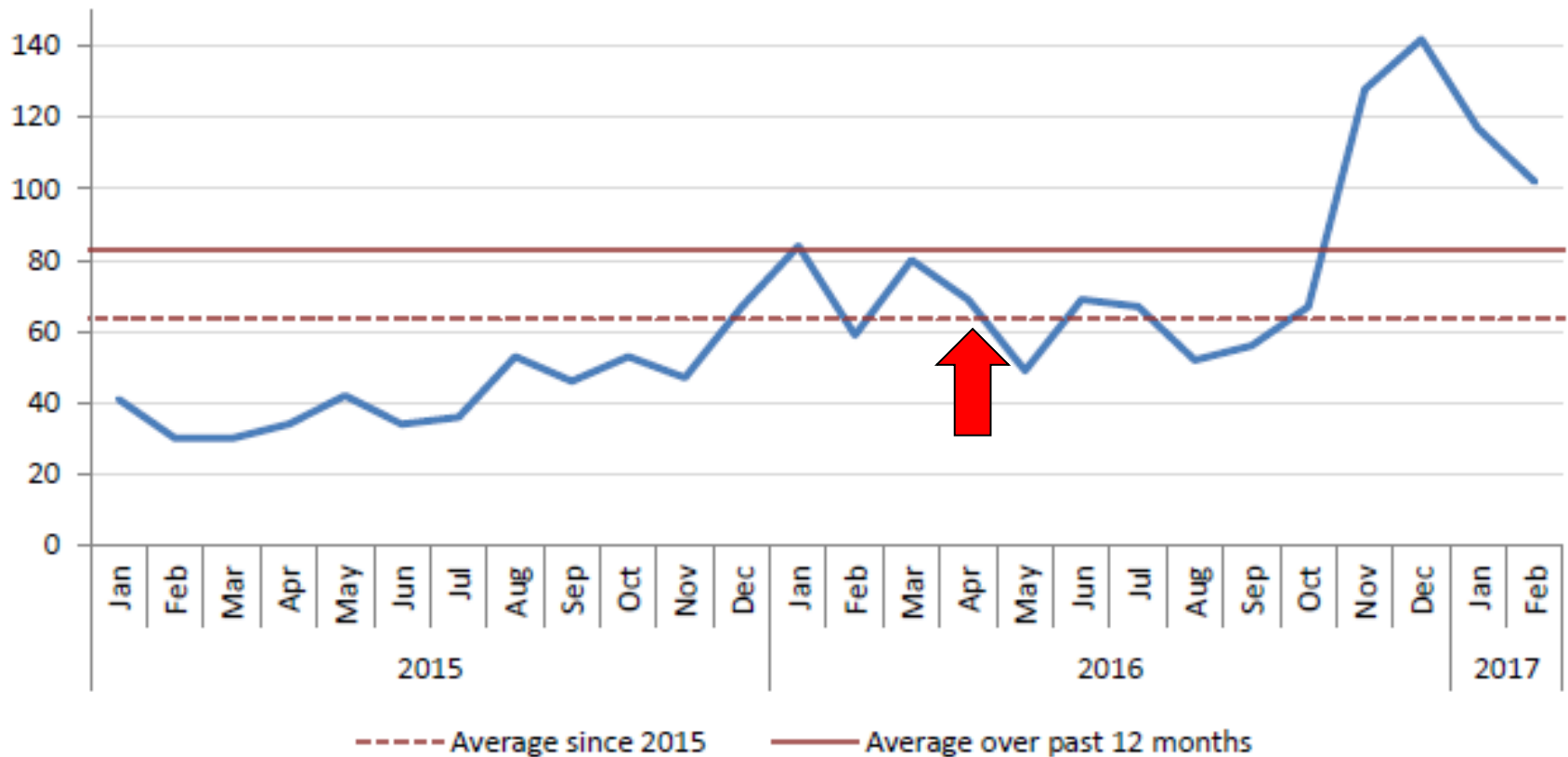


# 2016

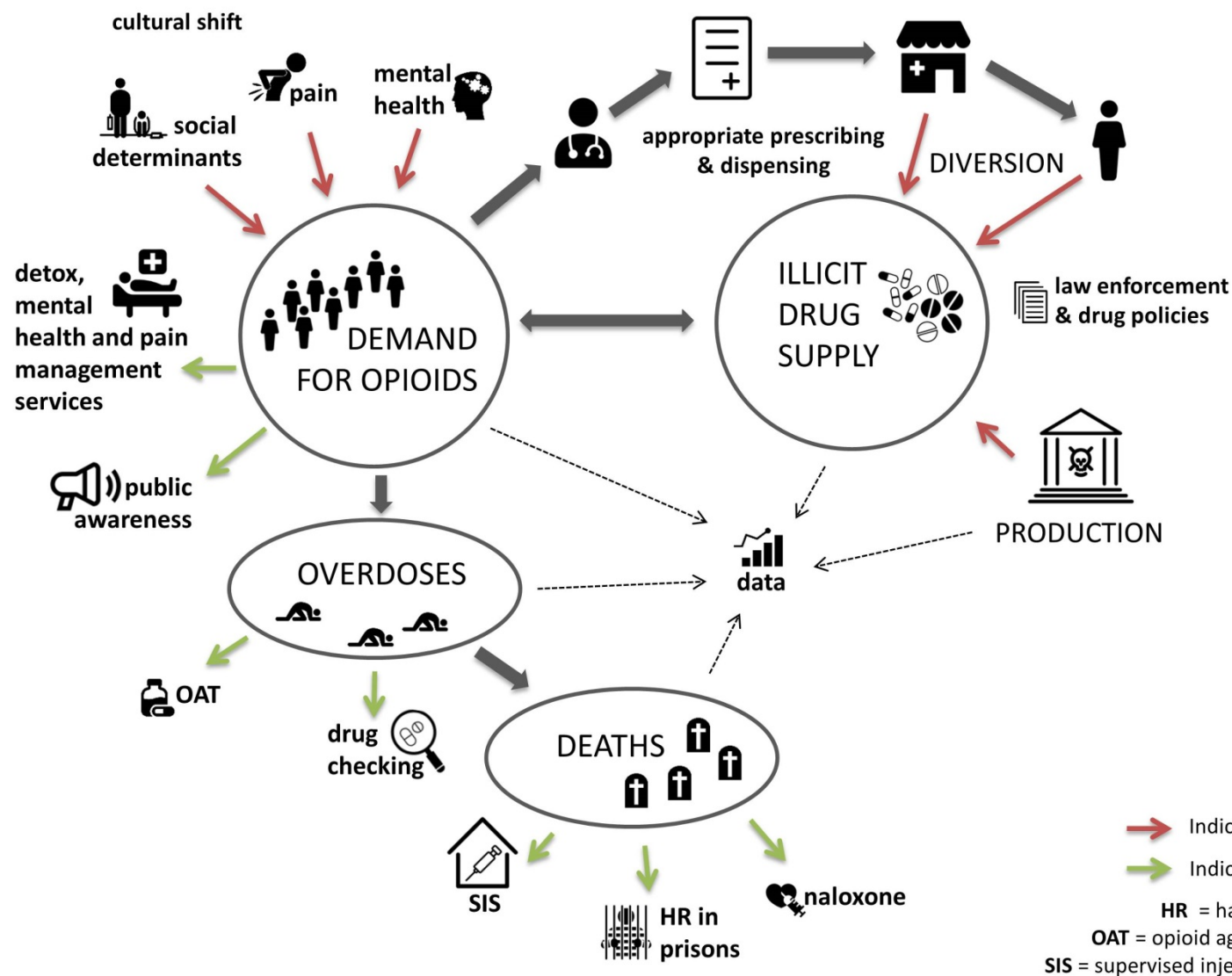


# Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths by Month

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths by Month, 2015-2017<sup>[2]</sup>







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# What Next?

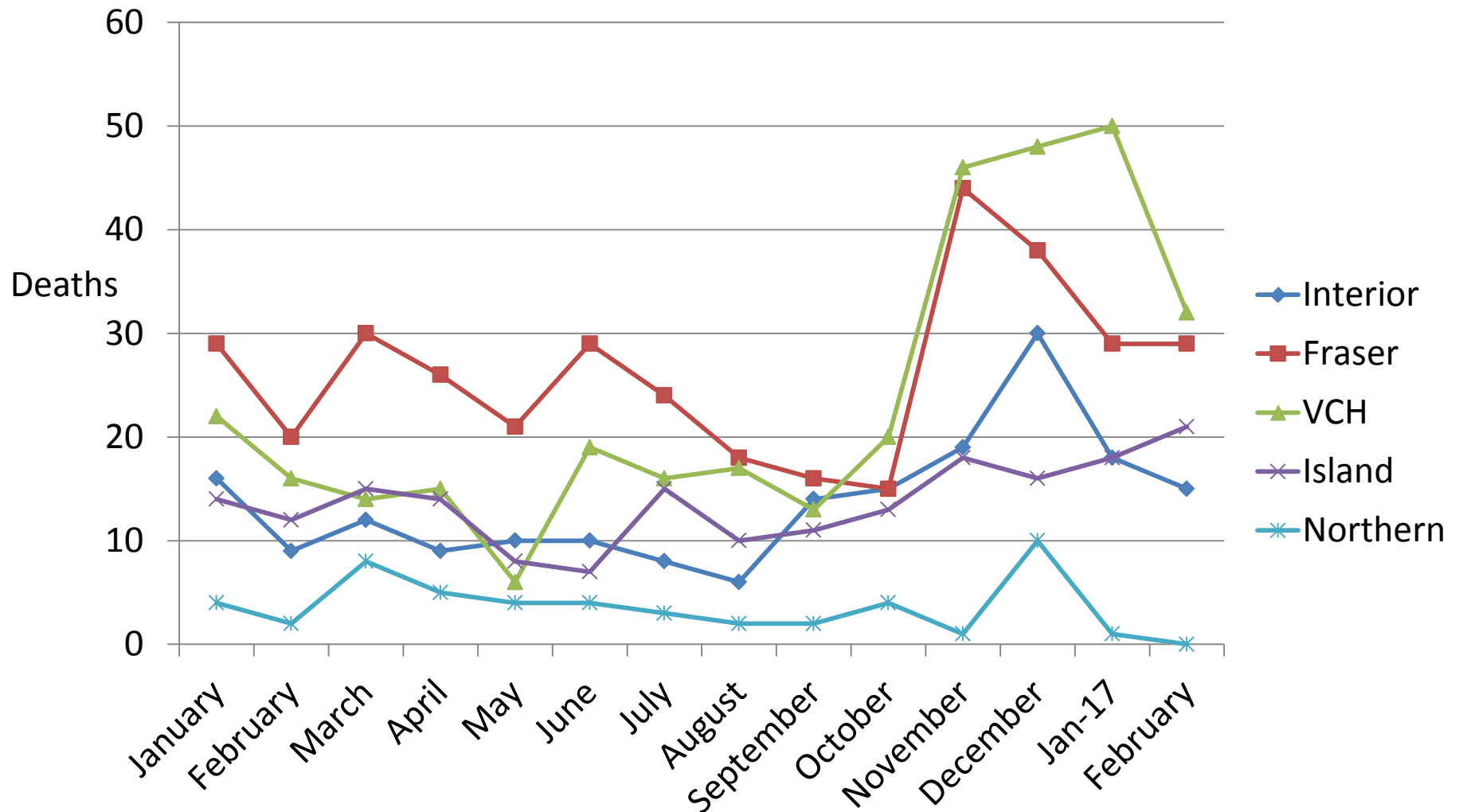
1. More accessible prescription, more prescription options and more resources, build a system
2. Discourse around stigma
3. Regulatory Framework (Portugal) / Difficult discussions, decriminalization
4. Focus on upstream, Early Childhood Education, Supportive Housing
5. National Pain Strategy

# Opioid Overdose Emergency Vancouver Update

April 12, 2017

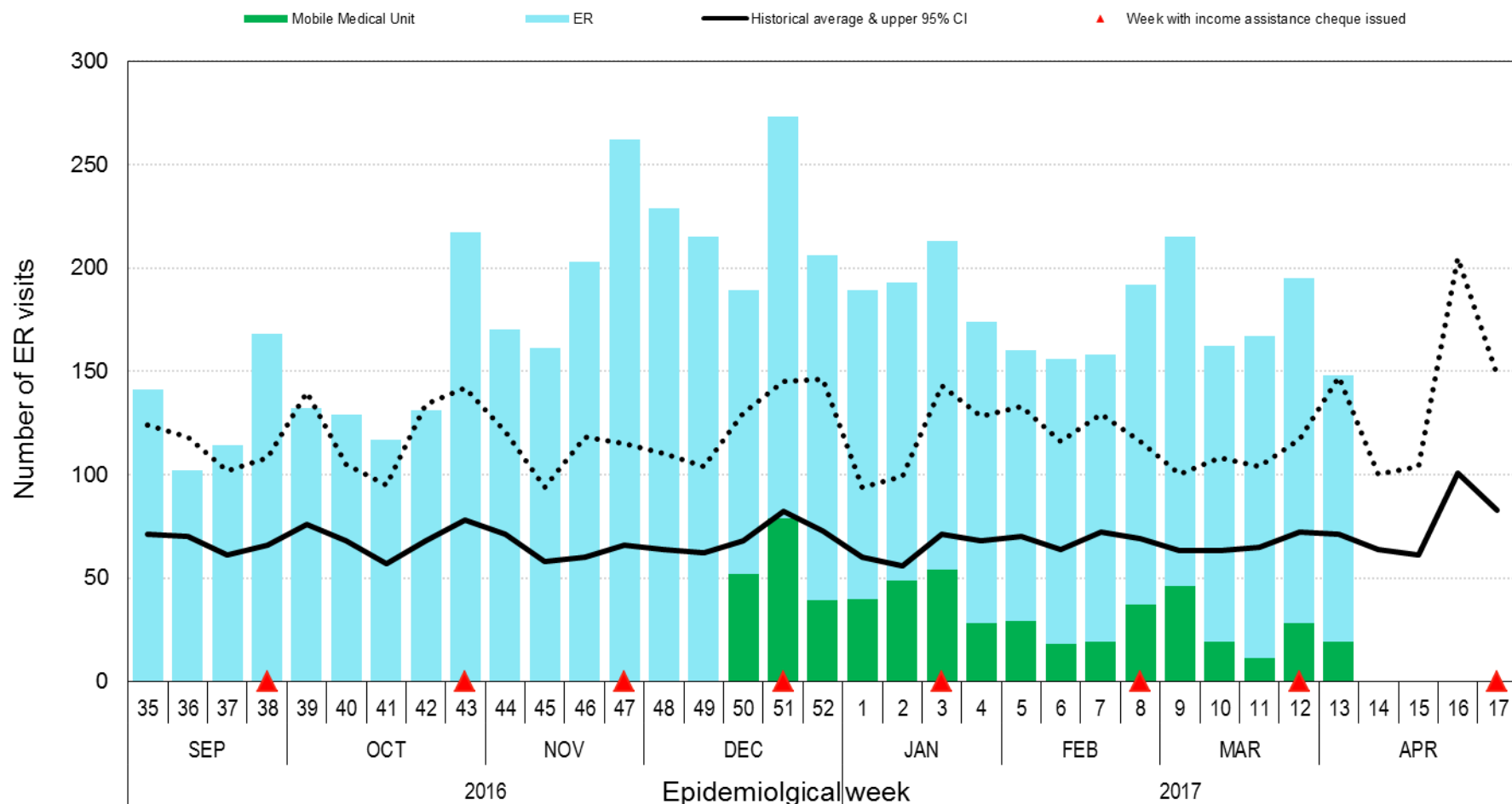
Patricia Daly  
Chief Medical Health Officer

# Illicit Overdose Deaths January 2016-January 2017



Source: BC Coroners Service

# **Number of ED visits related to overdose\* by Type of Sites and epidemiological week.** **Vancouver Coastal Health, 2016/2017 compared to historical average and 95% confidence limits†**



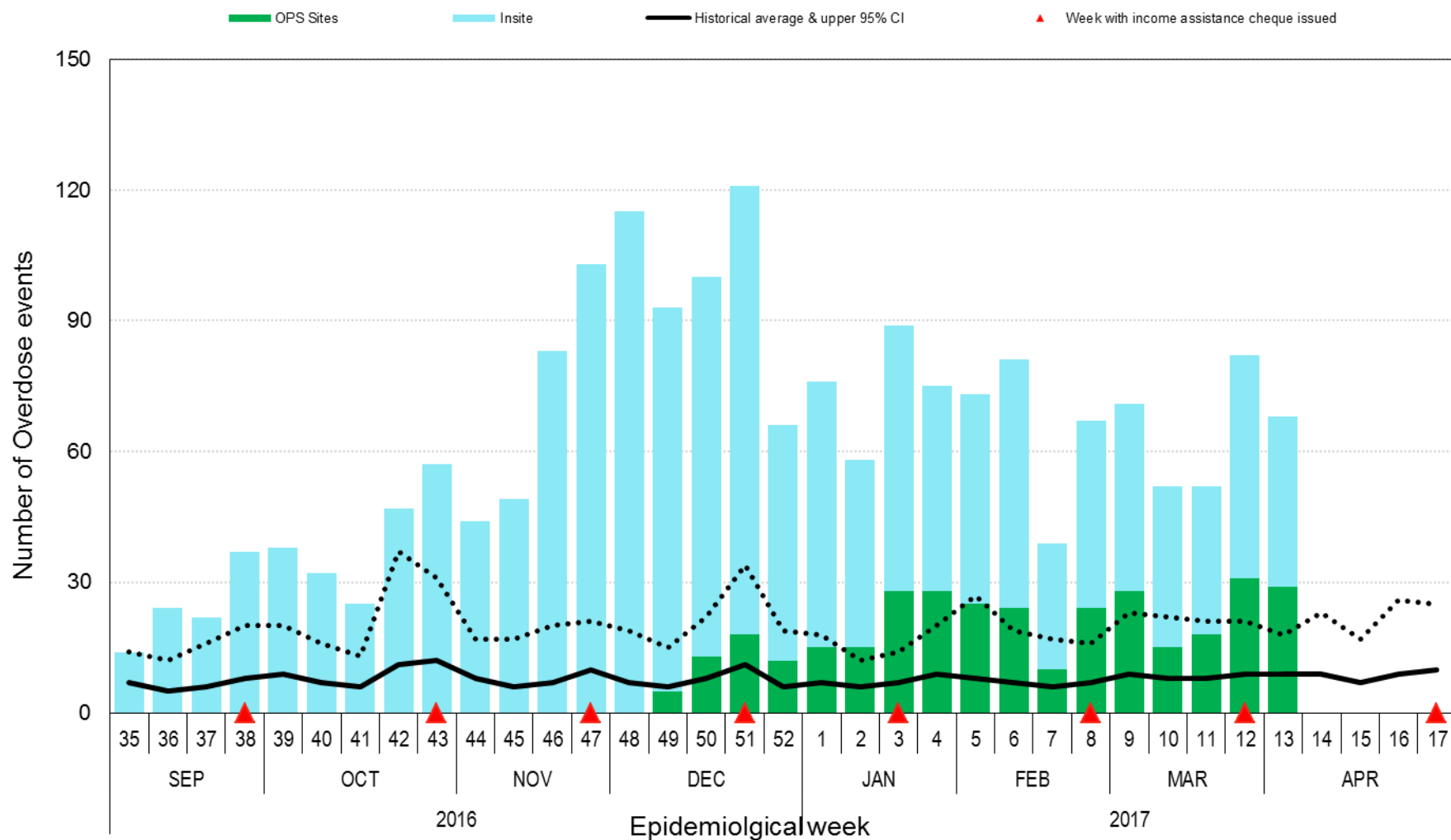
\*Overdose related visits are monitored through ICD-9/10 codes and keywords search where the substance-specific terms are indicated in presenting complaint, discharge diagnosis, nature of injury and mechanism of injury.

†Includes data since 2008.

Source: PHSU Emergency Department Visits Database from CareCast System (Richmond Hospital, UBC Hospital, Vancouver General Hospital), Eclipsys System (Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital) and McKesson System (Lions Gate Hospital, Pemberton Health Centre, Squamish General Hospital, Whistler Health Care Centre) and Mobile Medical Unit Visiting Dataset.

Prepared by: Vancouver Coastal Health, Public Health Surveillance Unit.

**Number of overdose events at Insite and overdose prevention sites\* by epidemiological week.  
Vancouver Coastal Health, 2016/2017 compared to historical average and 95% confidence limits†**



Source: Insite, Vancouver Coastal Health, HIV/AIDS & Harm Reduction Programs and VCH OPS Program.  
Prepared by: Vancouver Coastal Health, Public Health Surveillance Unit.

# Vancouver Coastal Health Response

1. Naloxone distribution
2. Mobile Medical Unit
3. Overdose Prevention Sites
4. New clinics (Connections, RAAC at St. Paul's)
5. Applications pending: New Supervised Consumption Sites





# 2017 Priorities

1. Supportive housing
  - *Train staff, naloxone available*
2. Expand opioid agonist therapy
  - *Oral and injectable*
3. Address stigma
4. Vulnerable youth
  - *Identify, engage, support*
5. Early childhood development

**BREAKING  
THE STIGMA:  
MYTHS OF ADDICTION**