



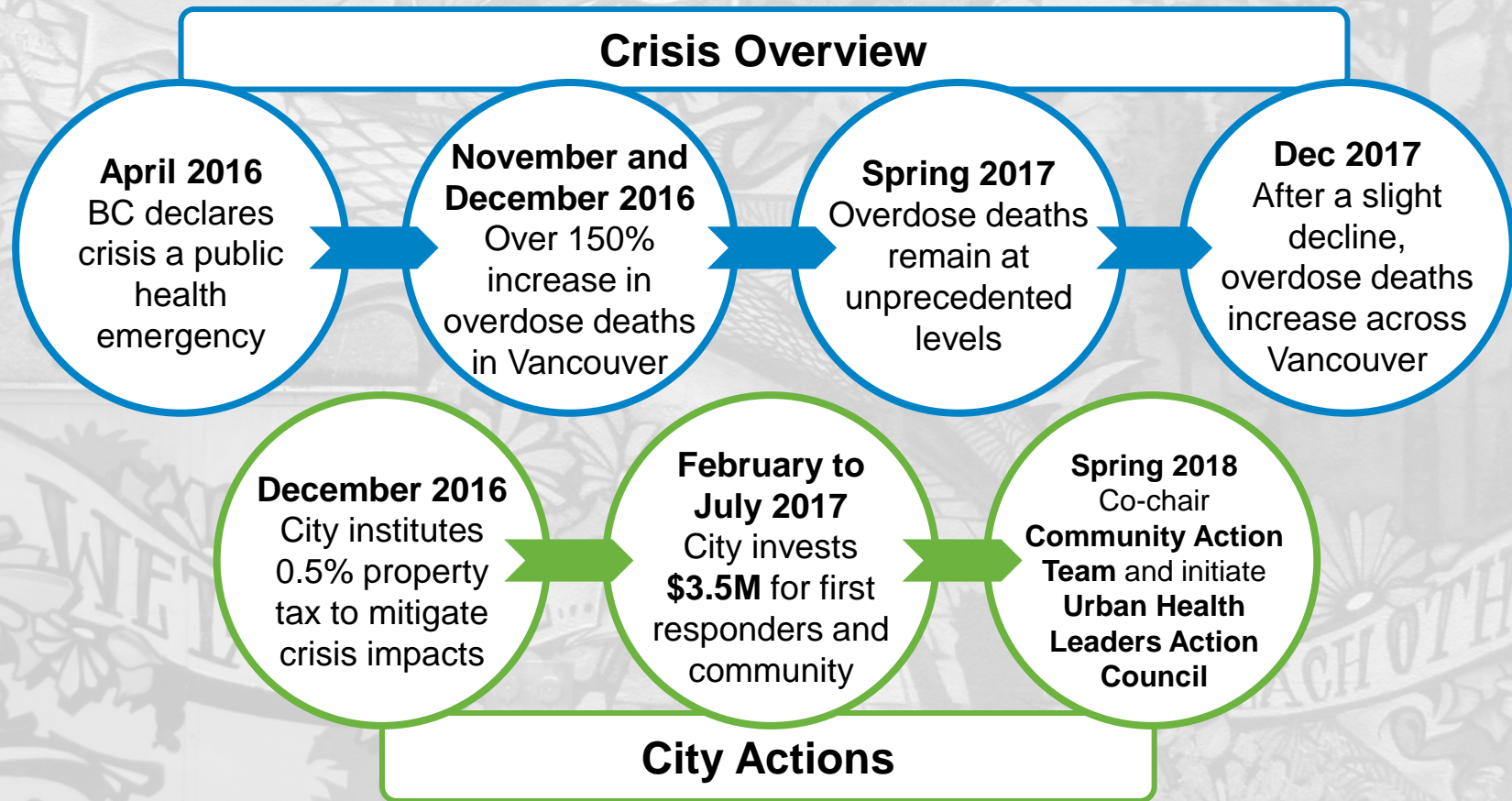
Update on the Opioid Crisis and De-Stigmatization Grants





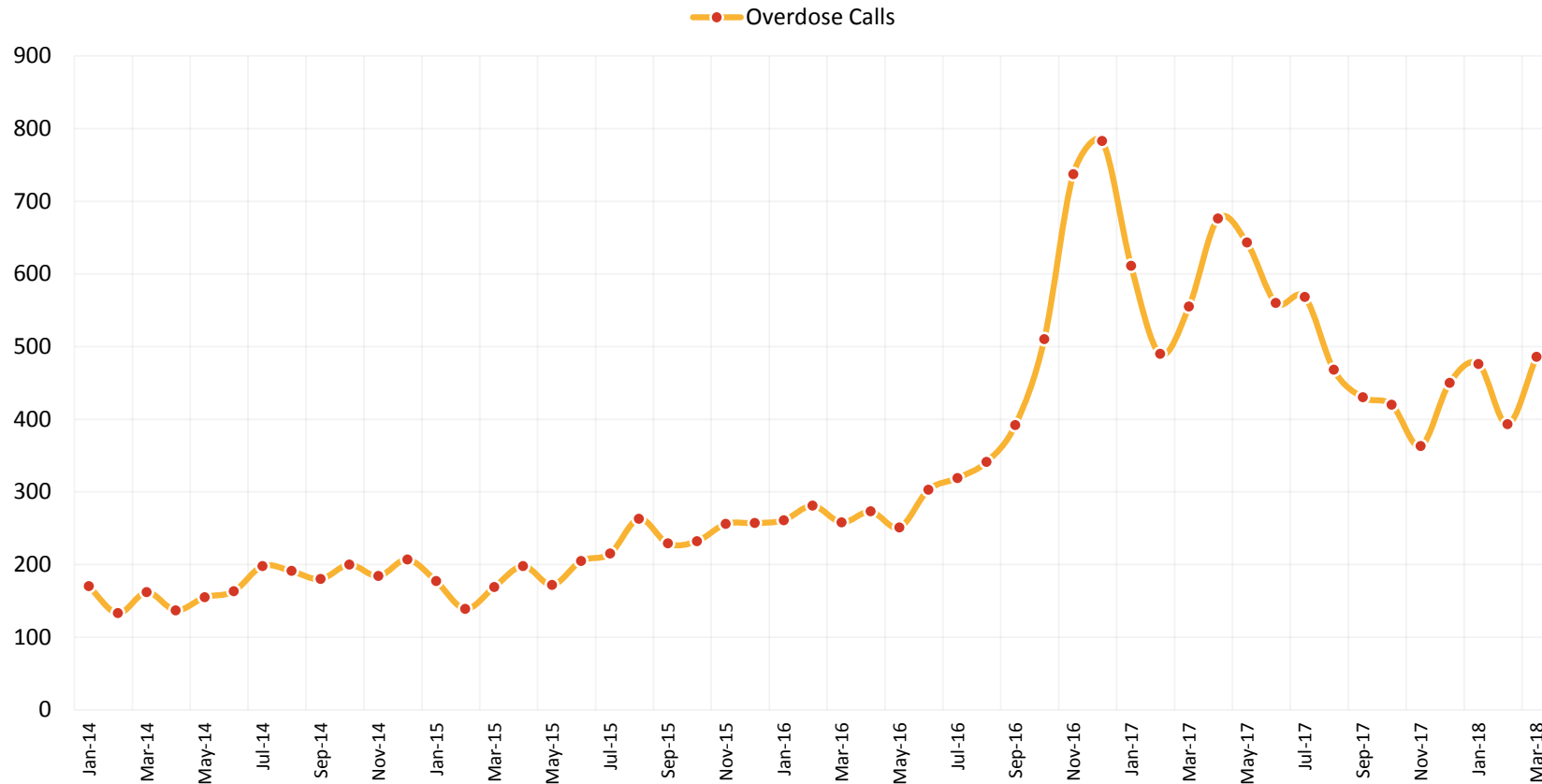
Background





Actions are Making an Impact

Monthly VFRS Overdose Calls: 1 Jan 2014 - 31 Mar 2018



Data Source: Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services

Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service Overdose Calls Attended in 2017

City total: **6,234**

Community health service areas
mapped by natural breaks:

8 to 46 calls in area

66 to 132 calls in area

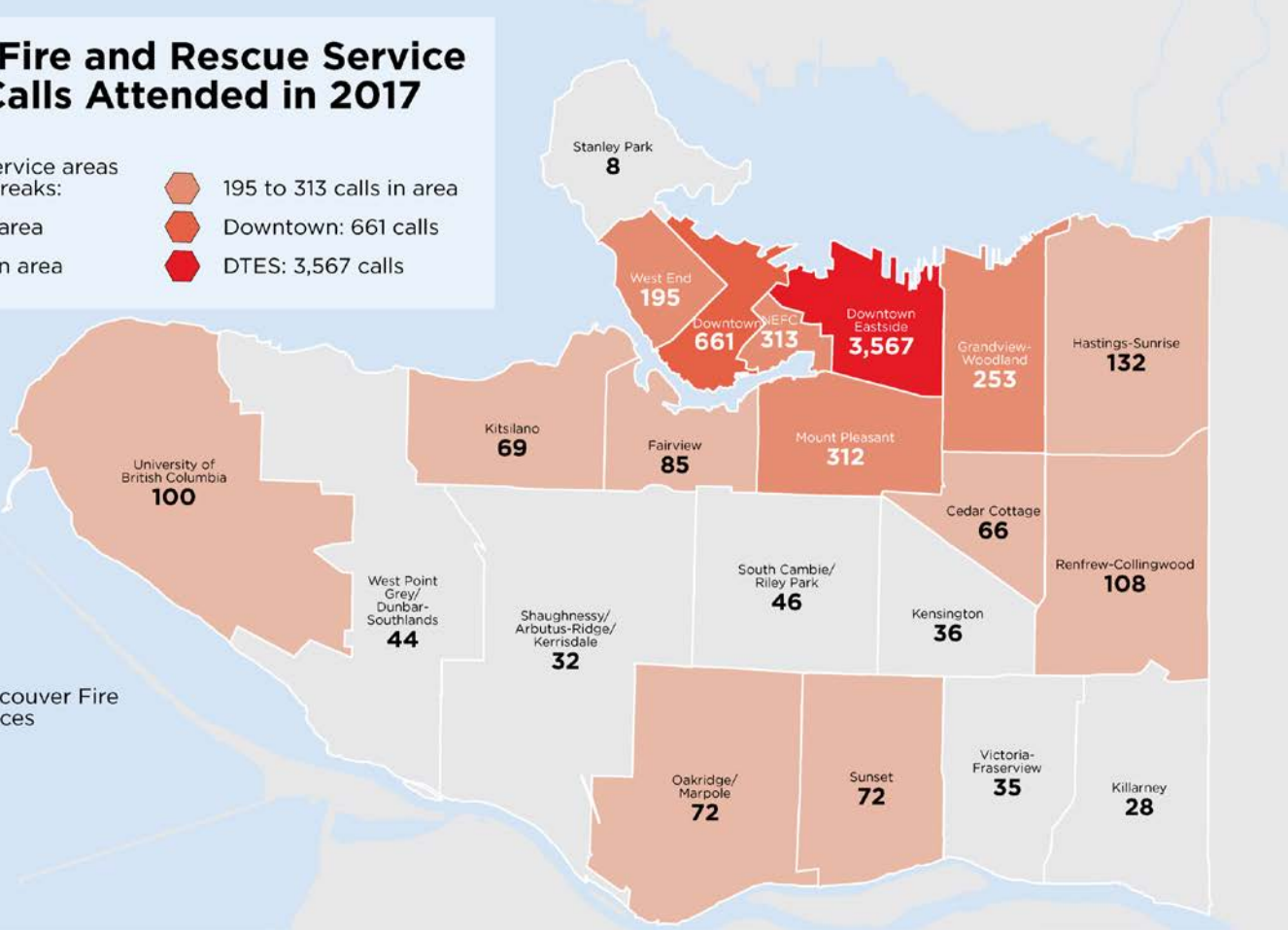
195 to 313 calls in area

Downtown: 661 calls

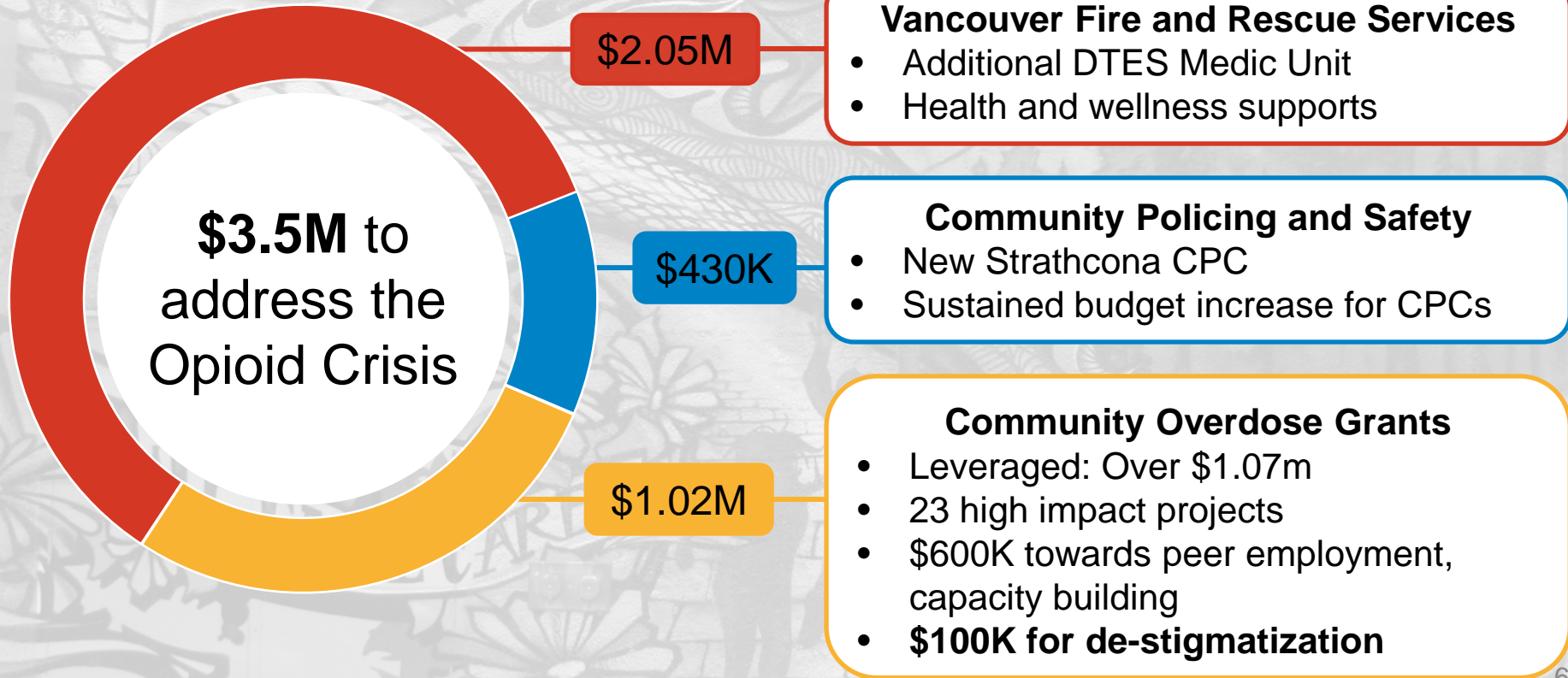
DTES: 3,567 calls



Data Source: Vancouver Fire
and Rescue Services



Final Investment from Contingency Budget



Actions are Making an Impact

Estimated Ratio of Overdose Deaths to Calls, Jan 1-Dec 31

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

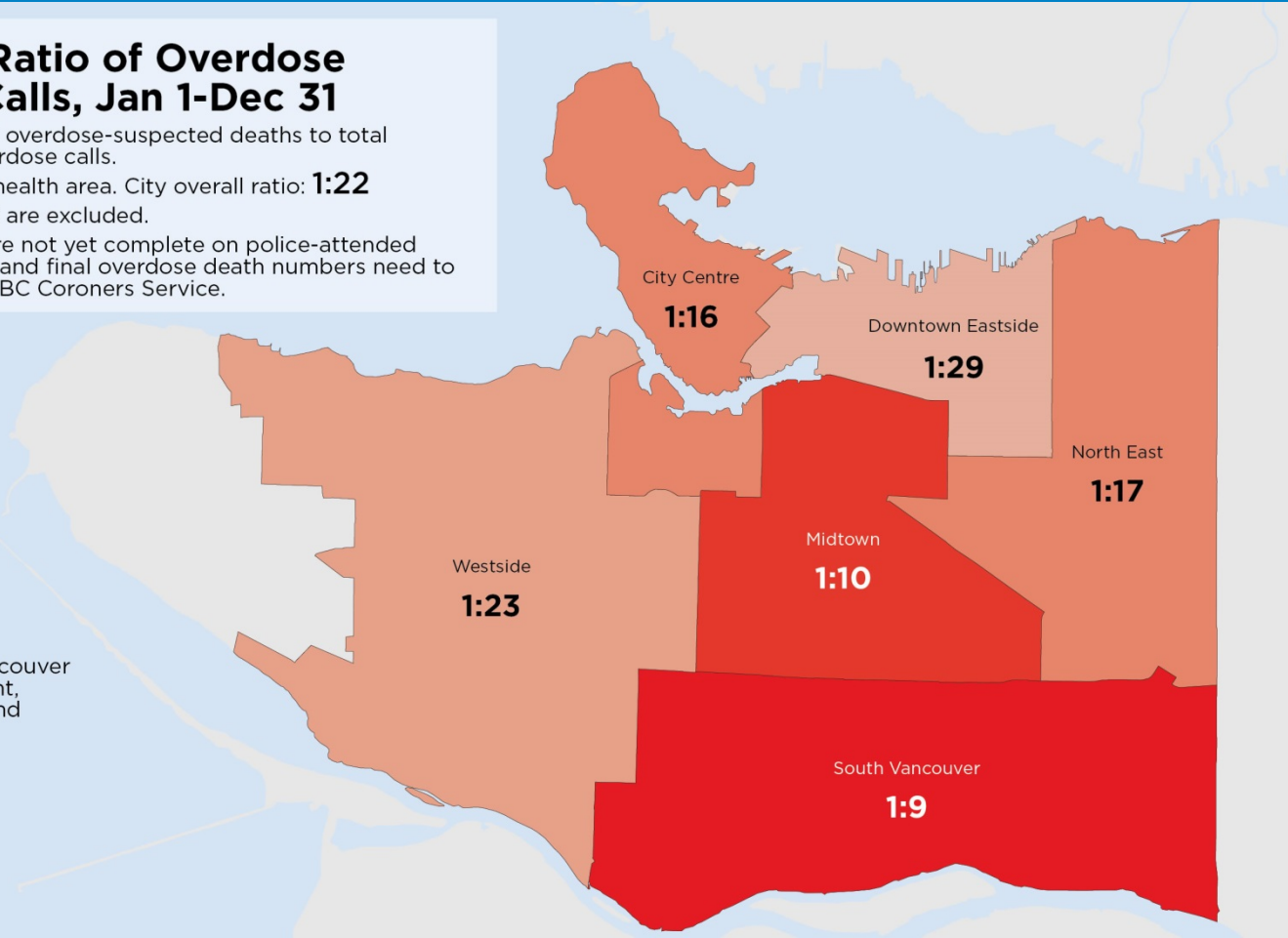
Map shown by local health area. City overall ratio: **1:22**

VFRS 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.



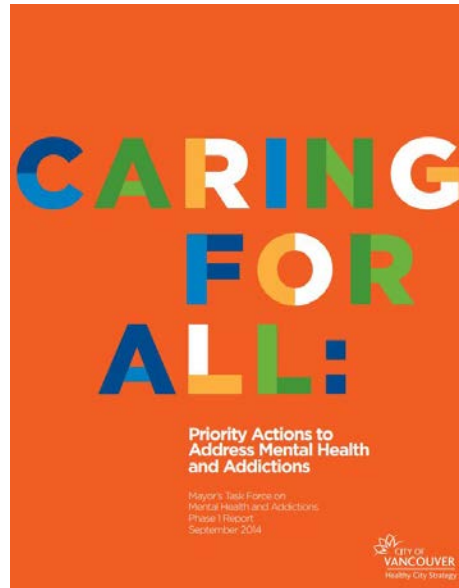
Data Source: Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services.





Stigma and the Opioid Crisis





03

De-stigmatization
Feeling Safe and Included

Stigma, Exclusion and Access



Negative attitudes and behaviours towards people that use substances.

Based on social, cultural and moral norms

Leads to fear, shame, discrimination, exclusion

Creates barriers to housing, employment, health services

Drives isolation – 50% of deaths among people alone

“At the very least, we should be working to decriminalize the individuals who are at risk in this epidemic.”

- Dr. Perry Kendall



Stigma is reinforced when substance use is treated as a criminal rather than health issue



Despite significant efforts to promote health and treatment services, **aligned efforts across health, public safety, and justice** are needed to ensure people have access to care

Stigma and The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act



The Federal government has recognized that charges for personal possession are a barrier to saving lives

In May of 2017, the government passed the ***Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act***, which provides an exemption from charges of simple possession when calling 911 during an overdose

By removing the fear of criminal charges, the Government is encouraging people to access lifesaving health services

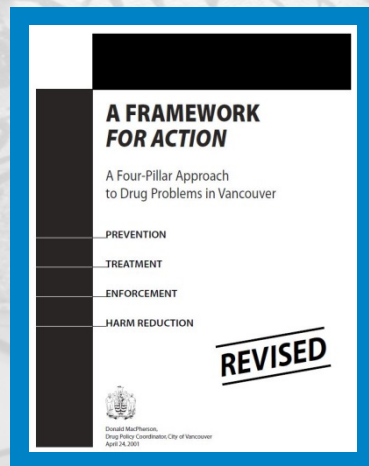
“Protecting the lives of Canadians is our most important priority. This law ensures that you can call for help when someone is having a drug overdose and stay to provide them support until emergency responders arrive with guaranteed immunity from certain charges related to simple possession of illegal drugs.”

***Ralph Goodale
Minister of Public Safety and
Emergency Preparedness***

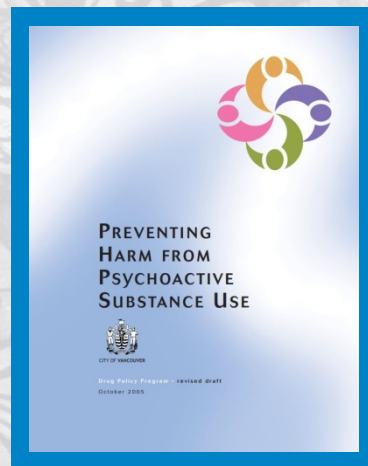


Previous Council Decisions

2001



2005



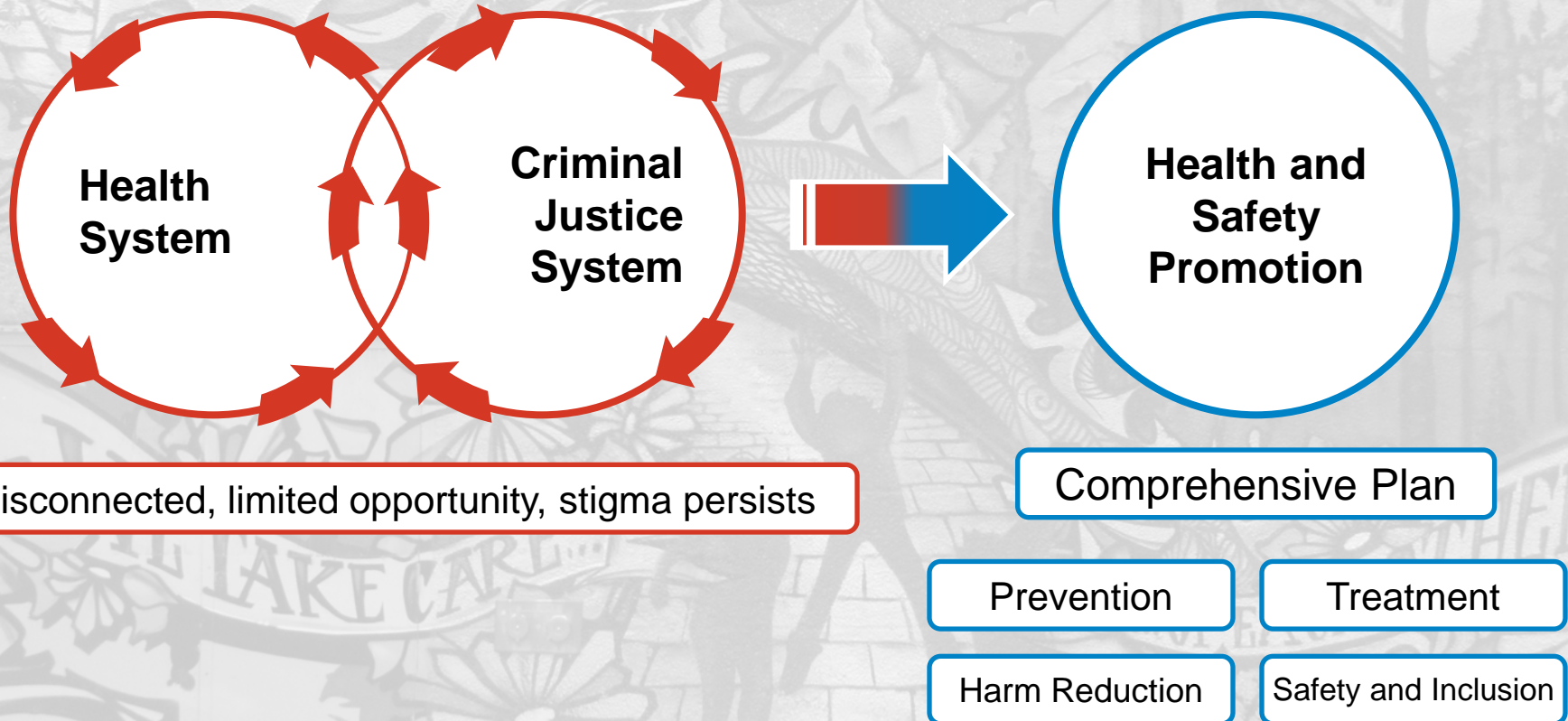
2010



To work towards addressing the drug-related **health crisis** in Vancouver by reducing harm to communities and individuals

That the Federal Government initiate a process of reviewing Canada's legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks governing illegal drugs ...
AND ... consider regulatory alternatives to the current policy of prohibition for currently illegal drugs.





Call on all governments and international organizations ... to **Decriminalise drug users**





De-Stigmatization Grants Changing Perceptions on Substance Use



-  Stigma creates barriers for people accessing health and other services
-  Stigma leads to fear, shame and exclusion
-  De-stigmatization requires the voices of people with lived experience
-  Face-to-face interactions are a leading best practice for addressing stigma

Provincial Awareness Campaign



Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions launched province-wide awareness campaign earlier this year

Focus on de-stigmatizing substance use, promoting resources, dispelling myths around addiction

Local Solutions to Address Stigma



\$100K approved for
mental health
and addictions
de-stigmatization
programs

PWLE Advisory –
6 meetings in 2017

2 Key Projects -
Speakers Bureau
Resource Guide



Will recruit people with lived experience of mental health or addictions issues to raise awareness and reduce stigma

Group of experts that can present at conferences, events and schools

Meaningful employment for peers while changing the conversation around mental health and substance use

Granted to **Megaphone**, who held last year's successful 'How to Save a Life' overdose awareness event series – **CBC** will be media sponsor

Resource Guide - \$15,000

Since joining the Mayor's Task Force, PWLE Advisory has described having challenges knowing where and how to access services

Access to Healthy Human Services Survey:
~50% unaware of how to access mental health help
55% unaware of how to access addictions help

Peer-informed resource guide would help improve system navigation

Granted to **Watari Counseling and Support Services Society**, who previously produced the 'Survival Manual'



Stigma continues to push people into isolation and fuel this crisis

Substance use needs to be treated as a health rather than criminal issue

Decriminalization can be one part of a comprehensive approach

A collaborative health approach is needed to address this crisis

We need to support the voices of people with lived experience



Hearing from People with Lived Experience

