

2023 Nanaimo
Community Action
Team Overview for:
Nanaimo City Council

*Governance and
Priorities Committee
Meeting*

Dec. 11, 2023



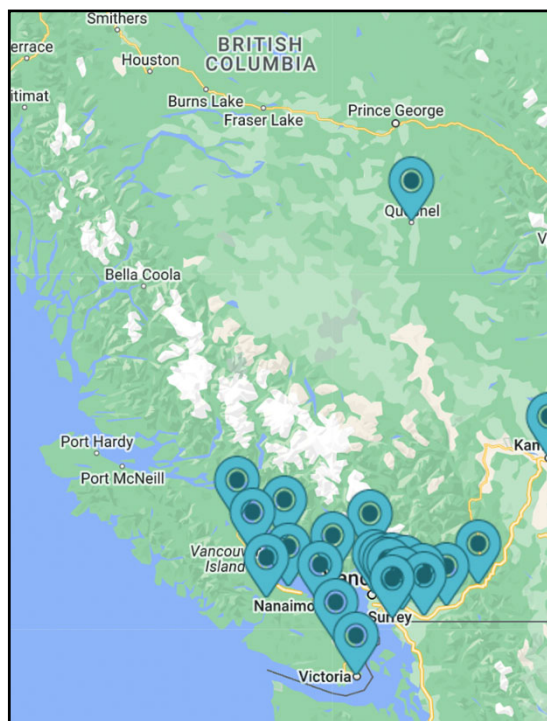
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Thank you for the opportunity to present today.

We would like to acknowledge that we work and reside
in the unceded Territory of the Snuneymuxw First
Nation.

The Nanaimo CAT is honoured to support communities
living upon the lands of the Snuneymuxw, Snaw-naw-as,
and Stz'uminus First Nations, recognizing the
disproportionate ways in which Indigenous Peoples are
impacted by the Toxic Drug Crisis across Turtle Island.

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What is the role of the Community Action Team (CAT)?

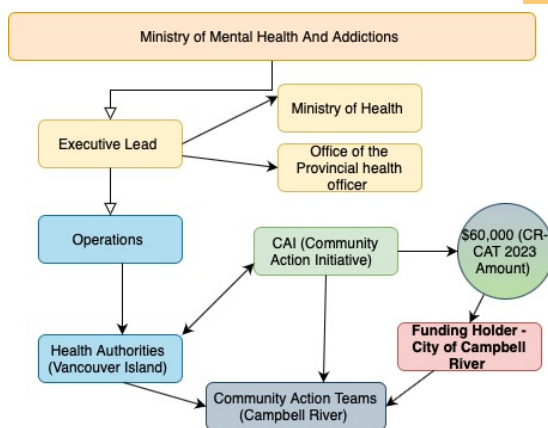
The Community Action Team works to develop, support and implement local interventions to address the toxic drug poisoning (overdose) crisis, which was declared a public health emergency in 2016, and continues today.

As a policy intervention, the CAT is a community-based approach that improves communication and cooperation at a local level, identifies and supports locally relevant programming, and breaks down silos among service providers, partners, government agencies, and the community.

Across BC, there are 36 Community Action Teams, and we are all connected and overseen by the Community Action Initiative (CAI), and our respective Health Authorities.

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CAT Operational Structure



CAI provides oversight of the provincial funding that is provided to each CAT. The Health Authorities and CAI approve the annual CAT work and funding plans.

Because the CAT is not an organization, in and of itself, the CAT needs a local government or not-for profit organization to "hold" the provincial funding allocation. In Campbell River, the City of Campbell River has held the CAT's allocated provincial funding since its inception in 2018.

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What does the CAT focus on?

All CATs are mandated to create a work plan that addresses some of the core interventions that are set out by the BCCDC and Community Action Initiative BC (CAIBC):

Core interventions include:

- Naloxone access
- Peer empowerment and employment
- Social stabilization
- Addressing stigma, discrimination and human rights
- Treatment and recovery
- Overdose prevention services
- Acute overdose risk case management



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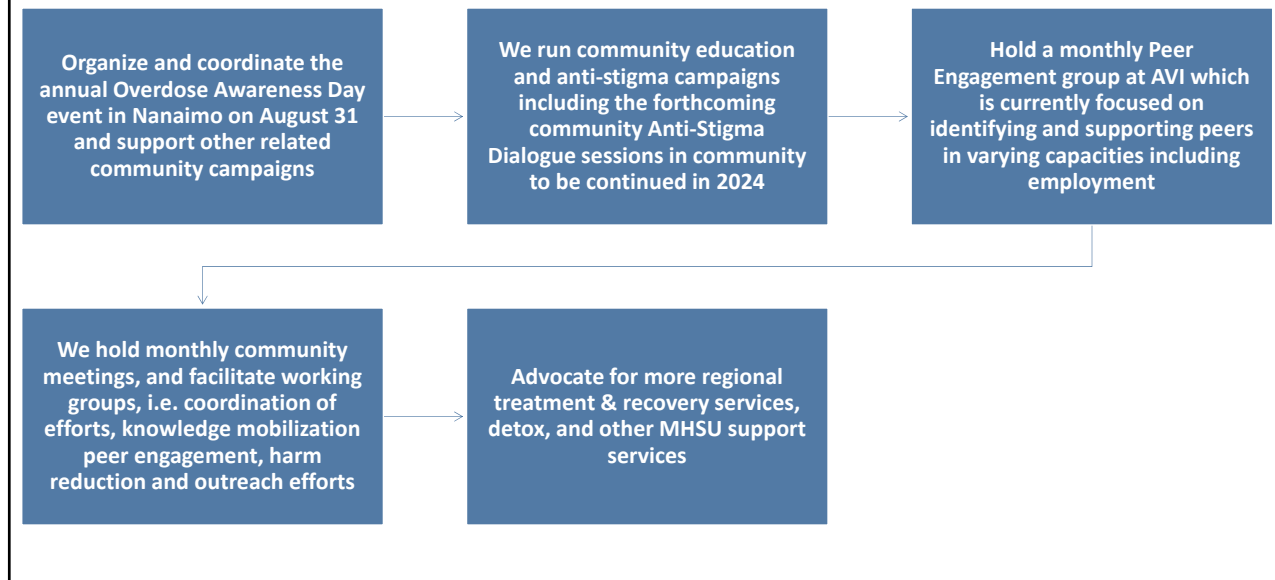
Who is the Nanaimo Community Action Team (CAT)?

The Community Action is a network of community service providers, not-for profit organizations, Government agencies, healthcare providers, community members and people with lived and living experience.

- The Community Action Team includes representatives from:
- Community Members including People with Lived and Living Experience
 - Snuneymuxw First Nation
 - City of Nanaimo
 - Tillicum Lelum
 - First Nations Health Authority
 - Island Health
 - Nanaimo Brain Injury Society
 - Literacy Central Vancouver Island
 - Risebridge
 - Canadian Mental Health Association
 - AVI Health and Community Services
 - Downtown BIA
 - John Howard Society
 - United Way
 - Moms Stop The Harm Society
 - Local elected officials
 - And Many others..

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Highlight of projects and initiatives



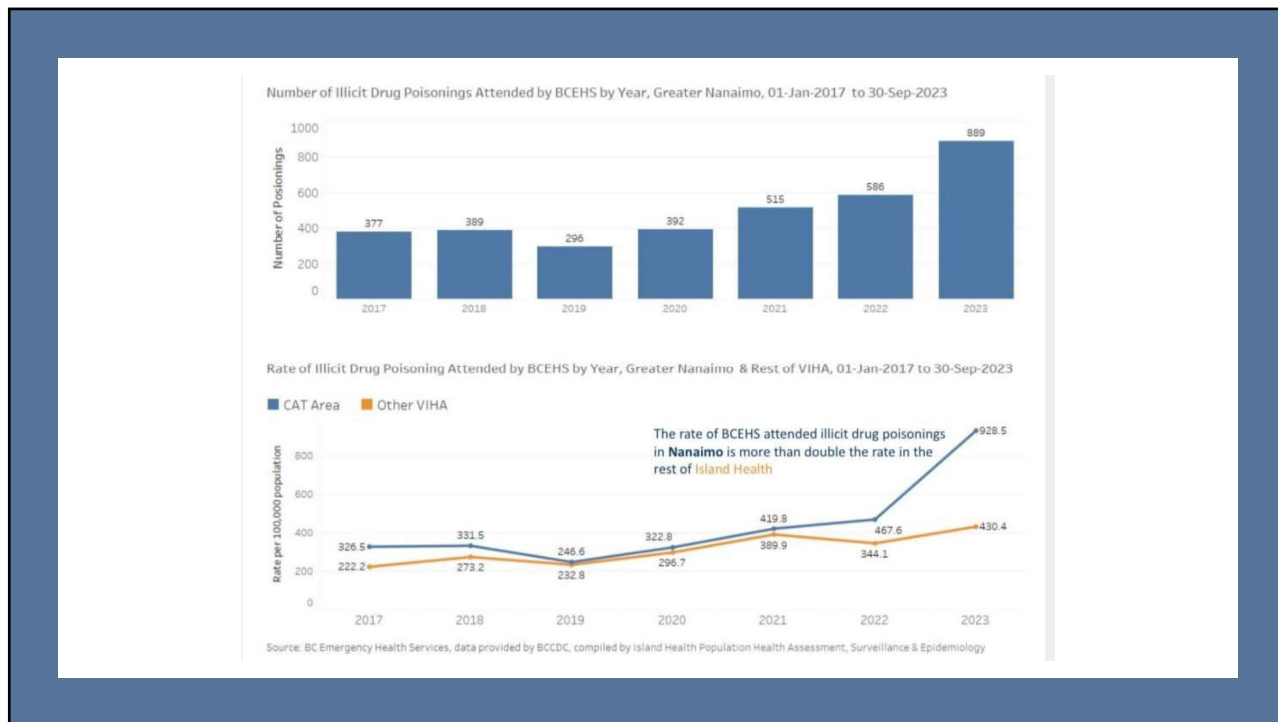
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Why CAT is important:

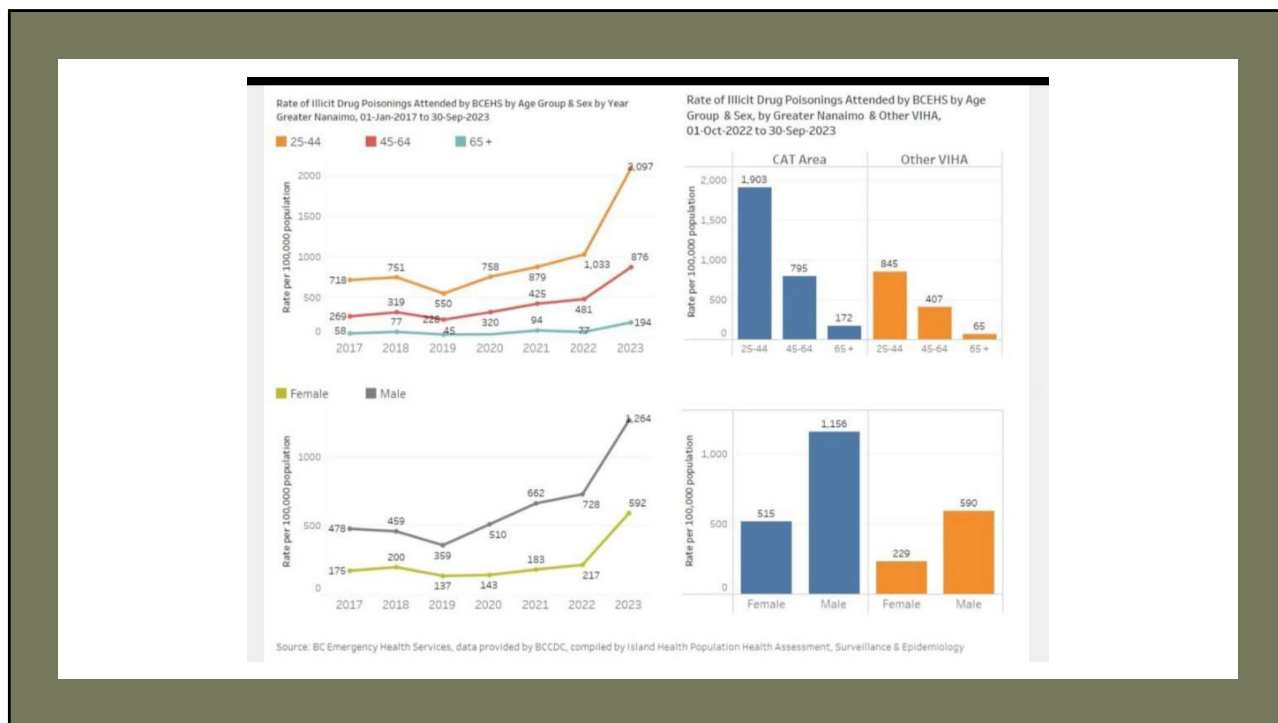
Nanaimo is in a desperate crisis

- “the rate of illicit drug toxicity deaths among those age 25-44 is 2.7X higher in Nanaimo than the rest of Island Health”
- “The proportion of deaths occurring outside has nearly doubled in 2023 alone”
- Nanaimo is the only community in the entire province that has seen a significant increase in toxic drug deaths this year.
- 85% of those unhoused in our community (800+ people) don’t have access to shelter during winter.
- “Drug toxicity deaths in Nanaimo are more than double the rate of the rest of Island Health”
- “The rate of BCEHS attending drug toxicity poisonings in Nanaimo is more than double the rate than the rest of our Health authority”

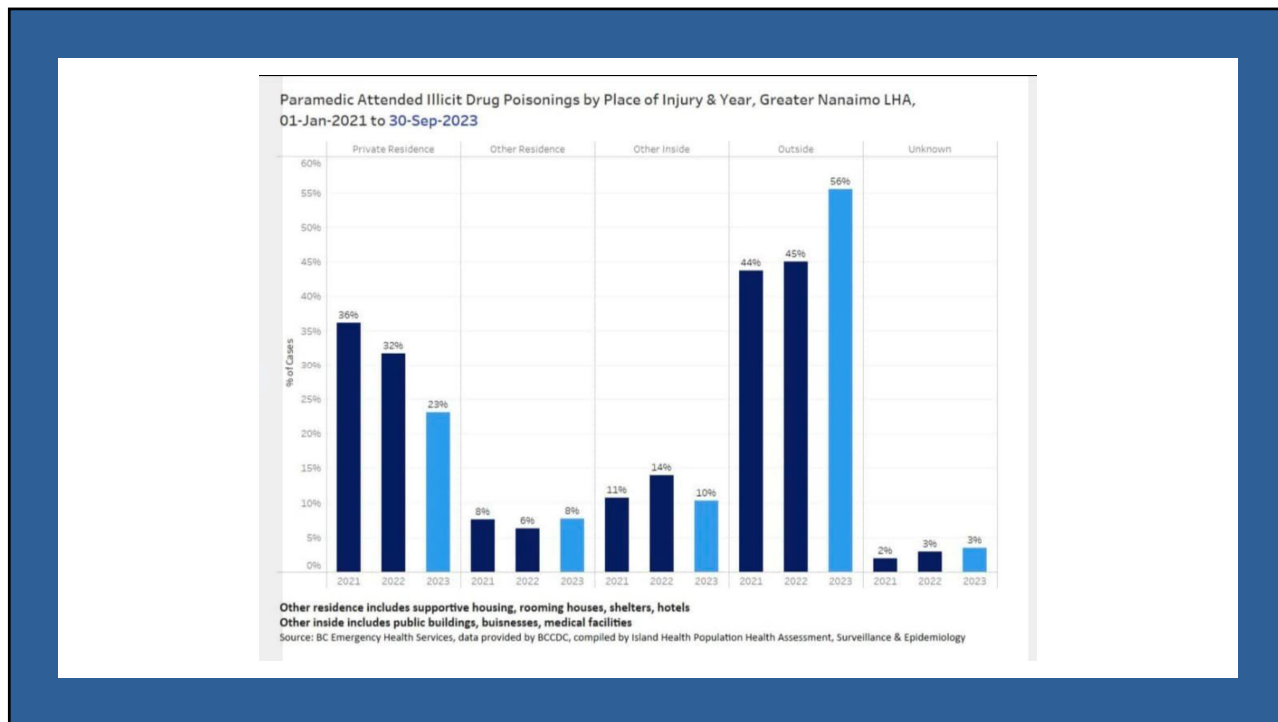
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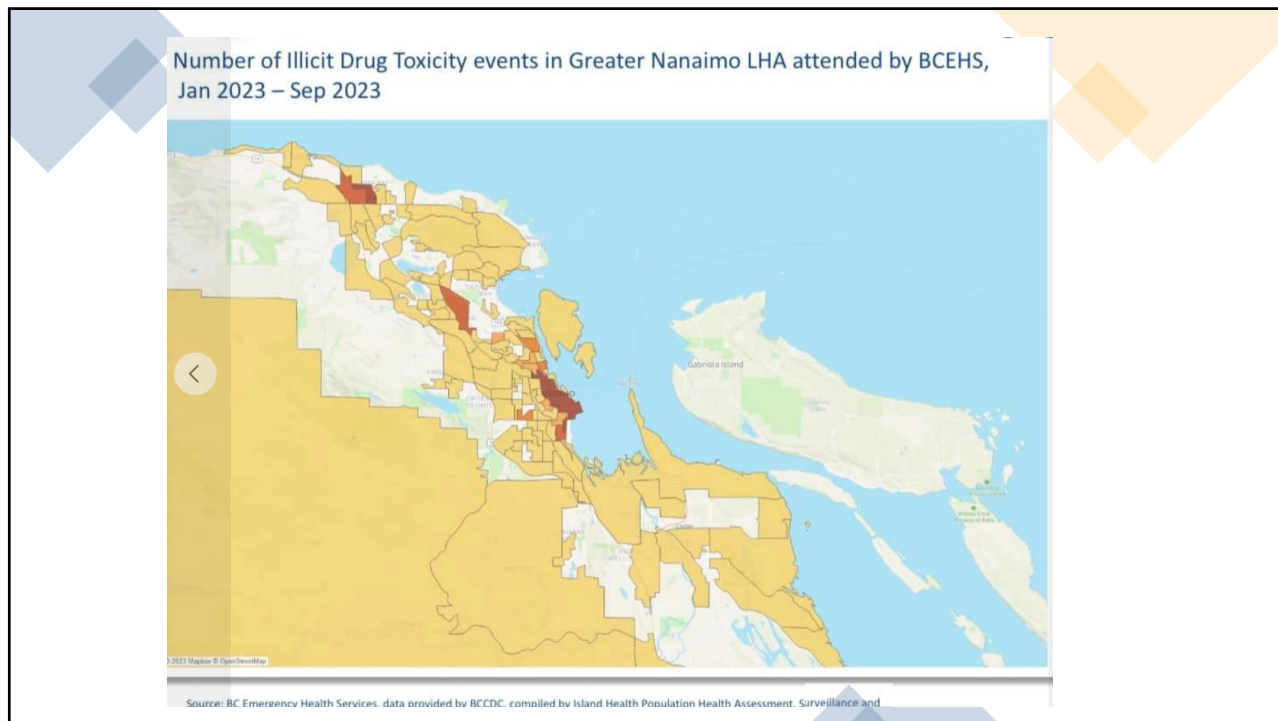
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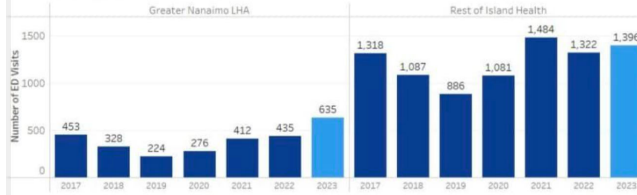


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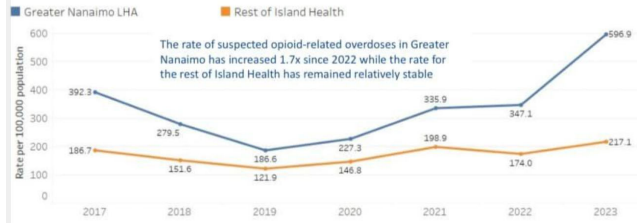


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Emergency Department Visits due to Suspected Opioid-related Overdose by Year, Greater Nanaimo, and rest of Island Health, 01-Jan-2017 to 31-Oct-2023



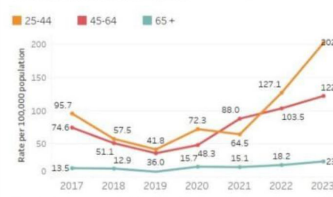
Rate of Emergency Department Visits due to Suspected Opioid-related Overdose by Year, Greater Nanaimo and rest of Island Health, 01-Jan-2017 to 31-Oct-2023



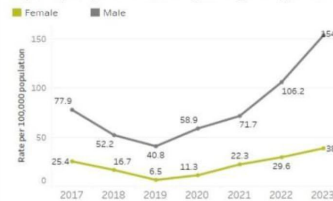
Source: Island Health Population Health Assessment, Surveillance & Epidemiology

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Rate of Illicit Drug Toxicity Death by Age Group & Sex by Year Greater Nanaimo, 01-Jan-2017 to 30-Sep-2023

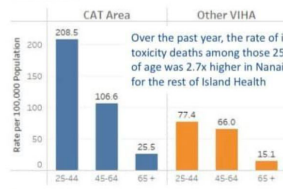


To protect privacy, rates for those < 25 years of age are suppressed due to small number of deaths

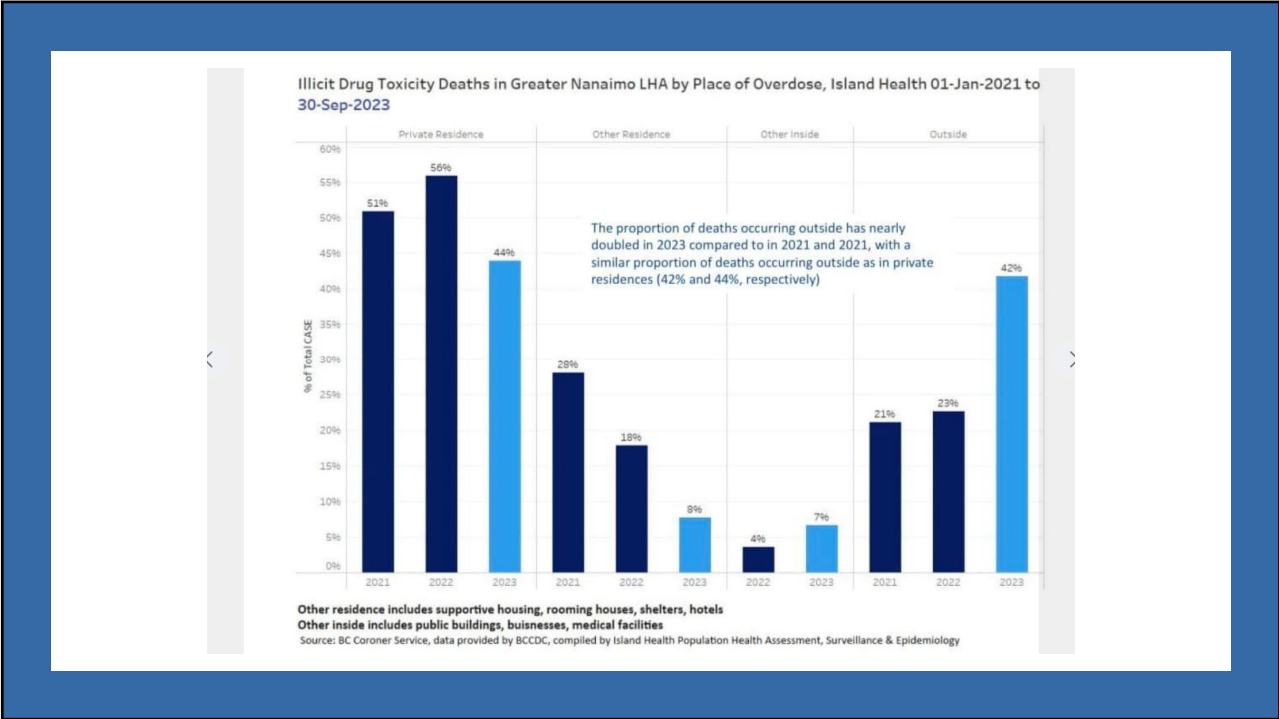


Source: BC Coroner Service; data provided by BCCDC, compiled by Island Health Population Health Assessment, Surveillance & Epidemiology

Rate of Illicit Drug Toxicity Death by Age Group & by Sex, 01-Oct-2022 to 30-Sep-2023, Greater Nanaimo & Other VIHA



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Unregulated Drug Deaths - Township

Unregulated Drug Deaths by Township of Injury, 2013-2023

Injury Township	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Abbotsford	10	7	27	40	52	41	44	65	86	91	78
Burnaby	13	11	15	40	44	49	29	59	81	69	41
Chilliwack	6	7	10	14	22	37	21	38	62	49	49
Coquitlam	1	10	11	15	30	22	11	28	31	34	20
Greater Victoria Area	25	21	26	76	106	124	73	137	142	172	130
Kamloops	8	7	7	44	37	47	26	60	77	92	67
Kelowna	12	12	20	47	73	54	34	61	77	85	81
Langley	10	10	10	31	37	33	24	37	58	44	36
Nanaimo	20	16	18	30	56	38	27	39	53	78	96
New Westminster	5	9	12	10	24	36	20	36	47	32	34
North Vancouver	3	9	7	13	19	17	12	22	18	20	17
Other Township	80	83	123	235	349	348	227	423	590	610	524
Penticton	4	3	3	7	15	16	21	17	27	30	17
Prince George	7	10	12	18	24	51	25	59	56	83	76
Richmond	3	3	6	14	28	12	13	19	33	29	20
Surrey	36	44	76	118	182	214	119	223	287	240	192
Vancouver	80	102	138	231	373	399	250	424	535	576	522
Vernon	11	6	8	12	24	23	14	28	44	43	39
Total	334	370	529	995	1495	1561	990	1775	2304	2377	2039

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What is needed now, and as we move into 2024

PEER CENTERED COLLECTIVE IMPACT

We need to move from a desired sense of collaboration to actual tangible steps where we feel the collective impact in community

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Meetings and Contact

Nanaimo CAT Meetings are currently held on the Second Thursday of every month from 1 – 2:30pm via Zoom.

Please contact nanaimocatcoordinator@gmail.com to be added to the CAT e-mail list, or for additional information about the CAT and our work.

The CAT has two part-time contracted employees

- Qui Sepulveda, Peer Coordinator
- Serena Klaver, Coordinator

Thank you for your time, consideration, and support of the Nanaimo Community Action Team.

Questions?

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