

Alberta Health

Alberta Opioid Response Surveillance Report Q3 Interim 2018

Analytics and Performance Reporting Branch

November 1, 2018

Alberta  Government

Disclaimer

This surveillance report presents mortality data associated with fentanyl use in Alberta, collected by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Mortality data is subject to change as certification of deaths can take six months or longer. Deaths in this report include individuals who died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl, or a fentanyl analogue (fentanyl, 3-methylfentanyl, acetylfentanyl, furanylfentanyl, norfentanyl, butyrylfentanyl, despropionylfentanyl, acrylfentanyl, methoxyacetylfentanyl, cyclopropylfentanyl, fluoroisobutyrylfentanyl (FIBF), or carfentanil), detected through toxicology.

The number of apparent accidental drug poisoning deaths related to fentanyl may change (including increases/decreases in previous numbers) as certification of cause of death may lead to a change in classification in some instances.

Apparent accidental drug poisoning deaths related to fentanyl

- In the first 32 weeks of 2018 (Jan. 1 to Aug. 12, 2018), **425** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl. In the first 32 weeks of 2017, **323** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl.
- In six week period from Jul. 2 to Aug. 12, 2018, **84** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl. In the previous six weeks (May. 21 to Jul. 1, 2018) **74** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl.
- In 2018, there are now on average, 1.9 apparent accidental drug poisoning deaths related to fentanyl per day (13.3 per week), compared to 1.6 deaths per day in 2017 (11.0 per week).

Figure 1: Number of individuals who died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl in Alberta, by week. Jan. 1, 2018 – Aug. 12, 2018.

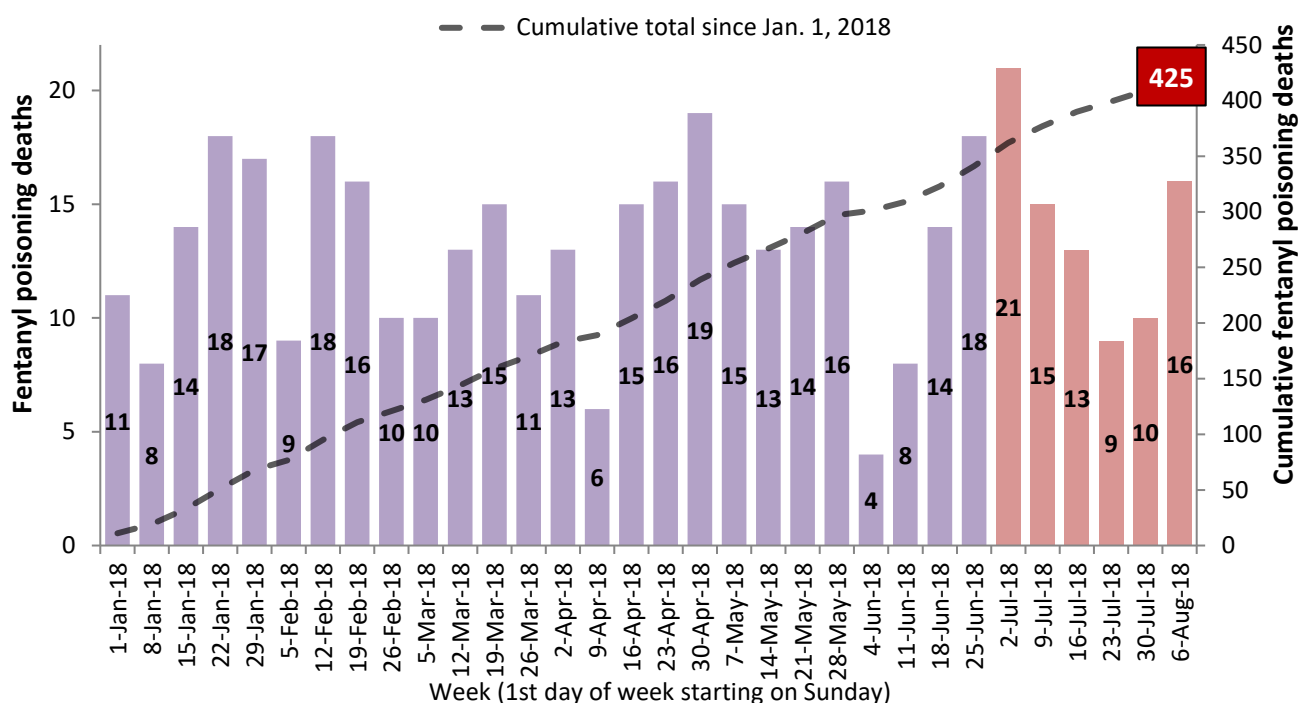


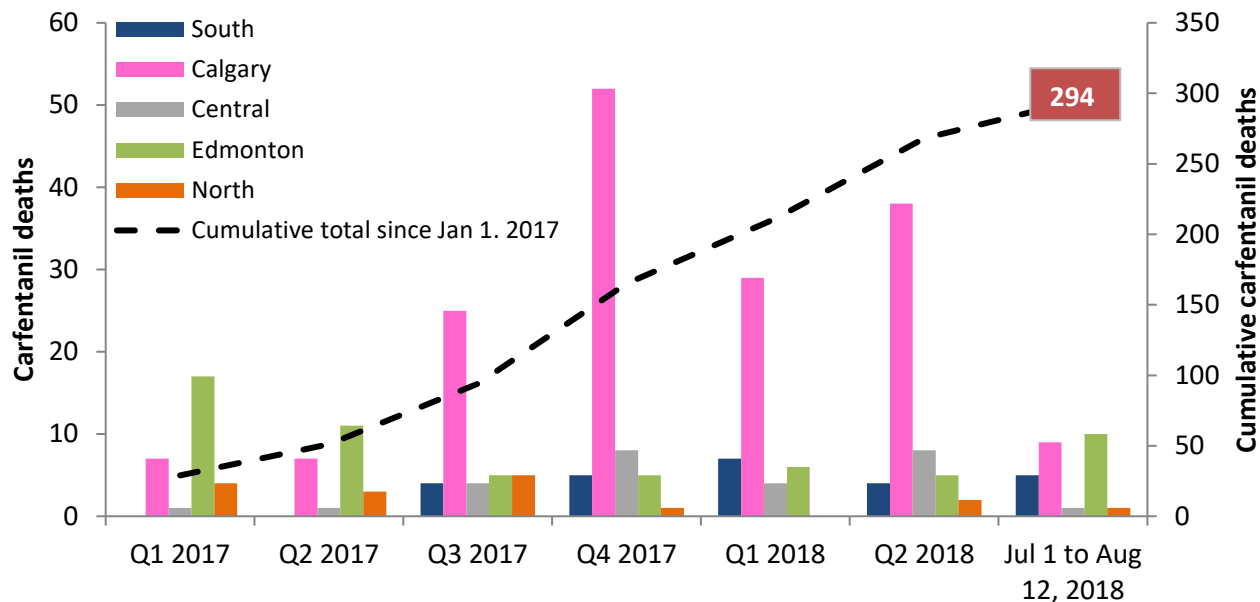
Table 1: Number and rate of fentanyl related drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population, by Zone and Year.

	2017		2018 YTD*	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
South	30	9.8	34	18.0
Calgary	266	16.3	203	19.9
Central	45	9.3	46	15.3
Edmonton	175	12.8	115	13.5
North	56	11.4	27	8.8
Alberta	572	13.4	425	15.9

*YTD = Jan. 1 – Aug. 12, 2018

Figure 2: Number of individuals who died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to carfentanil in Alberta, by quarter. Jan. 1, 2017 – Aug. 12, 2018.

Subcategory of fentanyl deaths from Figure 1



- In the first 32 weeks of 2018 (Jan. 1 to Aug. 12, 2018), **129** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to carfentanil. In the first 32 weeks of 2017, **62** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to carfentanil.
- In the six week period from Jul. 2 to Aug. 12, 2018, **23** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to carfentanil. In the previous six weeks (May. 21 to Jul. 1, 2018) **19** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to carfentanil.
- The most recent data indicates the South and Calgary Zone have the highest rate of carfentanil related deaths per 100,000.

Table 2: Number and rate of carfentanil related drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population, by Zone and Year.

	2017		2018 YTD*	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
South	9	2.9	16	8.5
Calgary	91	5.6	76	7.4
Central	14	2.9	13	4.3
Edmonton	38	2.8	21	2.5
North	13	2.6	3	1.0
Alberta	165	4.5	129	4.8

YTD = Jan. 1 – Aug. 12, 2018