

Alberta Health

Alberta Opioid Response Surveillance Report Q4 Interim 2018

Analytics and Performance Reporting Branch

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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

- From January 1 to November 11, 2018, **582** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl. During the same time period in 2017, **463** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl.
- In six week period from October 1 to November 11, 2018, **63** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl. In the previous six weeks (August 20 to September 30, 2018) **79** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl.
- In 2018, there are now on average, approximately 13 apparent accidental drug poisoning deaths related to fentanyl per week (1.9 per day), compared to 11 deaths per week in 2017 (1.6 per day).

Figure 1: Number of individuals who died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl in Alberta, by week. January 1, 2018 to November 11, 2018.

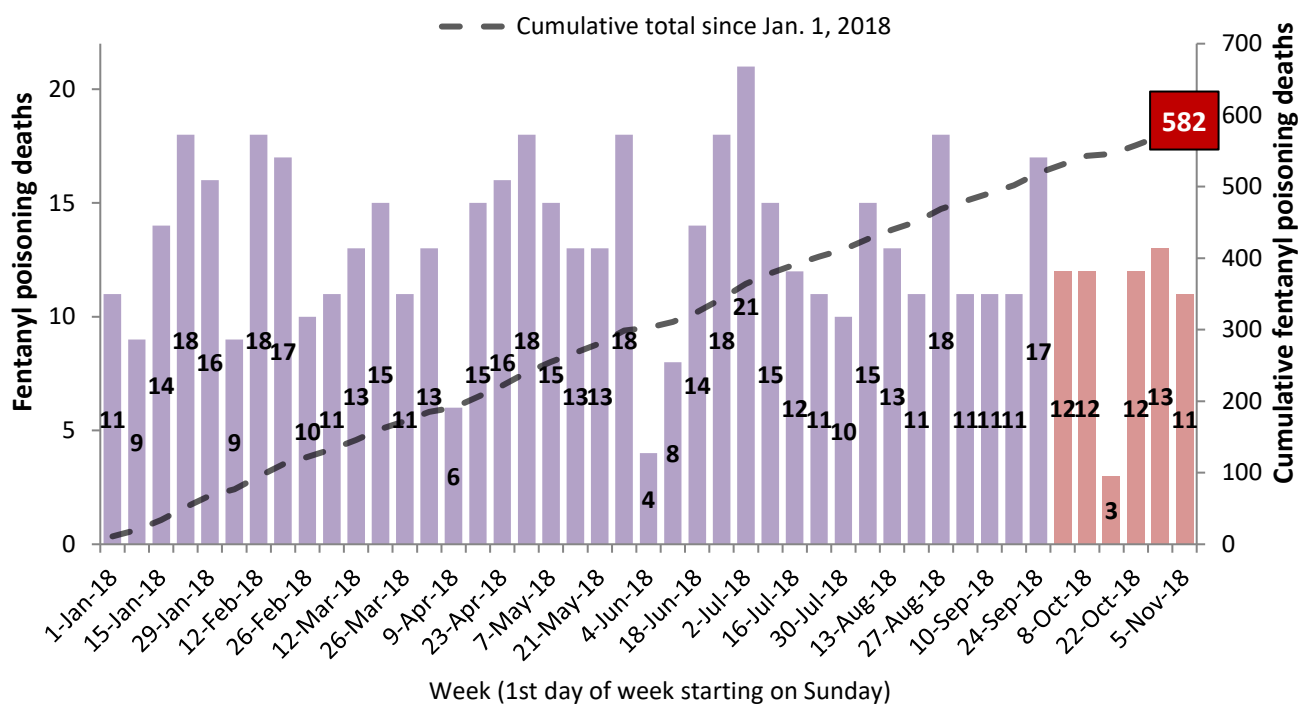


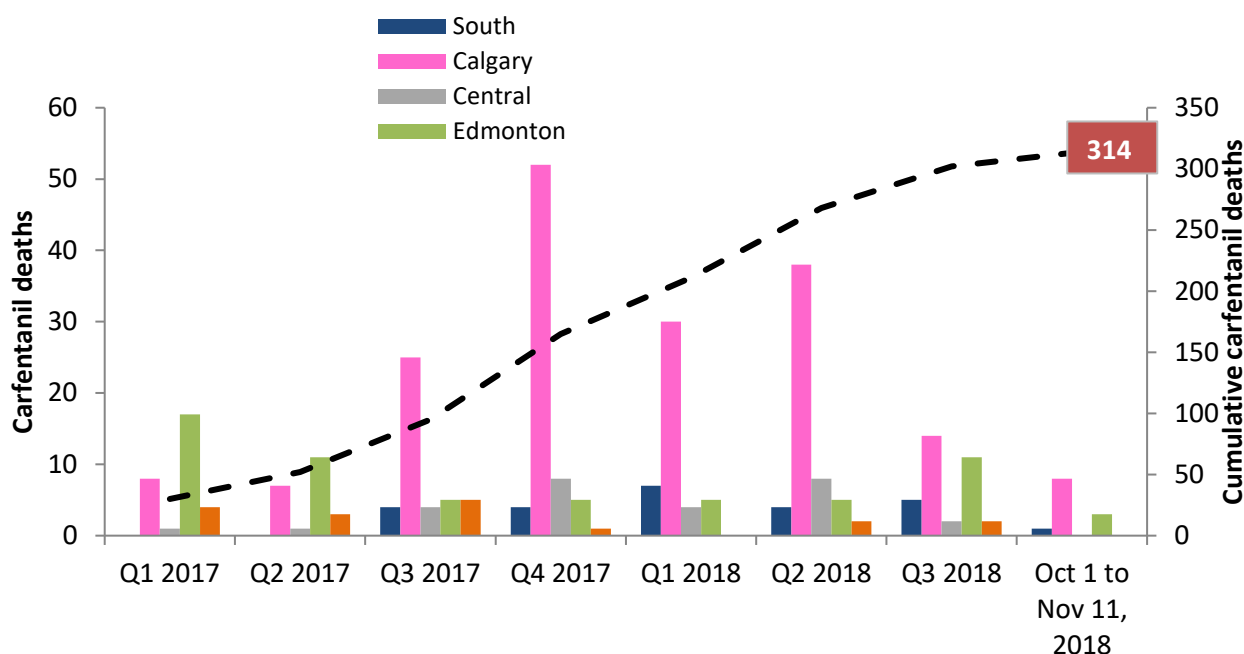
Table 1: Number and rate of fentanyl related drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population, by Zone and Year.

	2017		2018 YTD*	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
South	28	9.2	43	16.2
Calgary	267	16.3	271	18.9
Central	45	9.3	63	14.9
Edmonton	171	12.5	166	13.8
North	55	11.2	39	9.1
Alberta	566	13.2	582	15.5

*YTD = January 1 to November 11, 2018

Figure 2: Number of individuals who died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to carfentanil in Alberta, by quarter. January 1, 2017 to November 11, 2018.

Subcategory of fentanyl deaths from Figure 1



- From January 1 to November 11, 2018, **149** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to carfentanil. During the same time period in 2017, **116** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to carfentanil.
- In six week period from October 1 to November 11, 2018, **10** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to carfentanil. In the previous six weeks (August 20 to September 30, 2018) **7** 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	8	2.6	17	6.4
Calgary	92	5.6	90	6.3
Central	14	2.9	14	3.3
Edmonton	38	2.8	24	2.0
North	13	2.6	4	0.9
Alberta	165	3.9	149	4.0

YTD = January 1 to November 11, 2018