

Weekly Dashboard Data Sources and Notes

BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) 911 Ingestion Poisoning Calls

Description: This data source contains ambulance calls captured in the provincial emergency dispatch system. All dispatches are logged in the system, and ones routed to the ambulance service are included. The call information is entered and coded with 33 possible categories. The dispatch system code is based on the information provided by the 911 caller and interpreted by the 911 operator. As this is a layperson's assessment, it may not be accurate and there is no detailed information on drug type.

Case Definition: Calls coded as Ingestion Poisoning by dispatcher (Advanced Medical Priority Dispatch System Code starts with '23'). Ingestion Poisoning includes poisonings from a broad array of substances (e.g. household cleaners) but also includes illicit drug overdoses, regardless of route of administration.

This indicator is used to project the number of Illegal Drug Overdoses (below) during the lag time of that indicator.

BC Ambulance Service Dispatch – Severity

Description: The severity indicator shows the weekly percentage of 911 ingestion poisoning calls that were coded into the most severe category of the MPDS code at the time of ambulance dispatch. This indicator is highly correlated with the weekly number of illicit drug deaths at the provincial level. The indicator reflects trends in the severity of drug overdoses but is based only on information available at the time of the 911 call, not on the assessment of patients by paramedics.

Case Definition: Any 911 call for ingestion poisoning (card 23) where the response determinant of the MPDS code was 'D' (Delta –unconscious or changing colour).

Frequency: Weekly

Timeframe: 2010 to current

Format: Severity flag occurs as a derived variable in the dispatch line list of individual calls.

Illegal Drug Overdoses Attended by BCEHS

Illegal Drug Overdoses are defined as ambulance attended events recorded in the BCEHS PCR data for which patients were coded as receiving naloxone by paramedics, or for which paramedic impression codes indicated possible illicit drugs (but not prescription drugs or alcohol) and the corresponding dispatch code was consistent with possible drug overdose (MPDS cards 9,23,31). An exact count of illicit drug overdoses is not possible from these data; hence, this measure should be considered only an estimate. Given that PCR data have an inherent data entry delay, values for the most recent four weeks are calculated using an algorithm that converts numbers of dispatch calls for ingestion poisoning to approximate numbers of illegal drug overdoses.

Severity of Illegal Drug Overdoses

Illegal drug overdoses that are given an initial Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) rating of between 3 and 8 qualify as severe. This chart, on each Health Authority-specific dashboard highlights the proportion of all illegal drug overdoses in the most recent 6 months that were rated severe. These are presented by community, where more than 10 illegal drug overdoses were recorded. Furthermore, the bars are colour coded based on the change in severity compared to the prior 6 month period. For example, in the community of XX, 60% of the illegal drug overdoses in the past 6 months have been rated severe. This is an increase over the previous 6 month period (i.e. 6 months – 1 year ago), where only 44% of the illegal drug overdoses were severe. The 6 month windows are rolling, and update each week.

Transport Rates of Illegal Drug Overdoses

This chart shows the proportion of illegal drug overdoses that were transported to hospital over the most recent 6 months. These are presented by community, where more than 10 illegal drug overdoses were records. Furthermore, the bars are colour coded based on the change in transport rate compared to the prior 6 month period. For example, in the community of XX, 86% of illegal drug overdoses in the past 6 months were transported to hospital. This is an increase over the previous 6 month period (i.e. 6 months – 1 year ago), where only 59% of illegal drug overdoses were transported to hospital. The 6 month windows are rolling, and update each week.

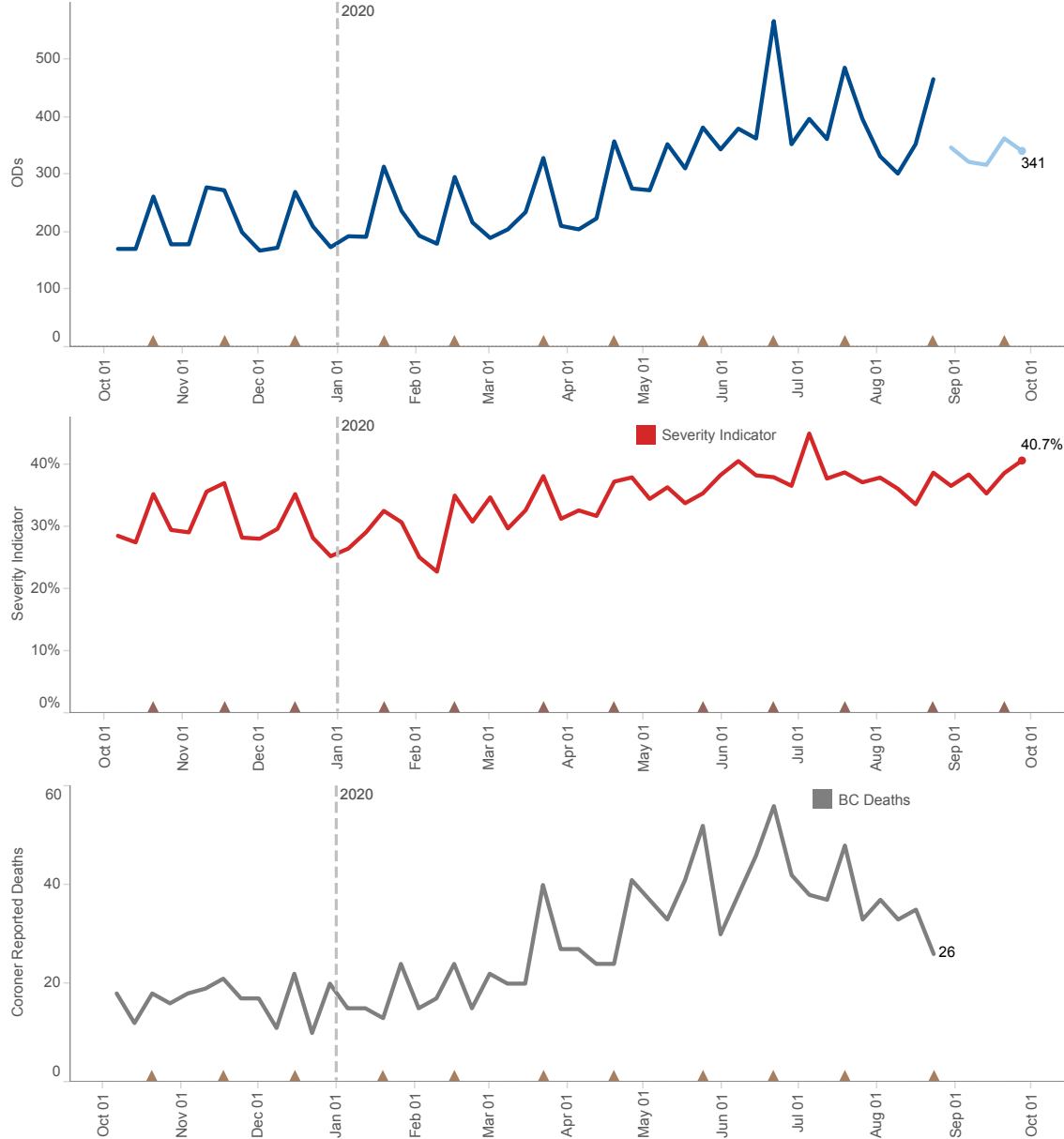
Coroner's Data on Illicit Drug Overdoses

Description: The coroner investigates all accidental and undetermined illicit drug overdose deaths in British Columbia. Health Authorities and Health Service Delivery Areas are assigned based on the availability of, in order, place of injury, place of death if not medical facility, place of residence, or place of death if medical facility. Some deaths (about 6.5%) do not have sufficient location information to assign any area, so only appear in BC counts.

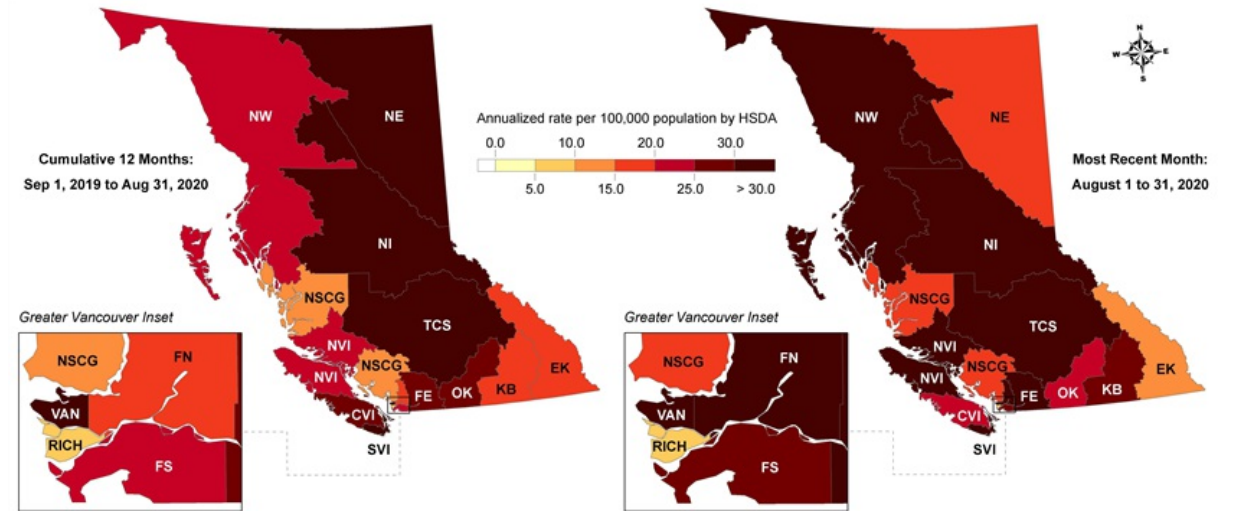
Case Definition: Illicit drug overdoses reported by the Coroner include overdoses involving street drugs (heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, etc.), medications that were not prescribed to the deceased, combinations of the above, with prescribed medications, and those overdoses where the origin of drug is not known. Both open and closed cases are included.

Weekly Overdose Dashboard - Provincial September 27, 2020 - October 3, 2020

Weekly Illegal Drug Overdoses Attended by BCEHS, Severity Indicator and Coroner Reported Deaths in Previous 12 Months -
Cheque Weeks Marked in Brown Triangles



Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths by Health Service Delivery Area



Of interest this week:

This report covers the week September 27 to October 3, 2020.

Overdose alerts are based on 911 ingestion poisoning dispatch calls (data not shown):

This week there were seven (7) alerts at the LHA level:

Interior: Medium alerts for Summerland and Cariboo/Chilcotin

Fraser: Low alerts for Agassiz/Harrison, New Westminster, and Burnaby

Coastal: Low alerts for Vancouver - Centre North and Vancouver - North East

Top Left Side Figure: The Illegal Drug Overdose event measure is based on paramedic data and excludes alcohol and prescription drugs. To overcome the time lag in paramedic data, recent events have been projected based on a proportion of approximately 51% of 911 Ingestion Poisoning calls.

This reporting week, there were an estimated 341 paramedic-attended overdose events, slightly down from last week. The overall high, steady trend continues.

Middle Left Side Figure: The severity indicator shows the weekly % of 911 Ingestion Poisoning Calls codes in the most severe category at the time of ambulance dispatch: Severity was 40.7% this week, with ongoing high severity since March 2020.

Bottom Left Side Figure: The number of coroner reported deaths shows a significant increase starting in late 2019, peaking in late July at approximately 58. The current value is 26.

Mortality: The side by side map compares overdose mortality in August 2020 to the previous 12 months:

Northern - Northwest had higher mortality in August compared to the rolling year.

Interior - Mortality in Okanagan in August was similar to the rolling year.

Fraser had higher mortality in all HSDAs in August compared to the rolling year.

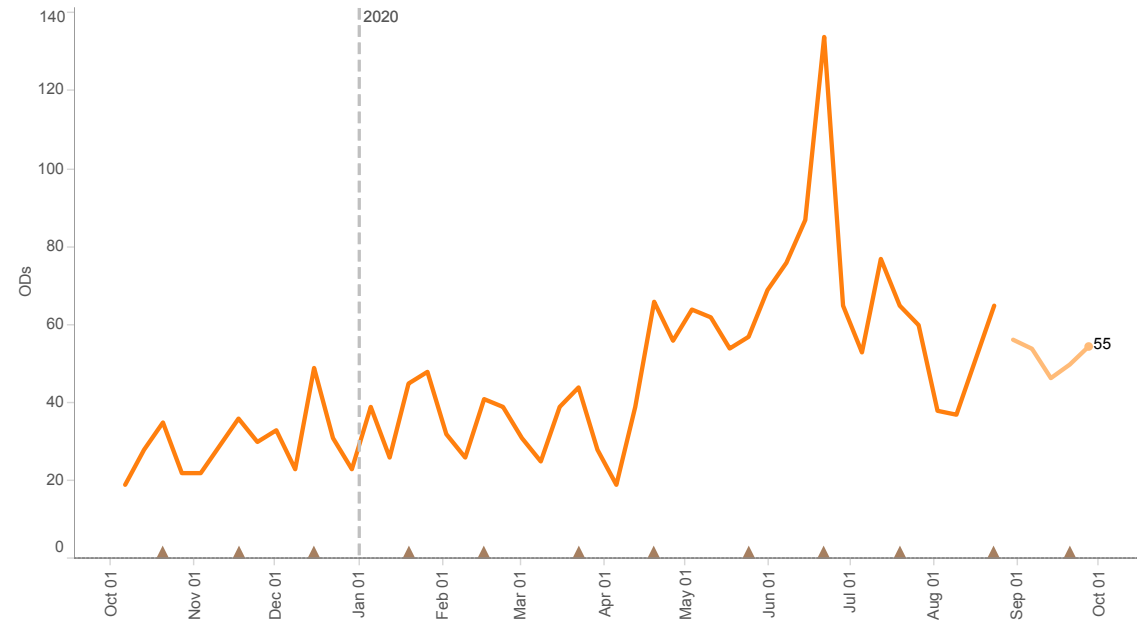
Island - Mortality in CVI in August was similar to the rolling year, while North Vancouver Island had higher mortality.

Coastal - North Shore - Coast Garibaldi had higher mortality in August compared to the rolling year.

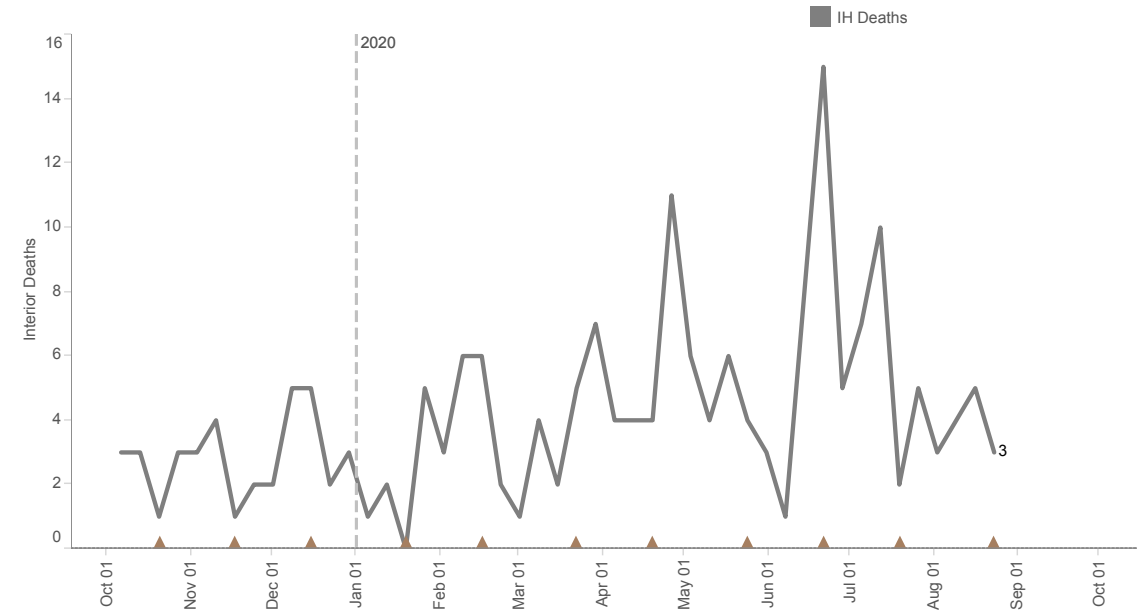
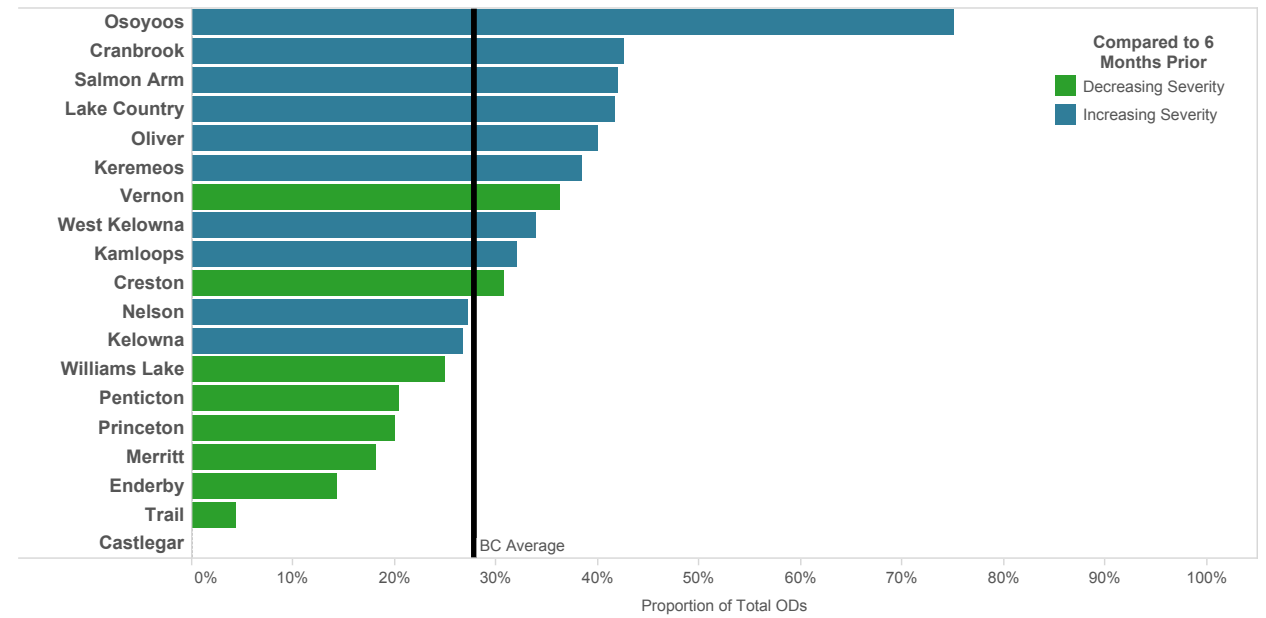
Weekly Overdose Dashboard - Interior

September 27, 2020 - October 3, 2020

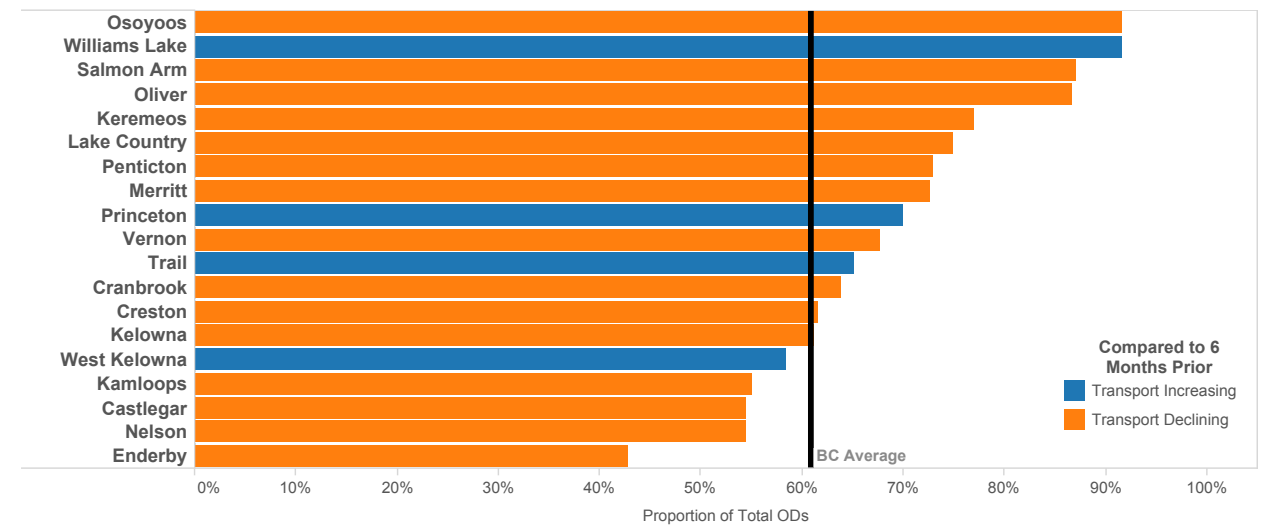
Weekly Illegal Drug Overdoses Attended by BCEHS and Coroner Reported Deaths in Previous 12 Months - **Cheque Weeks Marked in Brown Triangles**



Percentage of Illegal Drug Overdoses Rated Severe in Previous 6 Months by Community (Min. 10 ODs)



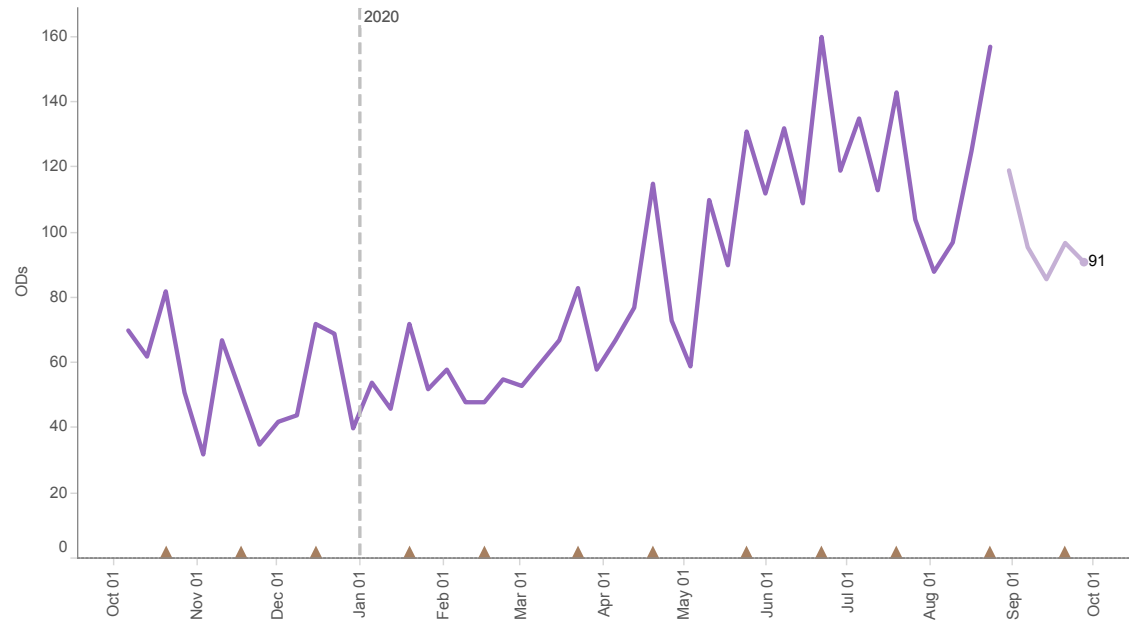
Percentage of Illegal Drug Overdoses Transported to Hospital in Previous 6 Months by Community (Min 10 ODs)



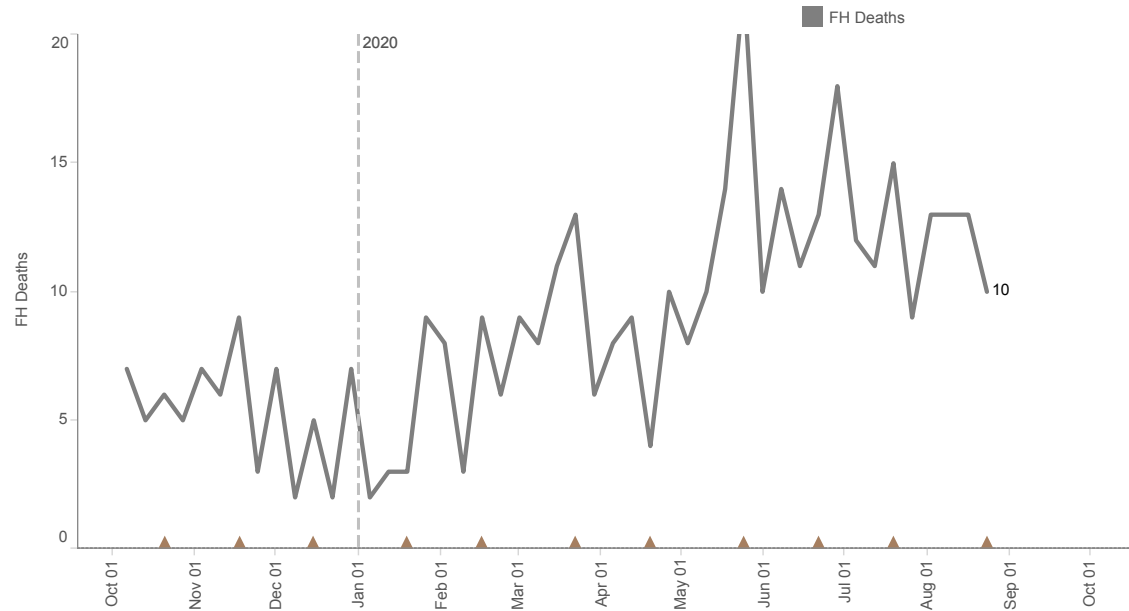
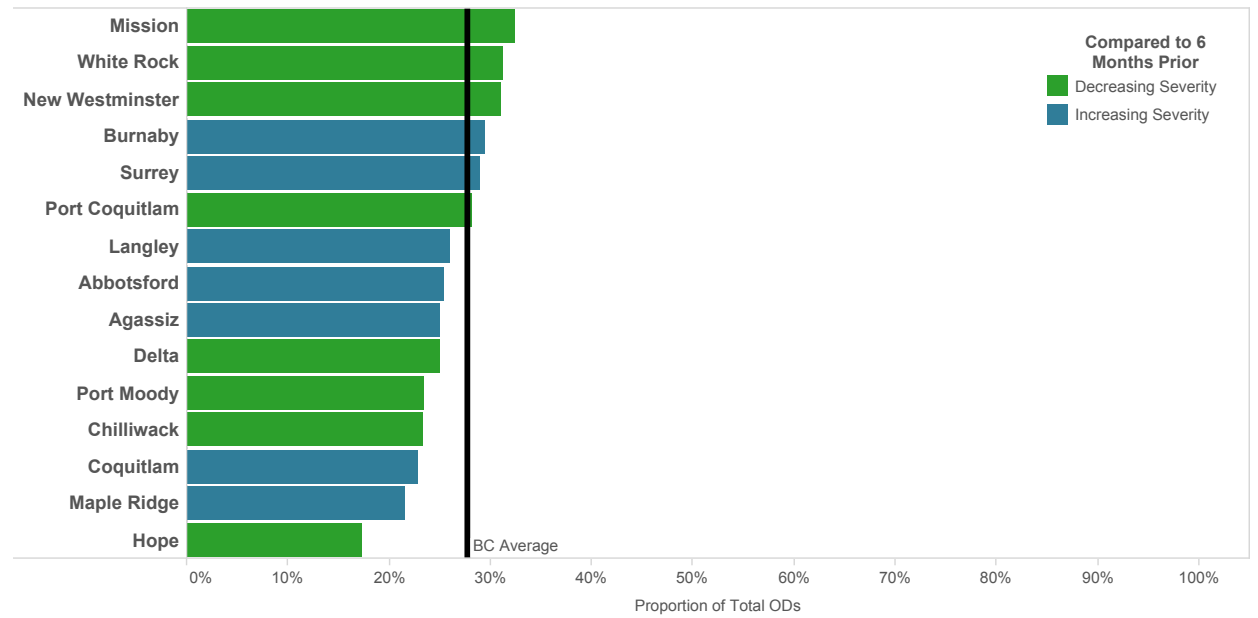
Weekly Overdose Dashboard - Fraser

September 27, 2020 - October 3, 2020

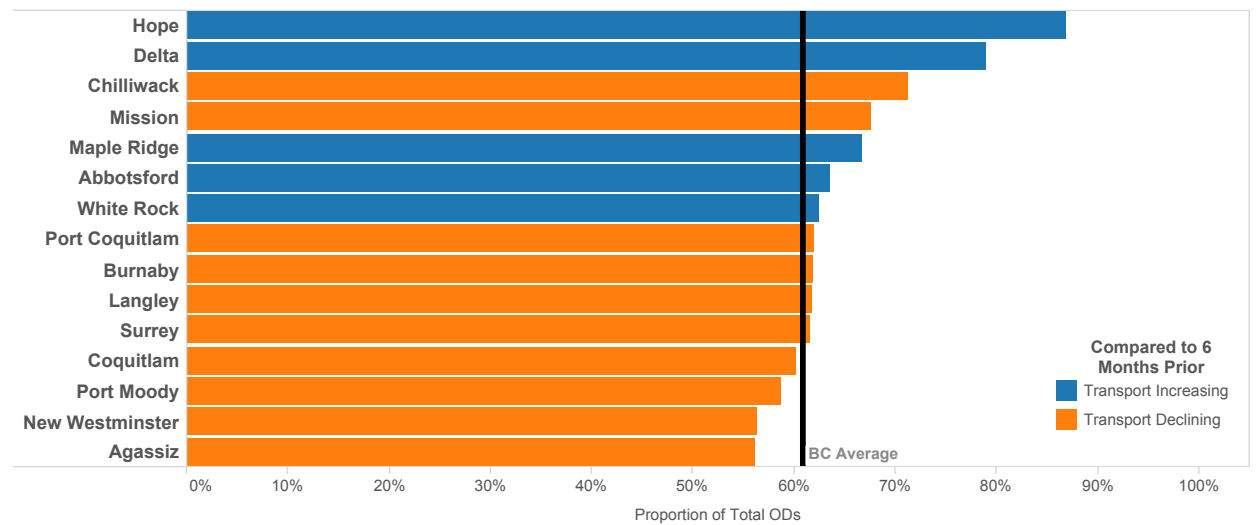
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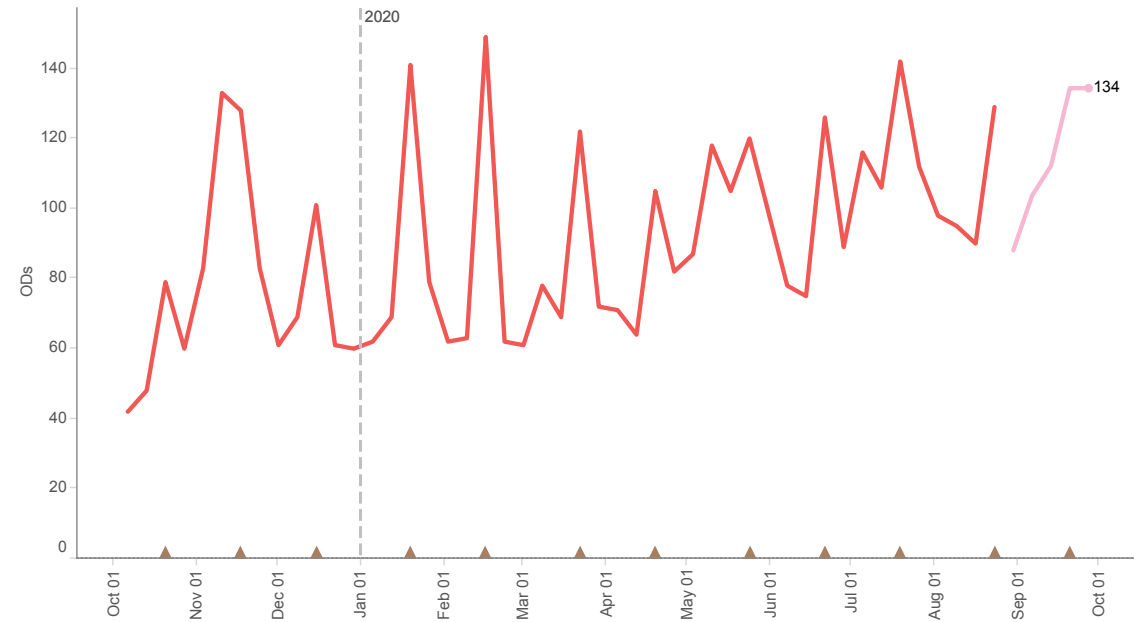
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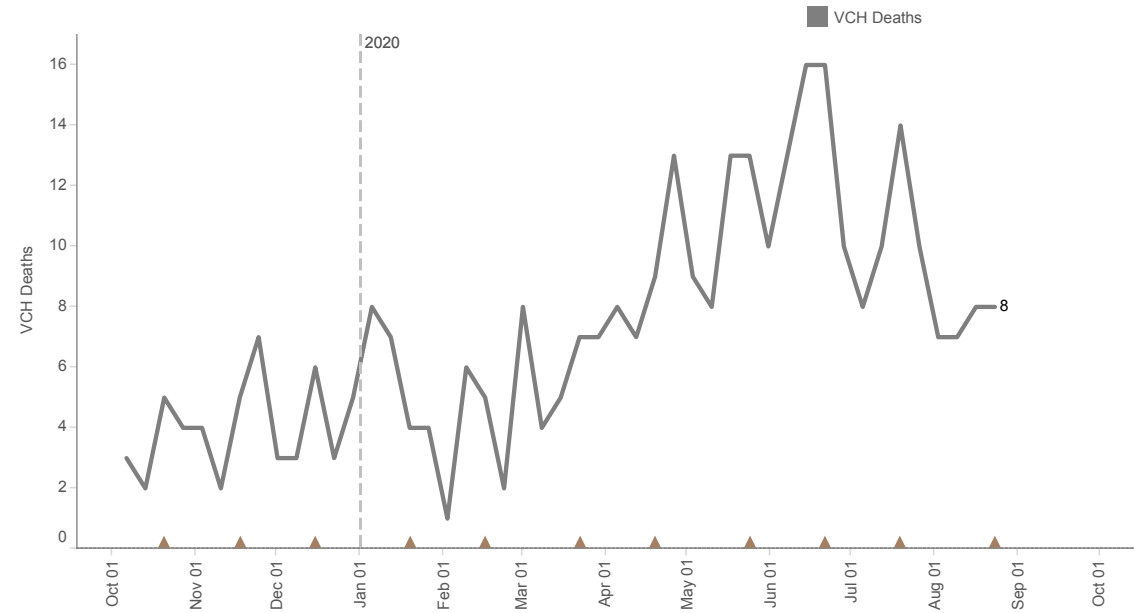
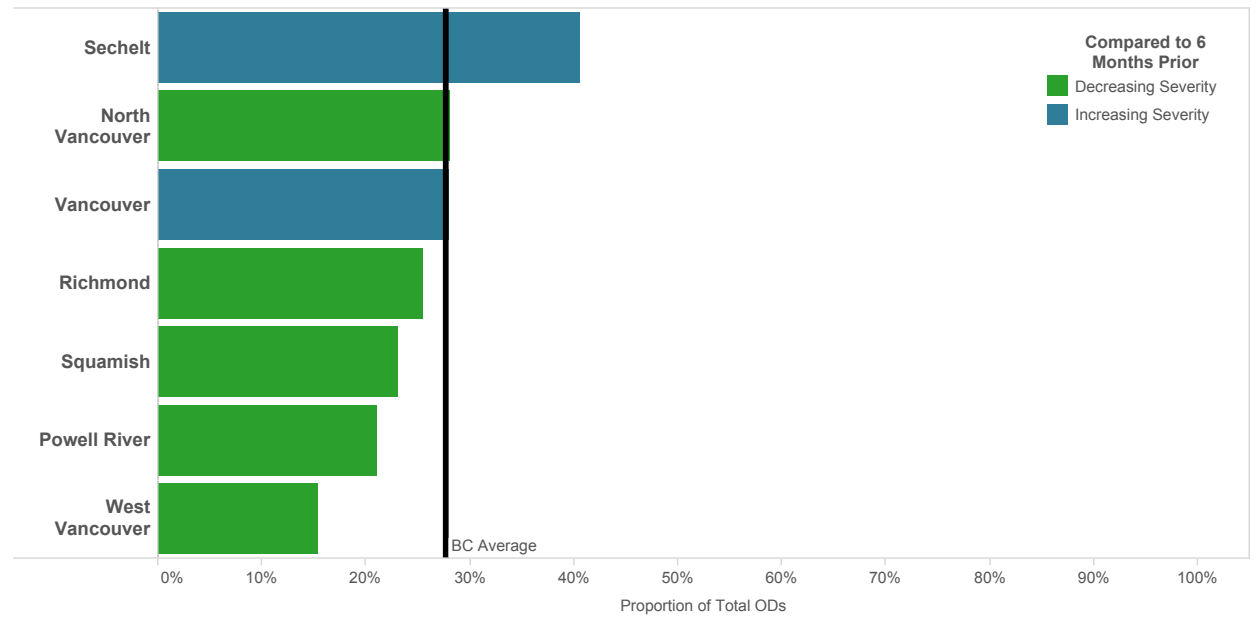
Weekly Overdose Dashboard - Vancouver Coastal

September 27, 2020 - October 3, 2020

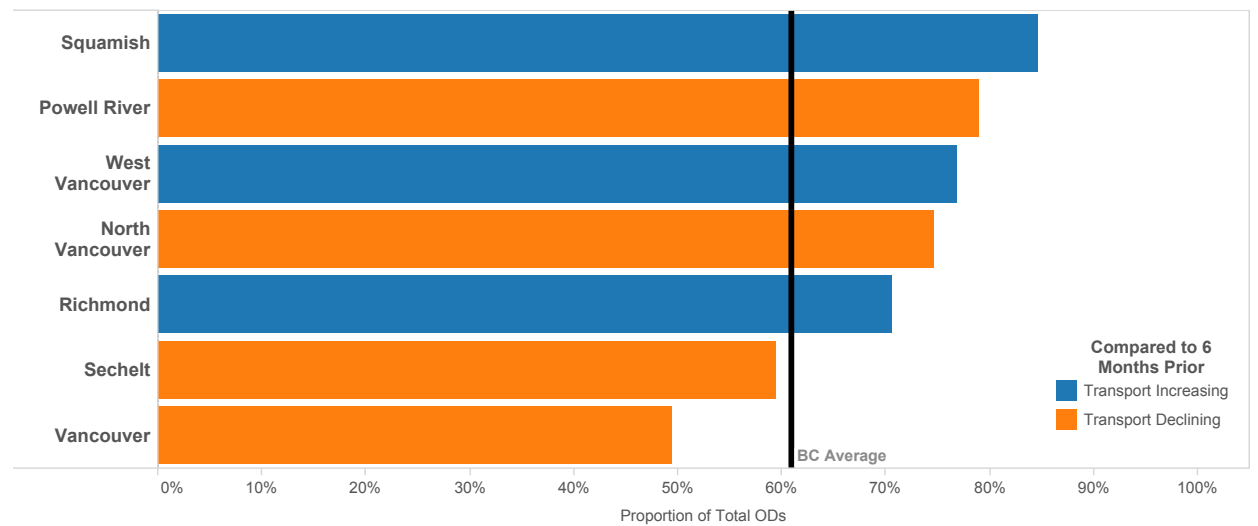
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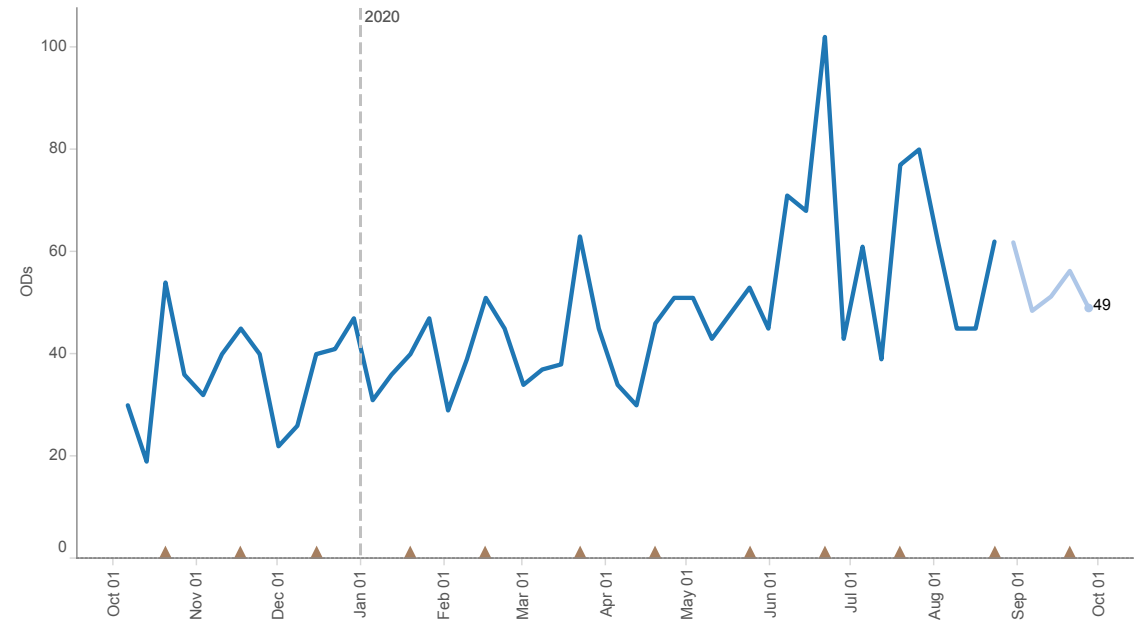
Percentage of Illegal Drug Overdoses Transported to Hospital in Previous 6 Months by Community (Min 10 ODs)



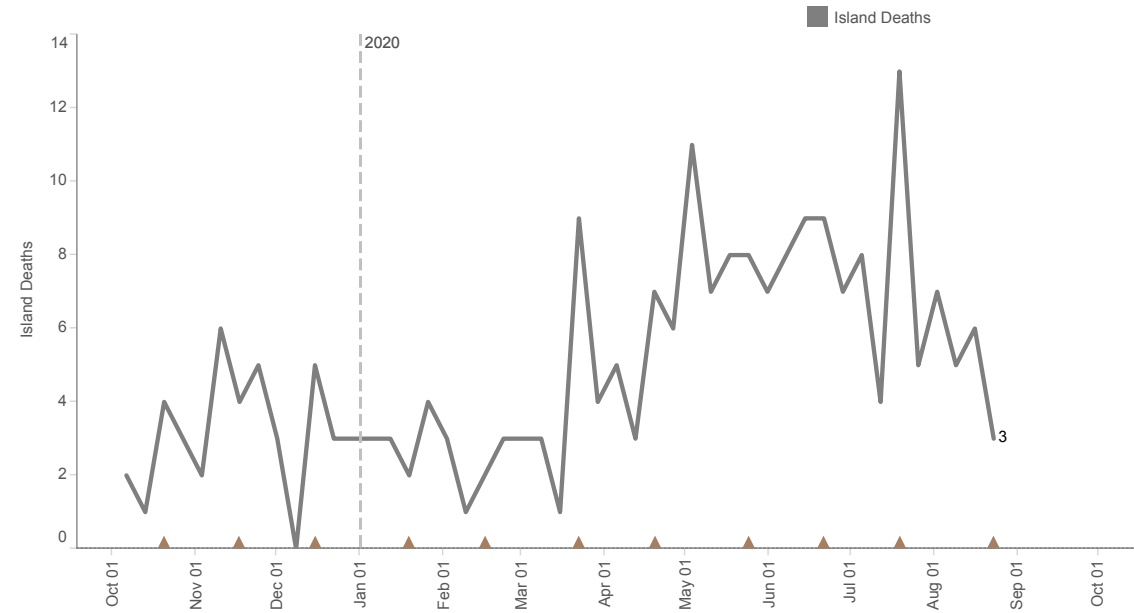
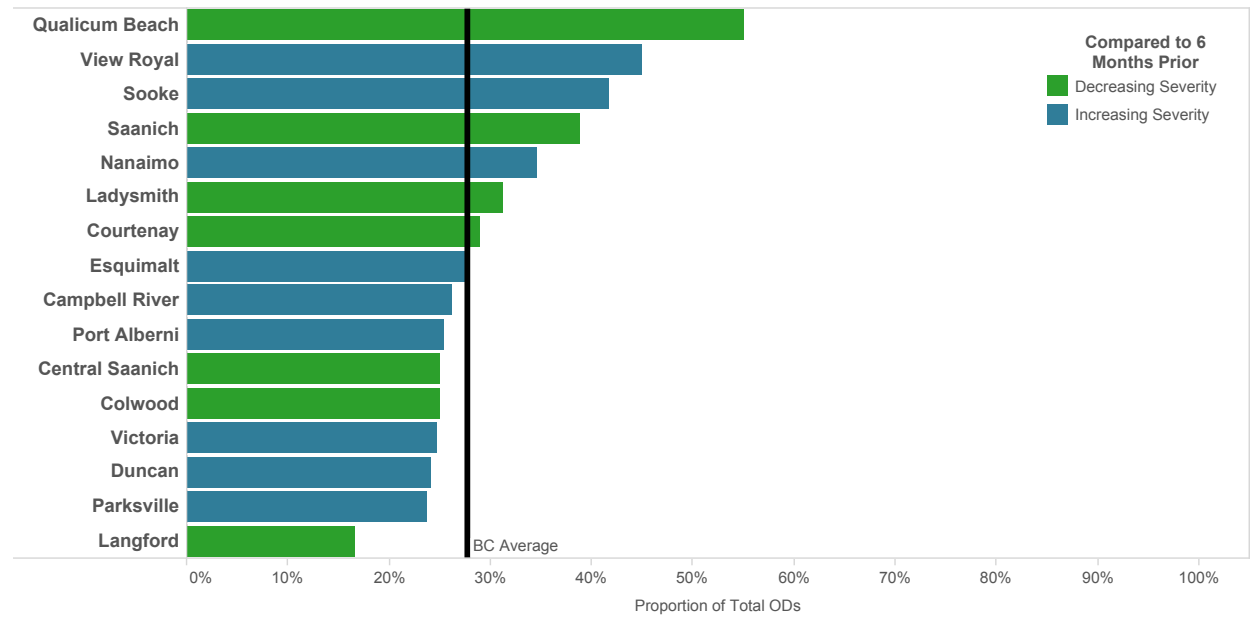
Weekly Overdose Dashboard - Island

September 27, 2020 - October 3, 2020

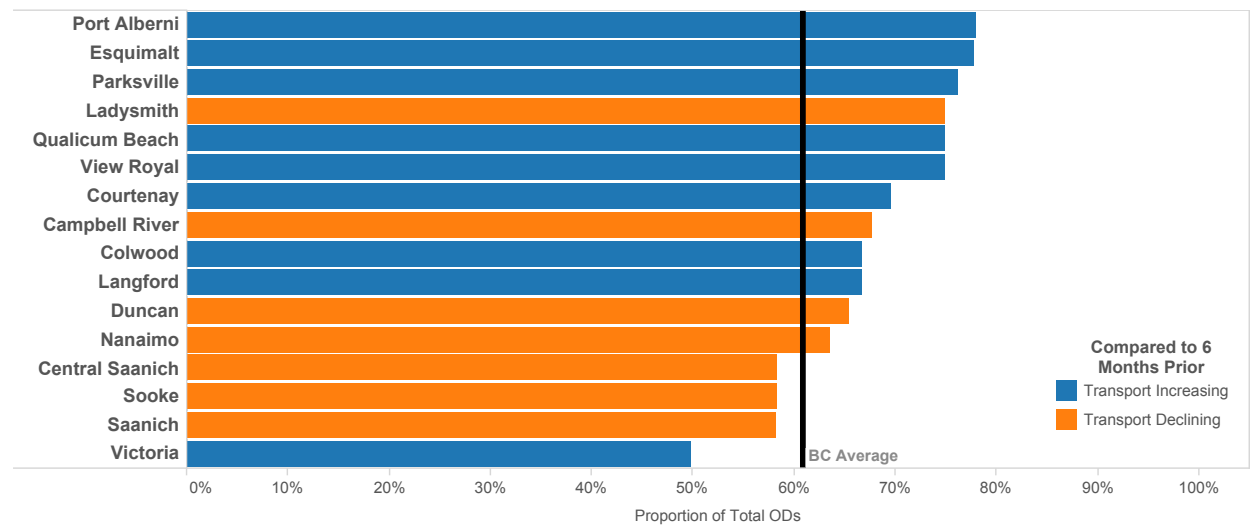
Weekly Illegal Drug Overdoses Attended by BCEHS and Coroner Reported Deaths in Previous 12 Months - **Cheque Weeks Marked in Brown Triangles**



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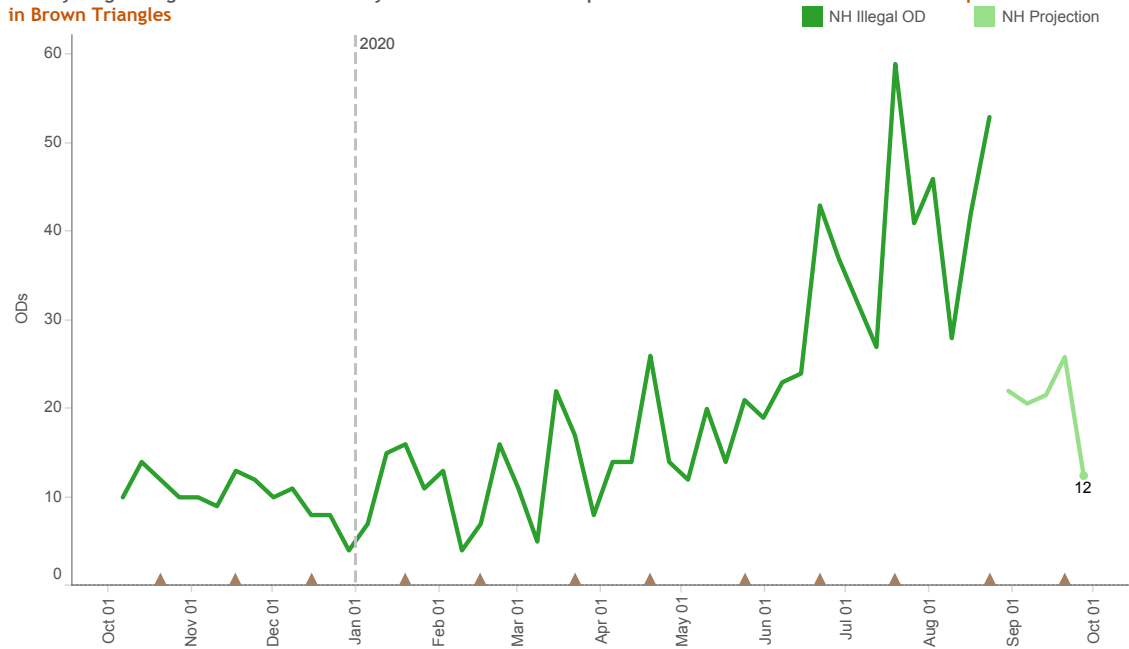
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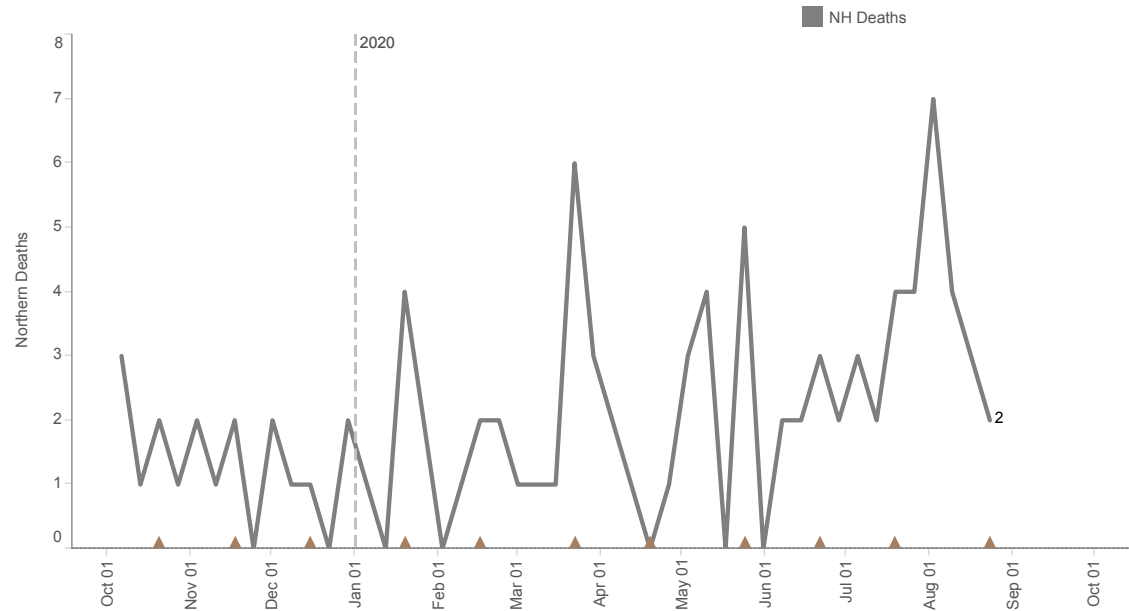
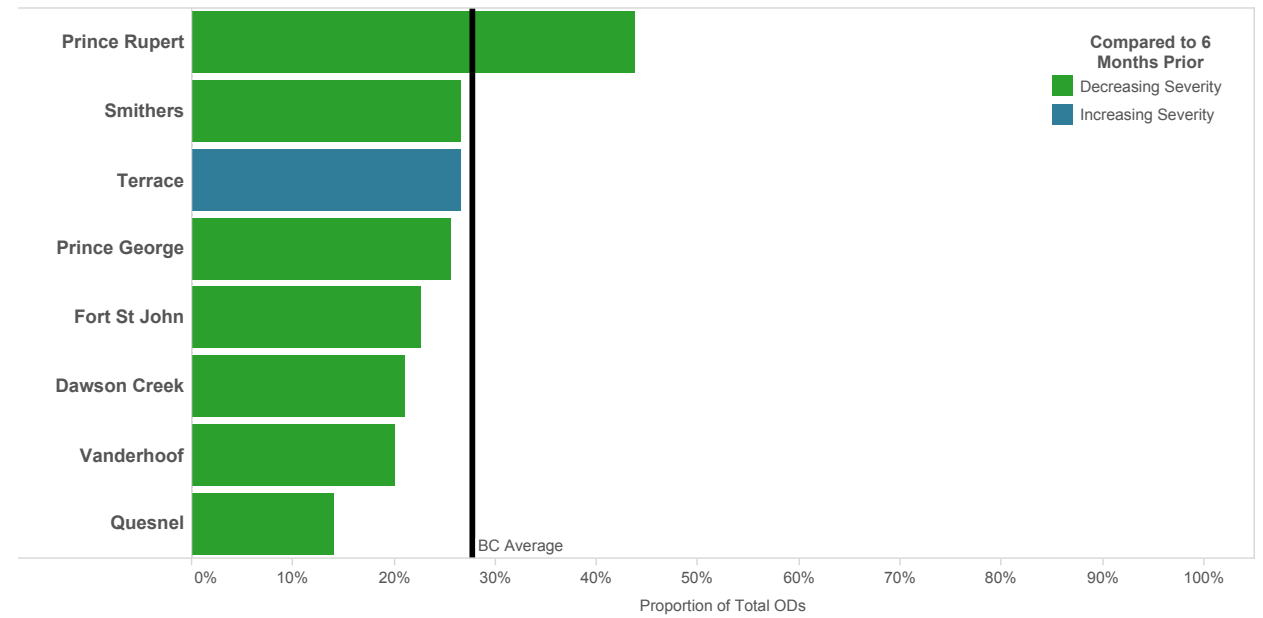
Weekly Overdose Dashboard - Northern

September 27, 2020 - October 3, 2020

Weekly Illegal Drug Overdoses Attended by BCEHS and Coroner Reported Deaths in Previous 12 Months - **Cheque Weeks Marked in Brown Triangles**



Percentage of Illegal Drug Overdoses Rated Severe in Previous 6 Months by Community (Min. 10 ODs)



Percentage of Illegal Drug Overdoses Transported to Hospital in Previous 6 Months by Community (Min 10 ODs)

