

Weekly Overdose Placemat Data Sources and Notes

Provincial Summary Page

Figure 1 - (upper left-hand corner) Weekly Illegal Drug Overdose Events Attended by Paramedics

Data Source: BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS)

This trend is based on the BCEHS Patient Care Record (PCR) completed by attending paramedics and excludes overdoses coded as primarily due to alcohol and prescription drugs. The algorithm is designed to monitor trends in street drug overdoses. Due to a time lag in the PCR data, this trend line is projected for recent weeks based on calls to the 9–1–1 system coded by the BCEHS dispatch operator as an ingestion poisoning event (card 23). Approximately 51% of ingestion poisoning calls are determined to be paramedic-attended illicit drug events as the data is received.

Figure 2 - (second figure on left) Severity Indicator

The trend shown on the provincial page is based on the BCEHS dispatch data. The dispatch data is timely and shows recent trends. The severity indicator shown on the provincial page is based on the weekly percentage of 9–1–1 ingestion poisoning calls that were coded into the most severe category, at the time of ambulance dispatch, based on assessment by the dispatch operator according to a protocol.

Figure 3 - (bottom left figure) Coroner's Data on Illicit Drug Overdoses, 12-month rolling weekly deaths

The BC Coroner investigates all accidental and undetermined illicit drug overdose deaths in British Columbia. Location of deaths are reported by place of injury (where the person most likely consumed the relevant substance), place of death (if not place of injury i.e. a medical facility), place of residence. In the HA summaries in this report, Health Authority is assigned based on place of injury, and if that is missing, place of death, and, if missing, place of residence. Some deaths (about 6.5%), do not have sufficient location information to assign any area, so only appear in BC counts. 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, prescribed medications, and those overdoses where the origin of drug is not known. Both open and closed cases are included.

Health Authority Summary Pages

Percentage of Illegal Drug Overdoses Rated Severe in Previous 6 Months by Community - (upper right hand figure)

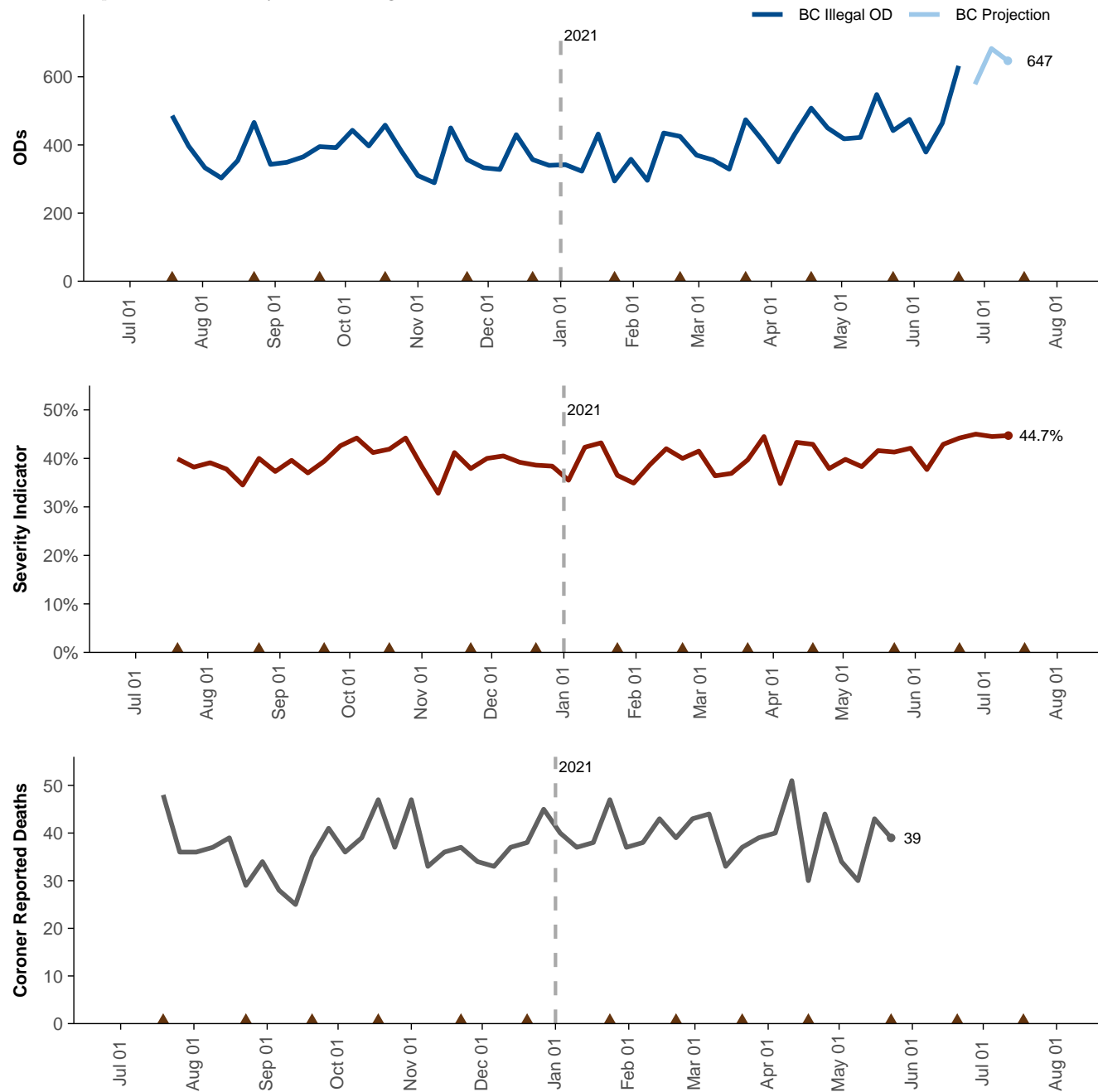
Please note that the severity indicator on the Health Authority summary pages is not based on the BCEHS dispatch severity but a separate severity indicator from the PCR. Paramedics assess severity at arrival based on the Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS), a rating in between 3 and 8 qualify as severe. The chart, on each Health Authority page, highlights the proportion of all severe illegal drug overdoses in the past 6 months. 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 community X, 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 to 1 year ago), where only 44% of the illegal drug overdoses were severe. The 6 month windows are rolling and update each week.

Percentage of Illegal Drug Overdoses Transported to Hospital in Previous 6 Months by Community - (bottom right hand figure)

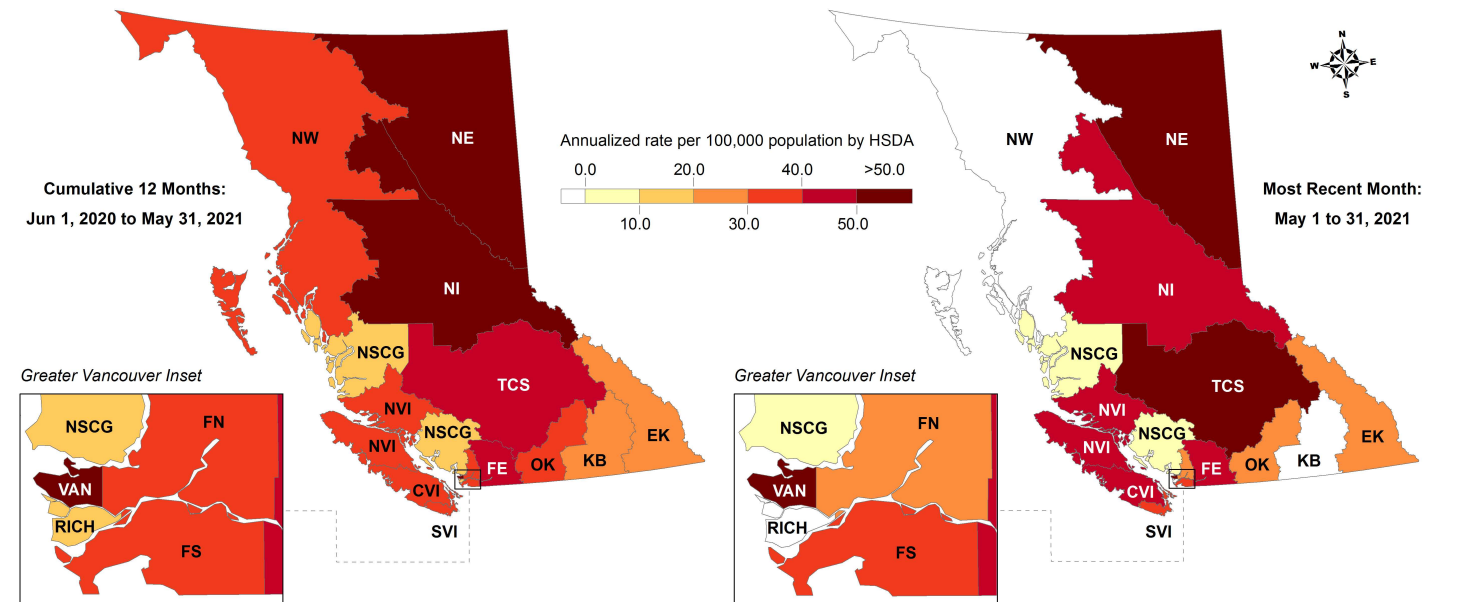
On each HA-specific page, there is a chart showing the proportion of illegal drug overdoses that were transported to hospital over the most recent 6 months. These are presented by community, where more than 10 illegal drug overdoses were recorded. Furthermore, the bars are colour coded based on the change 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 months period (i.e. 6 months to 1 year ago), where only 59% of illegal drug overdoses were transported to hospital. The 6 month windows are rolling and update each week as BCEHS PCR data updates become available.

Weekly Overdose Placemat - Provincial July 11, 2021 to July 17, 2021

Weekly Illegal Drug Overdose Events Attended by BCEHS, Severity Indicator, and Deaths Reported by Coroners in the Previous 12 Months
Cheque Weeks Marked by Brown Triangles



Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Health Service Delivery Area



Overdose Indicator Trends

Reporting Week: July 11, 2021 to July 17, 2021

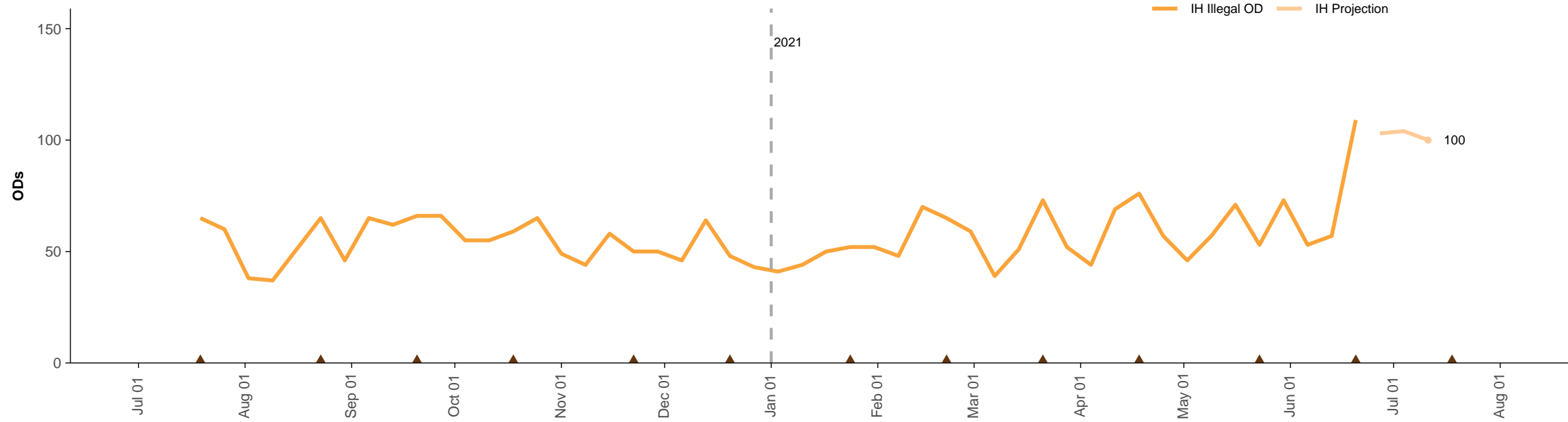
- 1) Paramedic-Attended Overdose Events are based on paramedic data and exclude overdoses due to alcohol or prescription drugs (dark blue). To overcome the data time-lag, recent events are projected based on the historical proportion of 911 Ingestion Poisoning calls later confirmed as street drug overdoses (light blue). There were 647 Paramedic-Attended Overdose Events this reporting week.
- 2) The provincial severity indicator shown here is based on assessment during the 911 dispatch call. Severity was 44.7% this week.
- 3) Mortality data is from the BC Coroners service. Weekly provincial deaths due to illicit drug toxicity are shown here. The data is available to May 31, 2021 and is shown by epidemiological week ending May 29, 2021.
- 4) The side-by-side mortality map compares mortality at the Health Services Delivery Area (HSDA) from May, 2021, to the previous 12 months.
 - a. The following HSDAs had mortality in May, 2021, greater than 50 deaths per 100,000:
IHA: Thompson Cariboo Shuswap; VCH: Vancouver; NHA: Northeast.
 - b. The following HSDAs had mortality in May, 2021, between 30-50 deaths per 100,000:
FHA: Fraser East, Fraser South; VIHA: Central Vancouver Island, North Vancouver Island, South Vancouver Island; NHA: Northern Interior.
 - c. The following HSDAs had mortality in May, 2021, less than 30 deaths per 100,000:
IHA: East Kootenay, Okanagan; FHA: Fraser North; VCH: North Shore - Coast Garibaldi.
 - d. The following HSDAs had no deaths in May, 2021:
IHA: Kootenay Boundary; VCH: Richmond; NHA: Northwest.

Weekly Overdose Placemat - Interior

July 11, 2021 to July 17, 2021

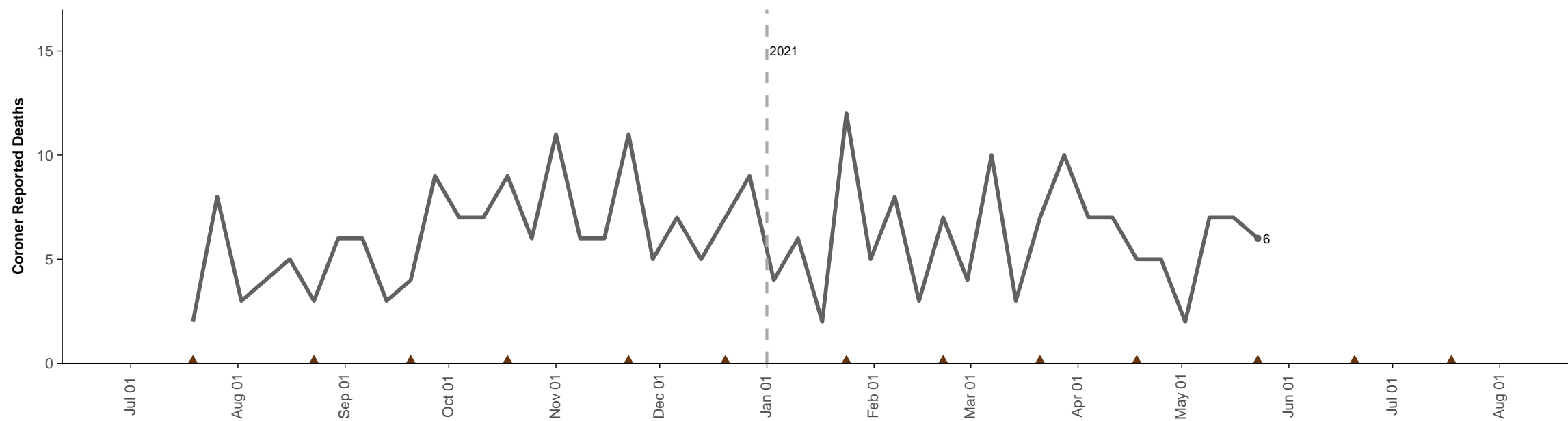
Weekly Illegal Drug Overdoses Attended by BCEHS in the Previous 12 Months

Cheque Weeks Marked by Brown Triangles



Weekly Illegal Drug Overdose Deaths Reported by Coroners in the Previous 12 Months

Cheque Weeks Marked by Brown Triangles

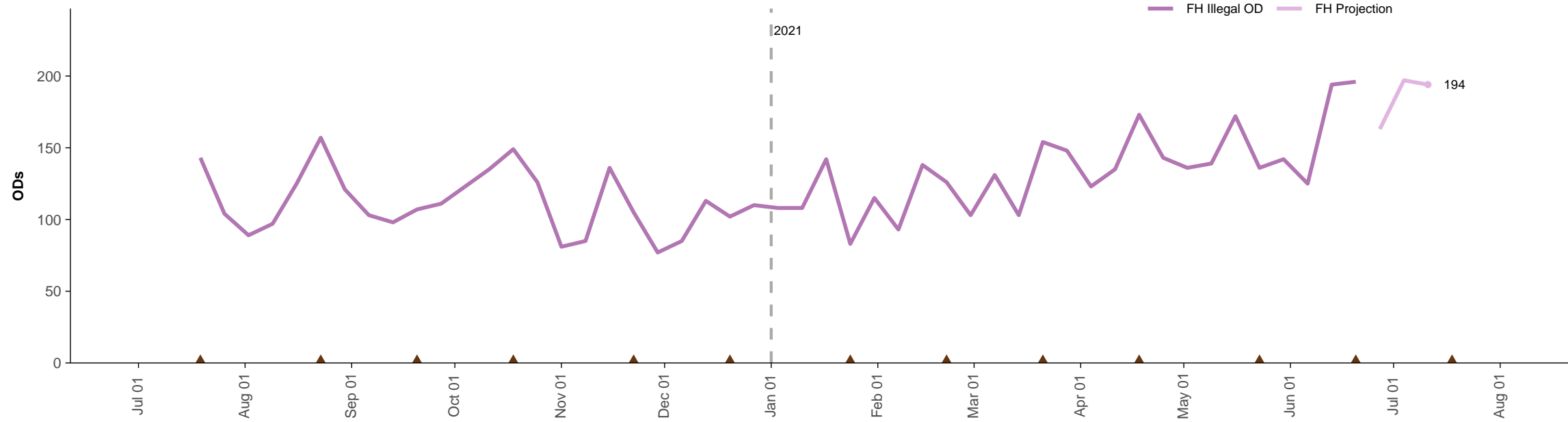


Weekly Overdose Placemat - Fraser

July 11, 2021 to July 17, 2021

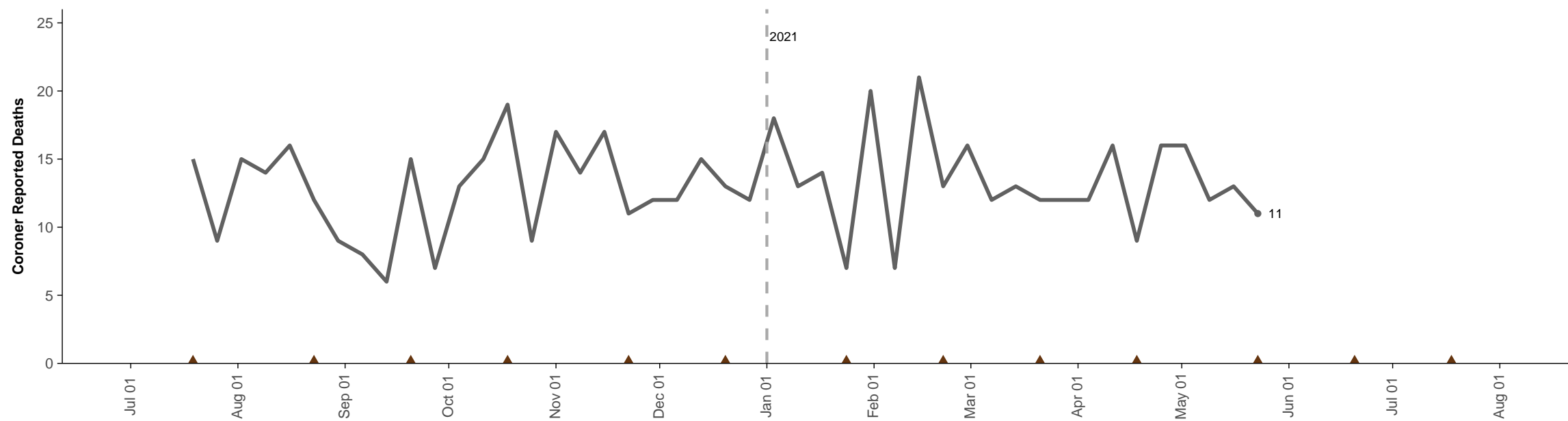
Weekly Illegal Drug Overdoses Attended by BCEHS in the Previous 12 Months

Cheque Weeks Marked by Brown Triangles



Weekly Illegal Drug Overdose Deaths Reported by Coroners in the Previous 12 Months

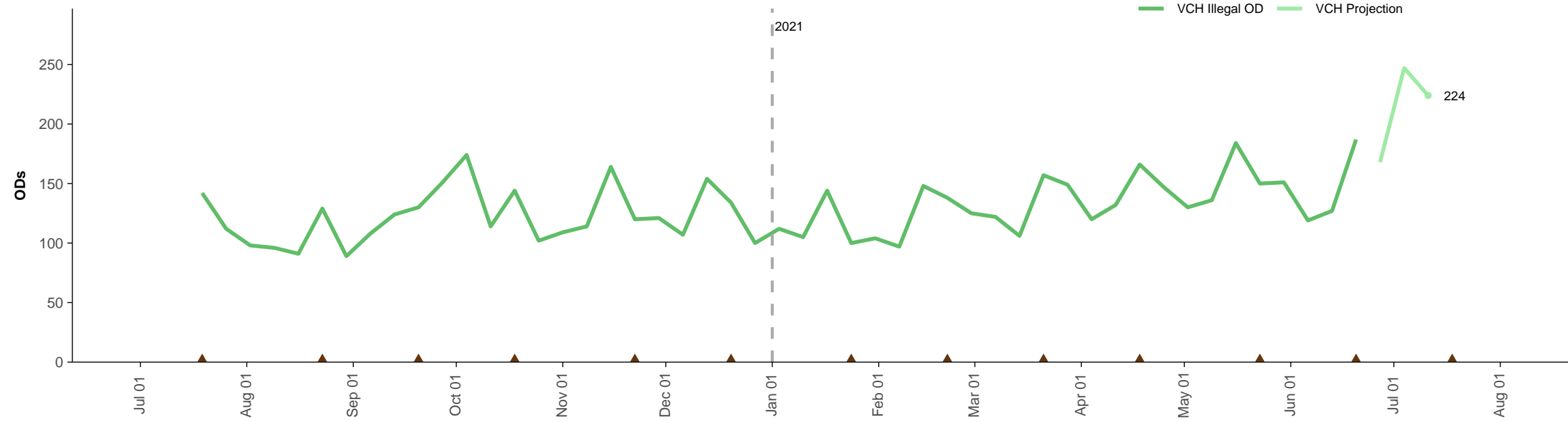
Cheque Weeks Marked by Brown Triangles



Weekly Overdose Placemat - Vancouver Coastal July 11, 2021 to July 17, 2021

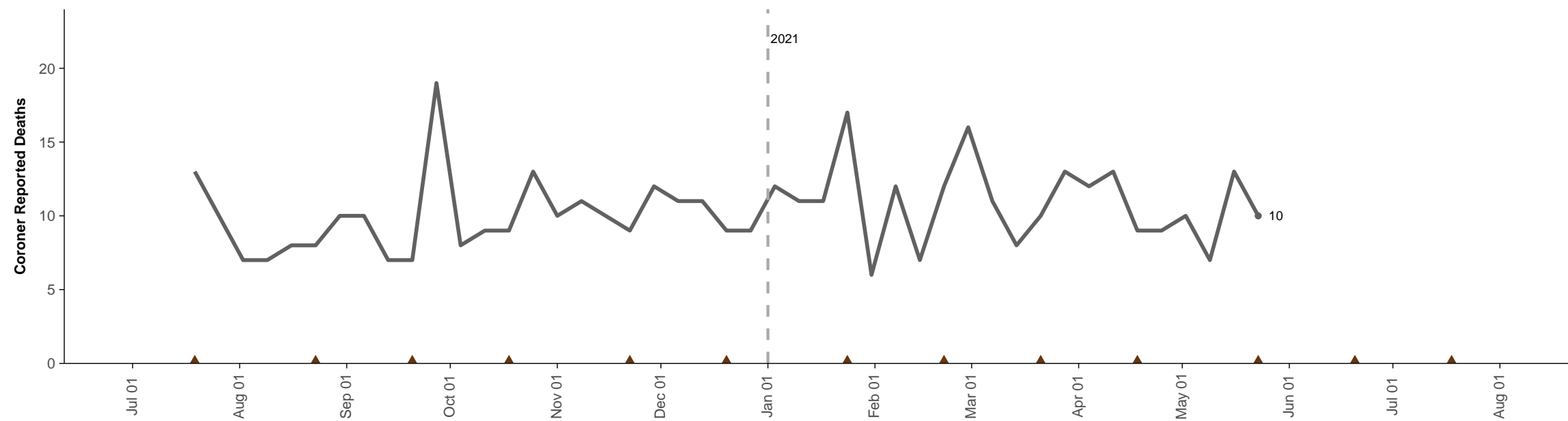
Weekly Illegal Drug Overdoses Attended by BCEHS in the Previous 12 Months

Cheque Weeks Marked by Brown Triangles



Weekly Illegal Drug Overdose Deaths Reported by Coroners in the Previous 12 Months

Cheque Weeks Marked by Brown Triangles

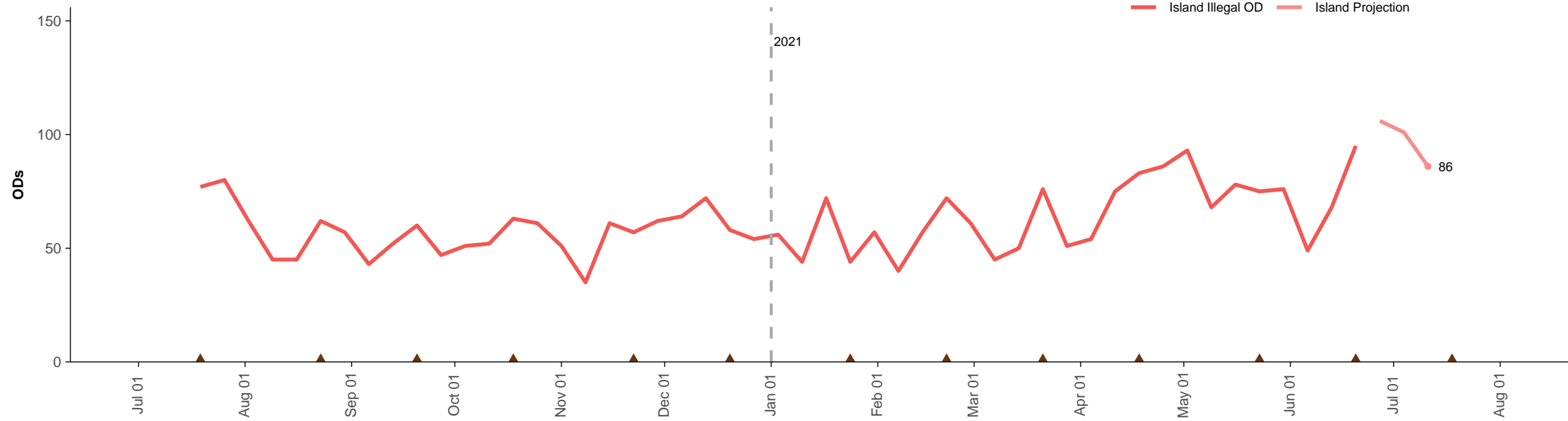


Weekly Overdose Placemat - Island

July 11, 2021 to July 17, 2021

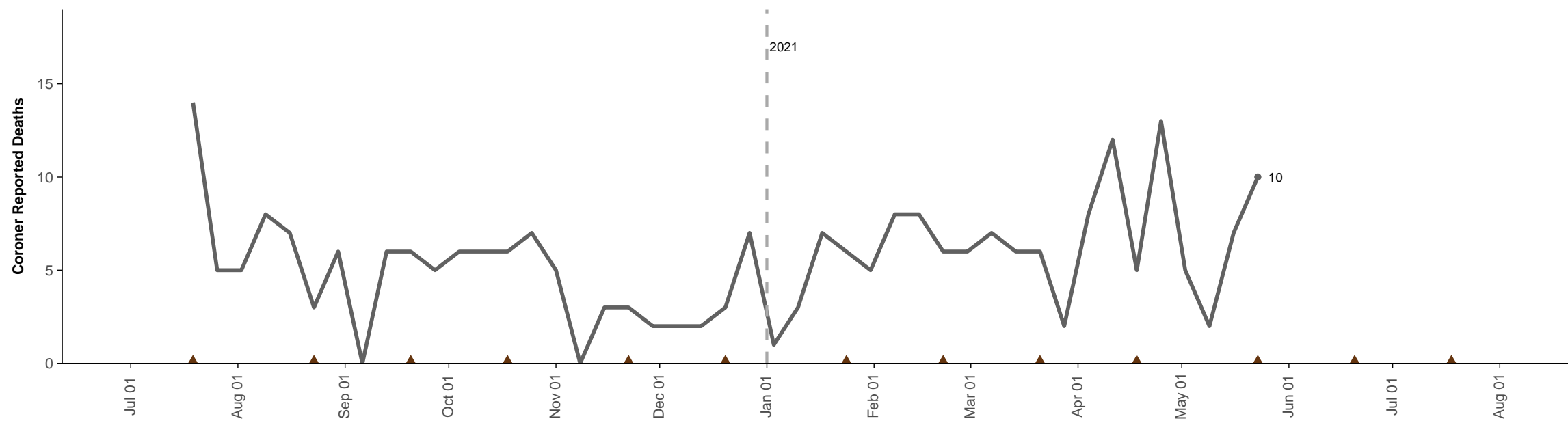
Weekly Illegal Drug Overdoses Attended by BCEHS in the Previous 12 Months

Cheque Weeks Marked by Brown Triangles



Weekly Illegal Drug Overdose Deaths Reported by Coroners in the Previous 12 Months

Cheque Weeks Marked by Brown Triangles

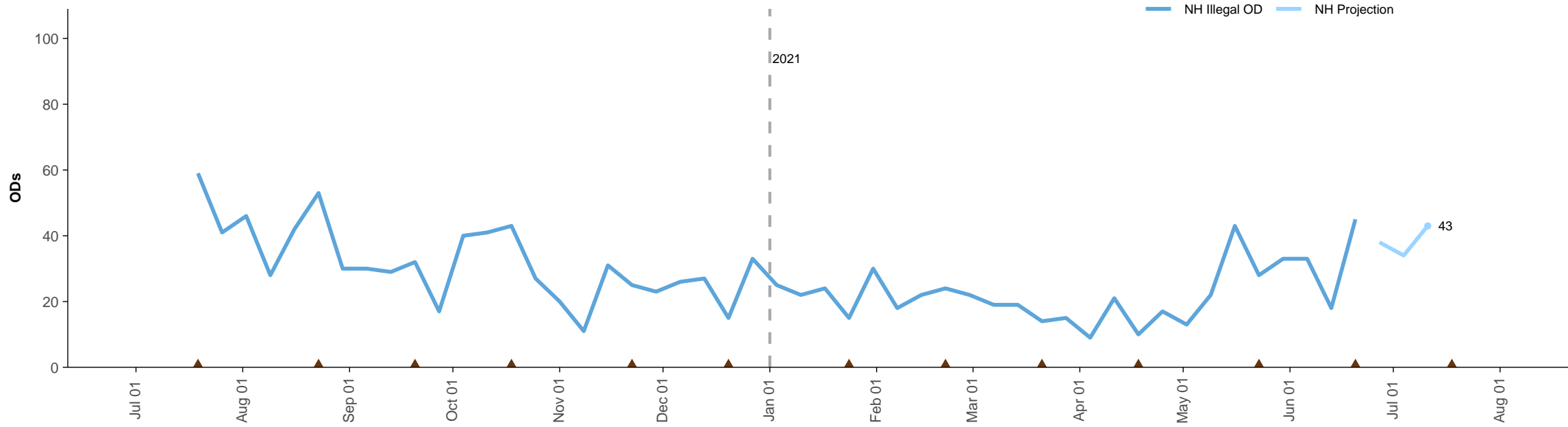


Weekly Overdose Placemat - Northern

July 11, 2021 to July 17, 2021

Weekly Illegal Drug Overdoses Attended by BCEHS in the Previous 12 Months

Cheque Weeks Marked by Brown Triangles



Weekly Illegal Drug Overdose Deaths Reported by Coroners in the Previous 12 Months

Cheque Weeks Marked by Brown Triangles

