

# Alberta Health

## **Opioids and Substances of Misuse**

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### **Alberta Q4 Interim Report 2017**

**Analytics and Performance Reporting Branch**

**January 19, 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.

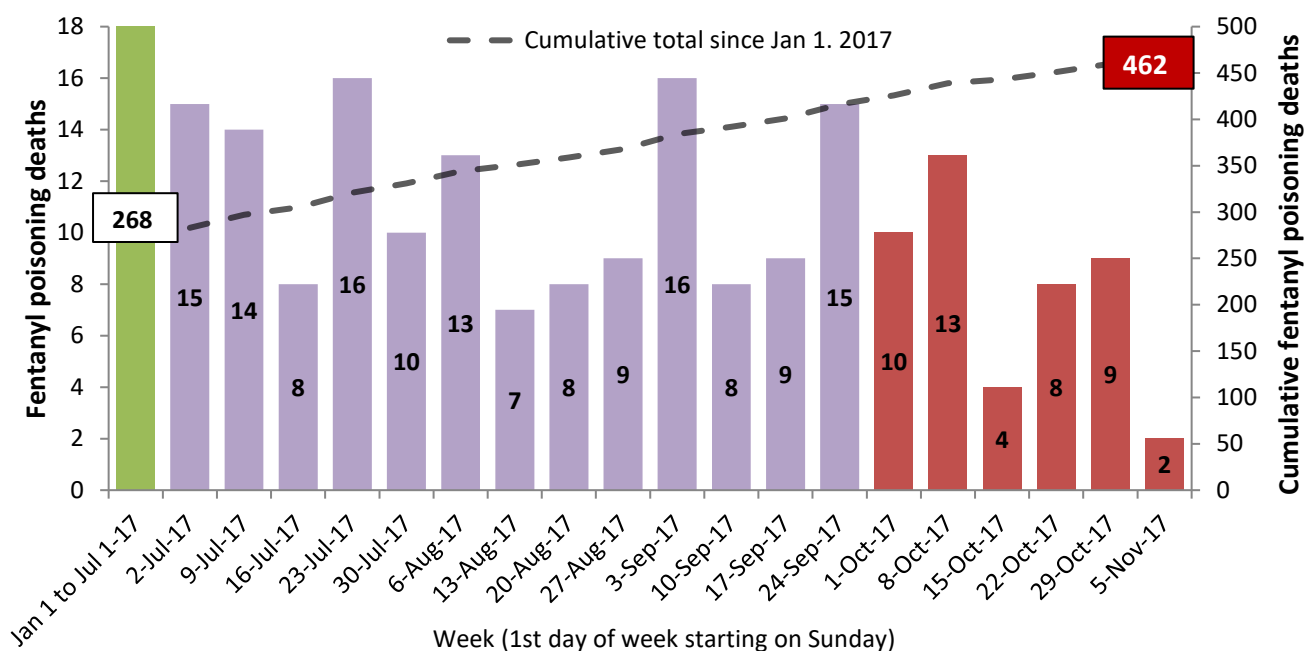
Mortality data is subject to change as certification of deaths can take six months or longer. Deaths in this report include individuals who died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl, or a fentanyl analogue (acetylfentanyl, 3-methylfentanyl, carfentanil, butyrylfentanyl), detected 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<sup>†</sup>

- From Jan. 1 to Nov. 11, 2017, **462** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl. In the same period in 2016, **293** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl.
- From Oct. 1 to Nov. 11, 2017, **46** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl, compared to **65** deaths in the previous six weeks (Aug. 20 – Sept. 30, 2017).
- In 2017, there are now on average, 1.5 apparent accidental drug poisoning deaths related to fentanyl per day, compared to 1.0 death per day in 2016.

**Figure 1:** Number of individuals who died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl<sup>†</sup> in Alberta, by week. Jan. 1 – Nov. 11, 2017.



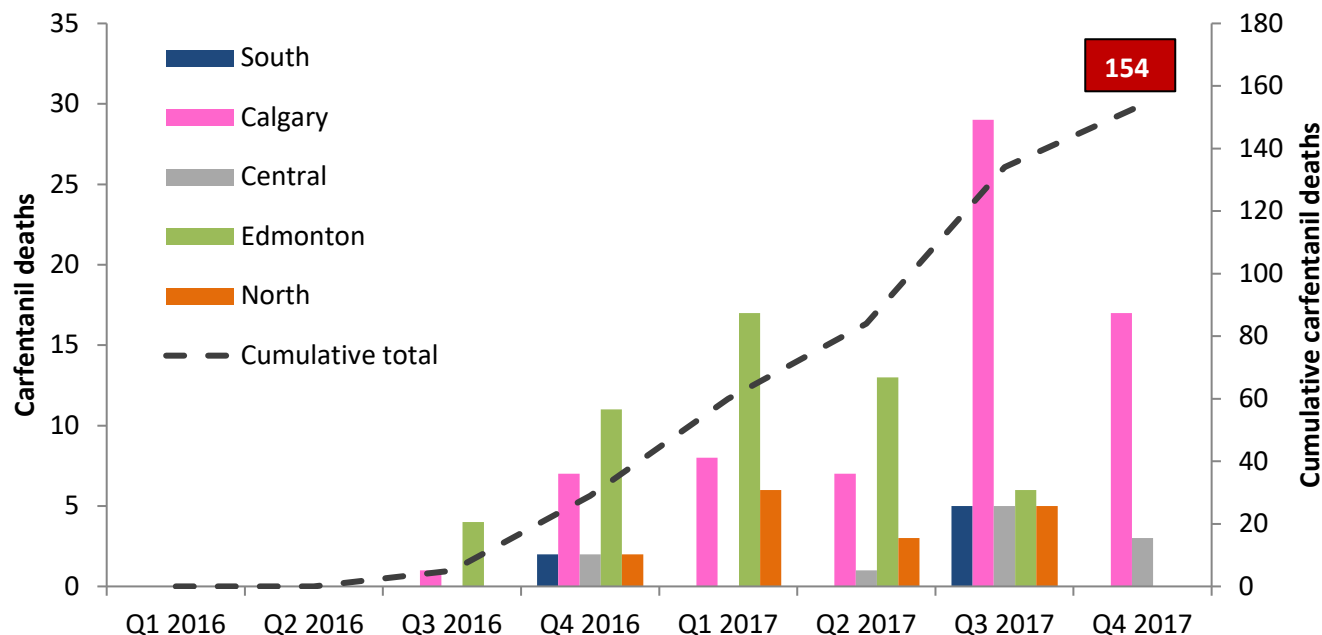
**Table 1:** Number and rate of fentanyl<sup>†</sup> related drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population, by Zone and Year.

	2016		2017 YTD*	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
South	17	5.6	25	9.5
Calgary	161	10.0	215	15.2
Central	41	8.5	37	8.8
Edmonton	117	8.6	135	11.4
North	32	6.5	50	11.7
Alberta	368	8.7	462	12.5

YTD = Jan. 1 – Nov. 11, 2017

<sup>†</sup>fentanyl, norfentanyl, acetylfentanyl, 3-methylfentanyl, carfentanil, butyrylfentanyl

**Figure 2:** Number of individuals who died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to carfentanil in Alberta, by quarter. Jan. 1 – Nov. 11, 2017.



- From 2016 to 2017 YTD, the number of apparent accidental drug poisoning deaths related to carfentanil increased by 330 per cent (29 in 2016 to 125 in 2017). The most recent data indicates a significant increase in the number of these deaths, with the majority of new cases occurring in the Calgary zone.

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

	2016		2017 YTD*	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
South	2	0.7	5	1.9
Calgary	8	0.5	61	4.3
Central	2	0.4	9	2.1
Edmonton	15	1.1	36	3.0
North	2	0.4	14	3.3
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>3.4</b>

YTD = Jan. 1 – Nov. 11, 2017