

**Alberta Health**

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**Opioids and Substances of Misuse**  
**Alberta Interim Q1 Report 2017**

**Analytics and Performance Reporting Branch**

**April 7, 2017**

*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 up to six months. Deaths in this report include individuals who died from an apparent drug overdose related to fentanyl, or a fentanyl analogue (norfentanyl, acetylfentanyl, 3-methylfentanyl, carfentanil, butyrylfentanyl), detected through toxicology.

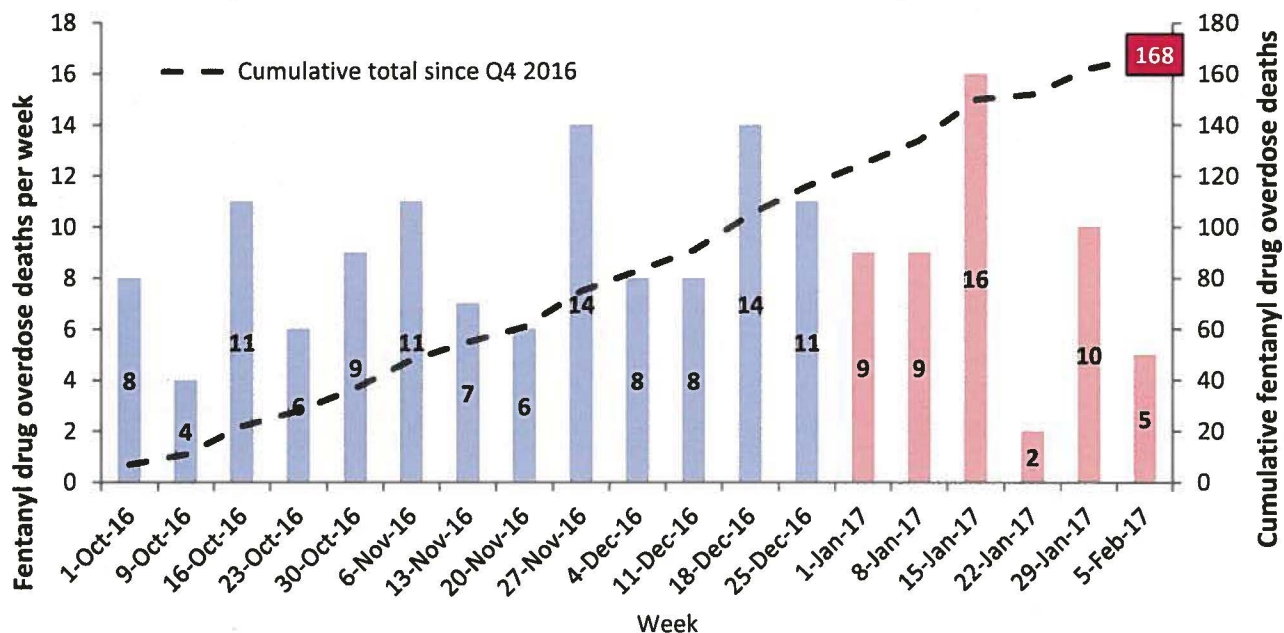
**The number of apparent drug overdose deaths related to fentanyl may change (including increases/decreases in previous numbers) as certification of cause of death may lead to a change in classification in some instances.**

**Year-to-Date (YTD)** in this report refers to the period of January 1, 2017 to February 11, 2017.

## Apparent drug overdose deaths related to fentanyl<sup>†</sup>

- Updated data shows that in 2016, **349** individuals died from an apparent drug overdose death related to fentanyl.
- In the first six weeks of 2017, **51** individuals died from an apparent drug overdose death related to fentanyl. That compares to **28** who died in the same period in 2016.
- There continues to be a high number of apparent drug overdose deaths related to fentanyl in Alberta.

**Figure 1:** Number of individuals who died from an apparent drug overdose related to fentanyl<sup>†</sup> in Alberta, by week for the period of October 1, 2016 to February 11, 2017



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

	2014		2015		2016		2017 YTD	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
South	11	3.7	17	5.6	16	5.3	<5	1.3
Calgary	30	1.9	82	5.2	152	9.4	25	1.5
Central	13	2.8	34	7.1	37	7.7	<5	0.4
Edmonton	35	2.7	72	5.4	112	8.3	12	0.9
North	28	5.8	52	10.6	30	6.1	8	1.6
Unknown	0	--	0	--	2	--	0	--
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>349*</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>51*</b>	<b>1.2</b>

\*Carfentanil was involved in 30 deaths in 2016, and 15 deaths in 2017, YTD.

YTD = January 1, 2017 to February 11, 2017

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