

# Alberta Health

## **Opioids and Substances of Misuse**

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### **Alberta Q1 Interim Report 2018**

**Analytics and Performance Reporting Branch**

**April 5, 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.

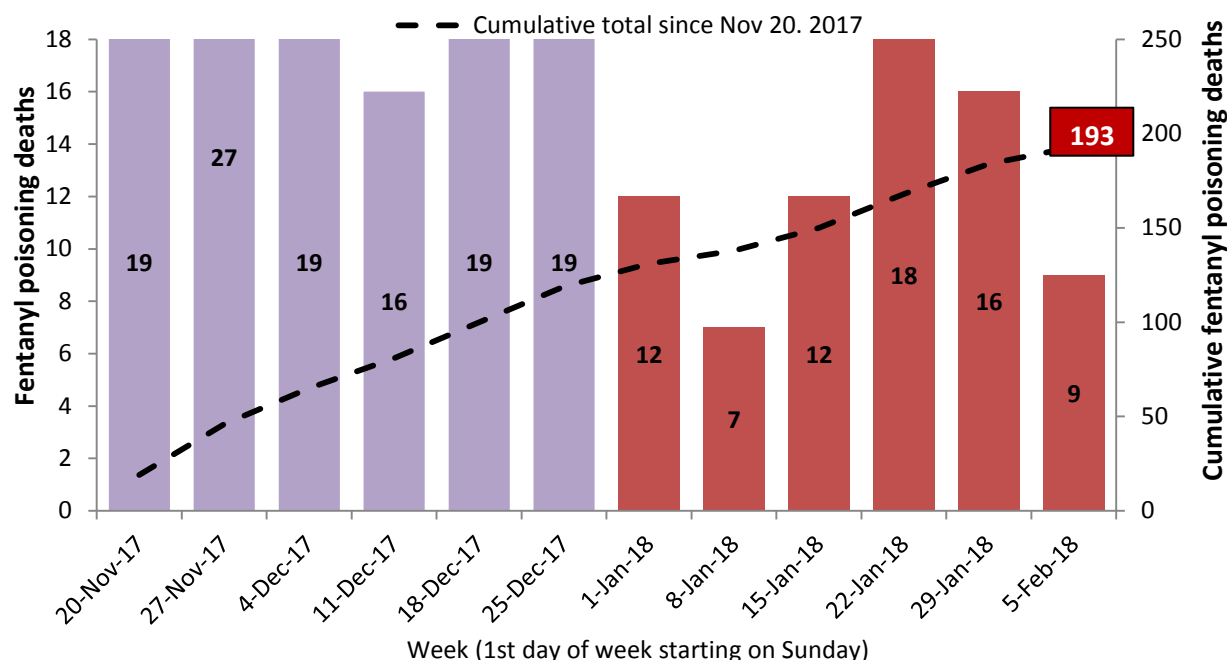
Mortality data is subject to change as certification of deaths can take six months or longer. Deaths in this report include individuals who died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl, or a fentanyl analogue (acetylfentanyl, 3-methylfentanyl, carfentanil, butyrylfentanyl), detected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

- In the first six weeks of 2018 (Jan. 1 – Feb. 11, 2018), **74** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl. In the same period in 2017, **56** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl.
- In the last six weeks of 2017 (Nov. 20 – Dec. 31, 2017). **119** individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl.
- In 2018, there are now on average, 1.8 apparent accidental drug poisoning deaths related to fentanyl per day, compared to 1.6 deaths per day in 2017.

**Figure 1:** Number of individuals who died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to fentanyl<sup>†</sup> in Alberta, by week. Nov. 20, 2017 – Feb. 11, 2018.



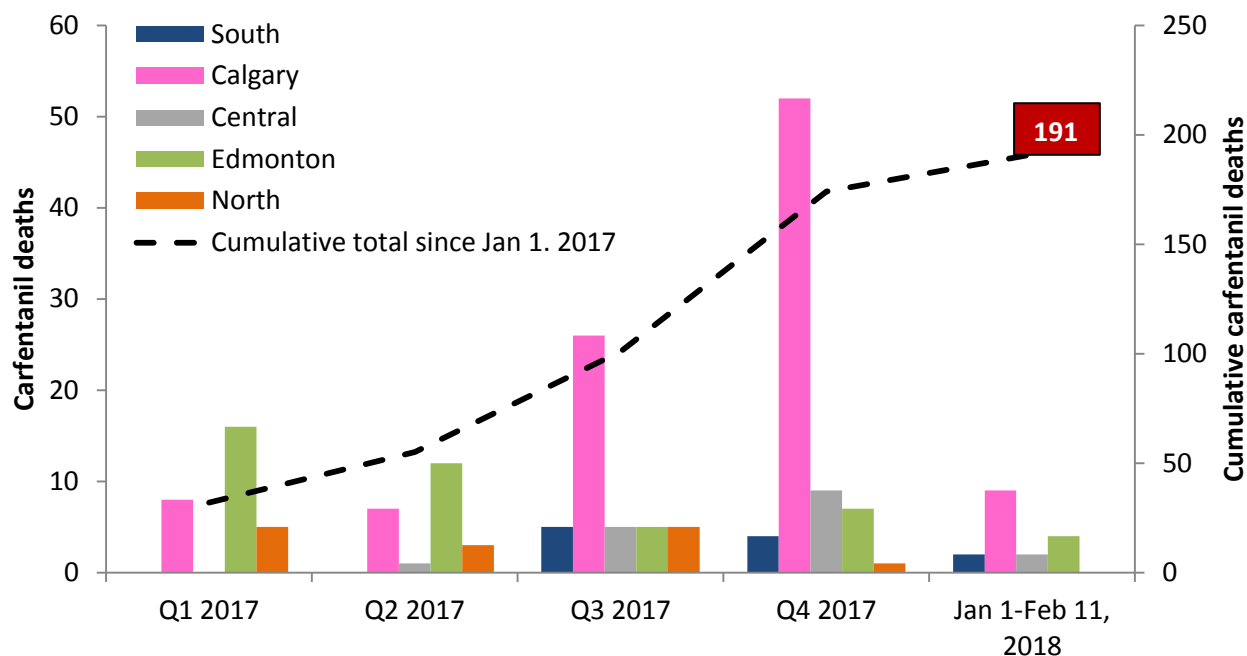
**Table 1:** Number and rate of fentanyl<sup>†</sup> related drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population, by Zone and Year.

	2017		2018 YTD*	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
South	32	10.5	3	8.5
Calgary	272	16.6	36	18.8
Central	48	9.9	6	10.6
Edmonton	177	12.9	25	15.6
North	60	12.2	4	7.0
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>14.8</b>

YTD = Jan. 1 – Feb. 11, 2018

<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, 2017 – Feb. 11, 2018.



- In the first six weeks of 2018 (Jan. 1 – Feb. 11, 2018), 17 individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to carfentanil. In the same period in 2017, 12 individuals died from an apparent accidental drug poisoning related to carfentanil.
- The most recent data indicates the Calgary and South 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	9	2.9	2	5.6
Calgary	93	5.7	9	4.7
Central	15	3.1	2	3.5
Edmonton	40	2.9	4	2.5
North	14	2.8	0	0.0
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3.4</b>

YTD = Jan. 1 – Feb. 11, 2018