

# Alberta Health

## **Opioids and Substances of Misuse**

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### **Alberta Q3 Interim Report 2017**

**Analytics and Performance Reporting Branch**

**September 22, 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.

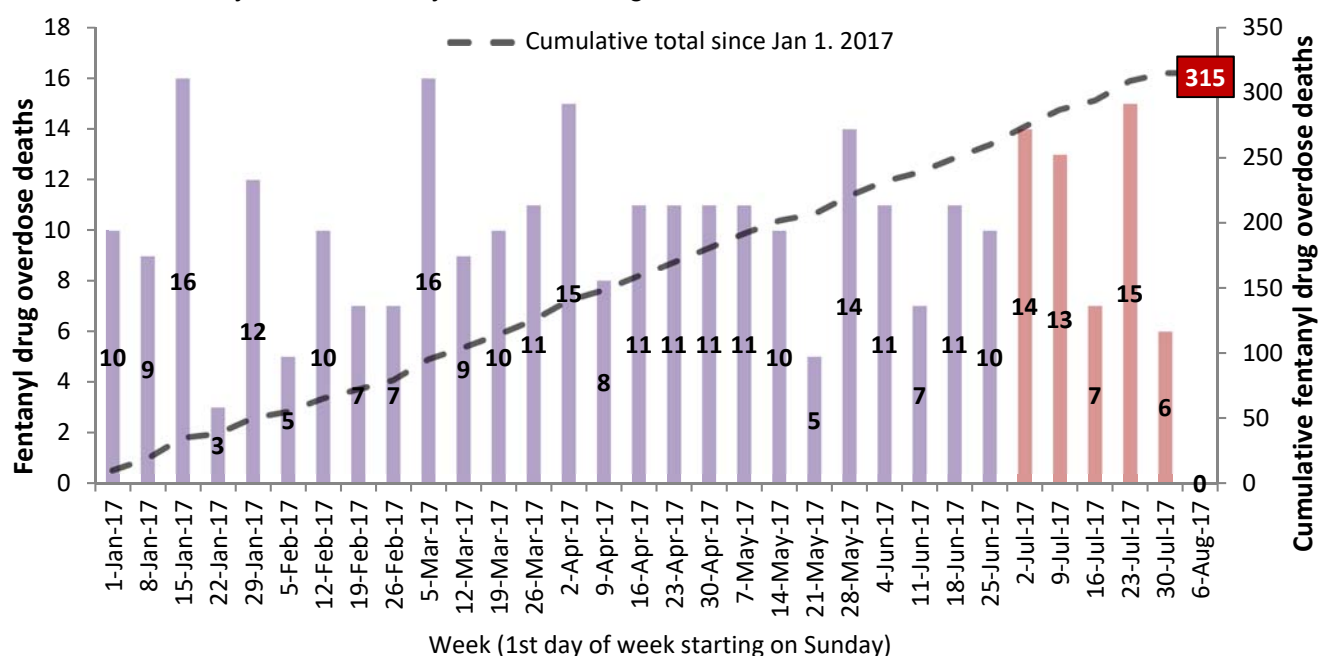
Mortality data is subject to change as certification of deaths can take six months or longer. Deaths in this report include individuals who died from an apparent drug overdose related to fentanyl, or a fentanyl analogue (norfentanyl, acetylfentanyl, 3-methylfentanyl, carfentanil, butyrylfentanyl), detected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

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

- Updated data shows that from January 1<sup>st</sup> to August 12<sup>th</sup> 2017, **315** individuals died from an apparent drug overdose death related to fentanyl. In the same time period in 2016, **199** individuals died from an apparent drug overdose death related to fentanyl.
- From July 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017, **55** individuals died from an apparent drug overdose related to fentanyl, compared to **58** deaths in the previous six weeks (May 21<sup>st</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017).
- The number of apparent drug overdose deaths related to fentanyl in 2017 continues to be significant.

**Figure 1:** Number of individuals who died from an apparent drug overdose related to fentanyl<sup>†</sup> in Alberta, by week. January 1, 2017 to August 12, 2017.



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

	2014		2015		2016		2017 YTD	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
South	11	3.7	14	4.6	17	5.6	16	8.5
Calgary	30	1.9	82	5.2	162	10.0	149	14.8
Central	12	2.6	36	7.5	39	8.1	20	6.7
Edmonton	35	2.7	75	5.6	118	8.7	96	11.4
North	29	6.1	53	10.8	32	6.5	34	11.2
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>11.9</b>

Carfentanil was involved in 29 deaths in 2016, and 60 deaths in 2017, YTD. Total: 89  
Carfentanil by Zone: Edmonton (45), Calgary (27), North (11), South (3), Central (3)

YTD = January 1, 2017 to August 12, 2017

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