

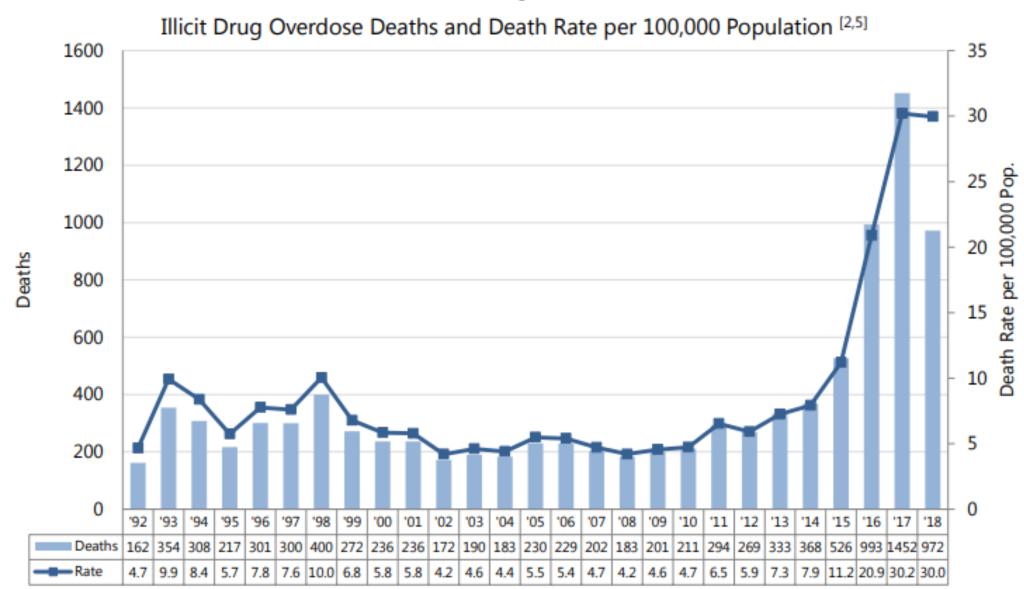
# The Overdose Crisis in British Columbia: Why It All Started?

#### **Reka Gustafson**

Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health



### BC Overdose Deaths 1992 – August 31, 2018

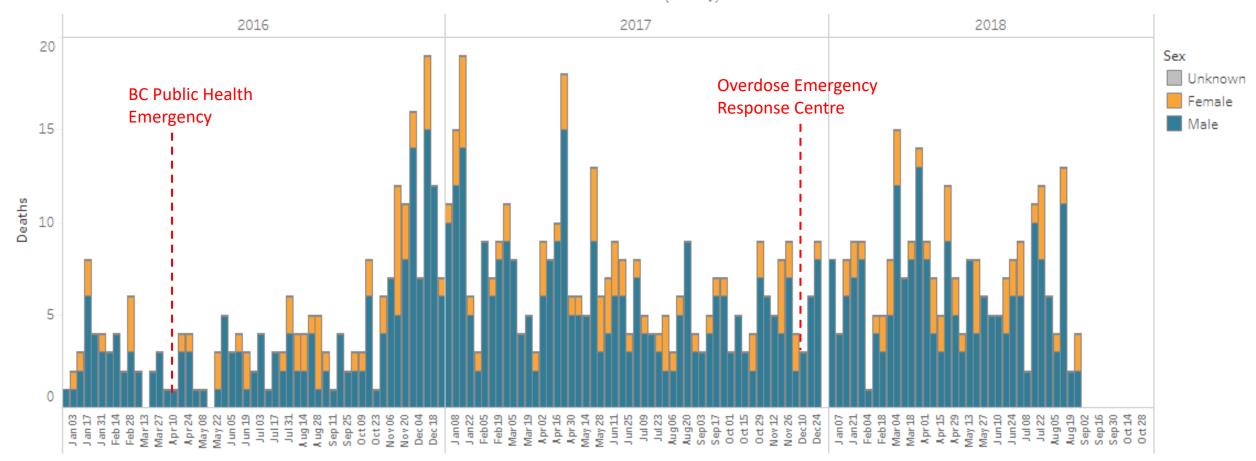




### Vancouver – Overdose Deaths: Jan. 2016 - Aug. 2018

#### Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths

Dates indicate the start of the week (Sunday)

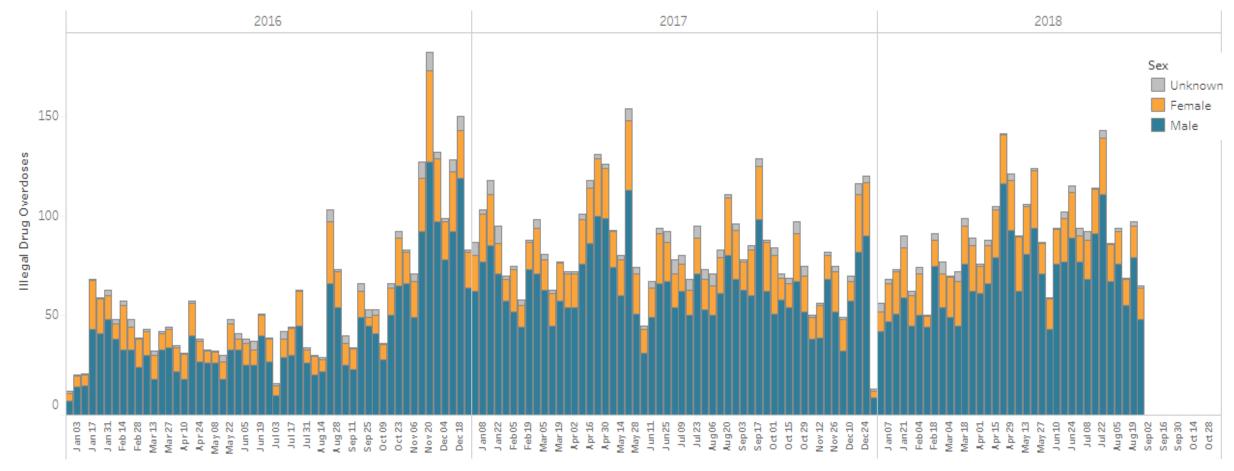


# Vancouver – Overdoses Attended by BC Ambulance: Jan. 2016 - Aug. 2018



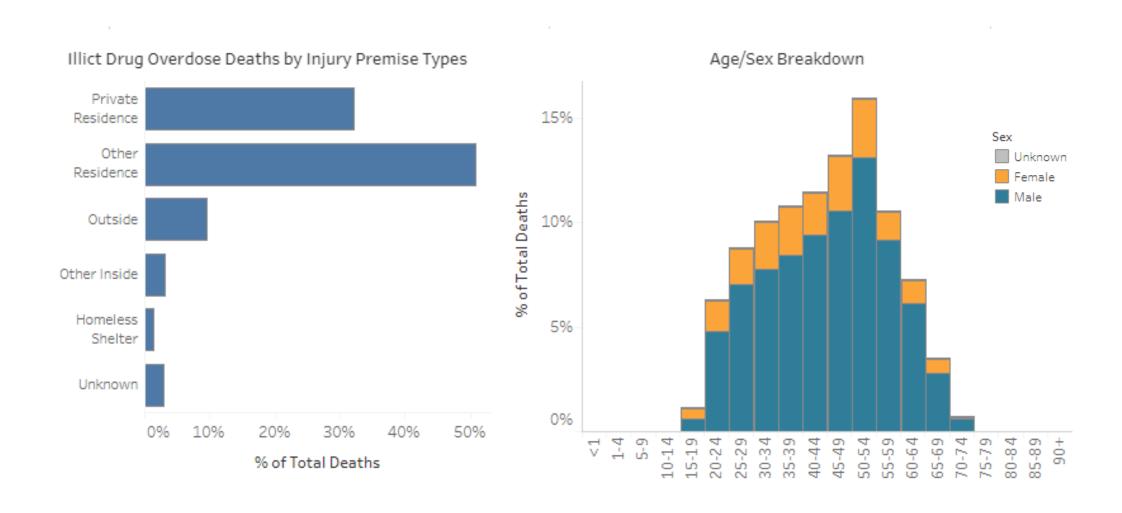
#### Illegal Drug Overdoses Attended by BCAS

Dates indicate the start of the week (Sunday)





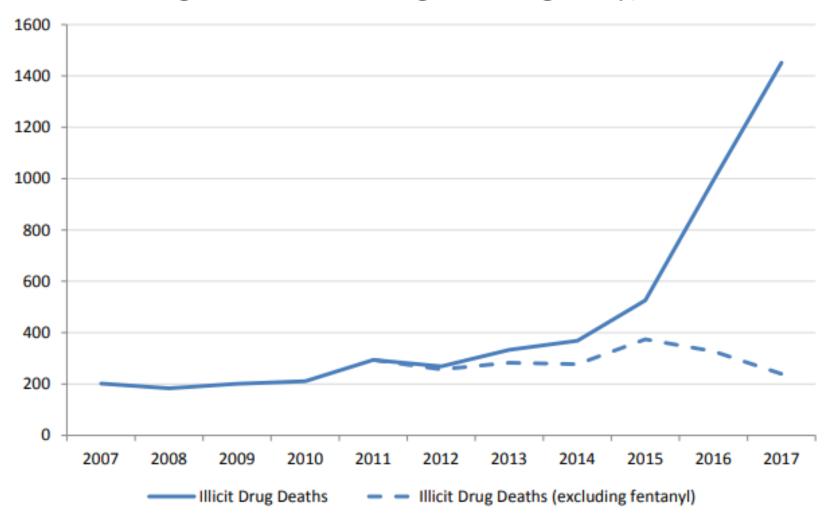
### Vancouver – Overdose Deaths: Jan. 2016 - Aug. 2018





### **BC** Overdose Deaths

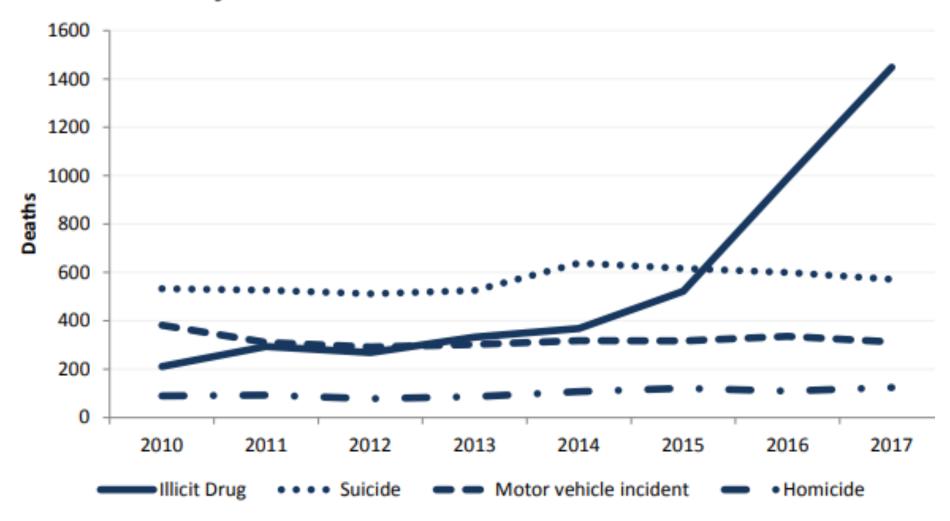
Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths including and excluding Fentanyl, 2007-2017



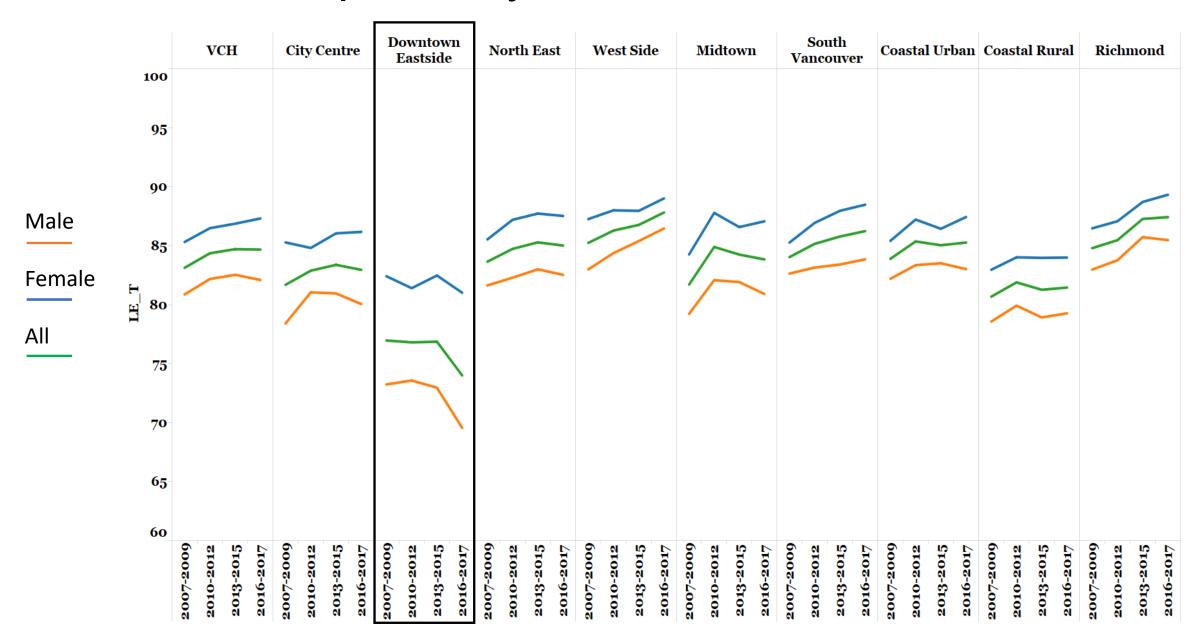


### **BC** Overdose Deaths

#### **Major Causes of Unnatural Deaths in BC**



### Life Expectancy in Vancouver Coastal Health



# Opioid Use Disorder (Addiction)

- Chronic, relapsing condition
- Changes to brain structure and function
- Relapse is expected after "detox" and "recovery"
- Long term treatment with opioid agonist therapy protective





### Death Review Panel Findings



- Reviewed cases of 1,854 people who died from illicit drug overdose (Jan 2016-July 2017)
- Key findings for the majority of cases:
  - Recent health care and/or previous BC corrections contact
  - Using substances regularly
  - Using alone
  - Many had sought treatment in past and experienced relapses
- Opioid agonist therapy <u>protective</u> against death

BC CORONERS SERVICE DEATH REVIEW PANEL:

A REVIEW OF ILLICIT DRUG OVERDOSES

REPORT TO THE CHIEF CORONER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

April 5, 2018





**CARRY A NALOXONE KIT** 



**CALL 9-1-1** 



**#STOPOVERDOSE** 

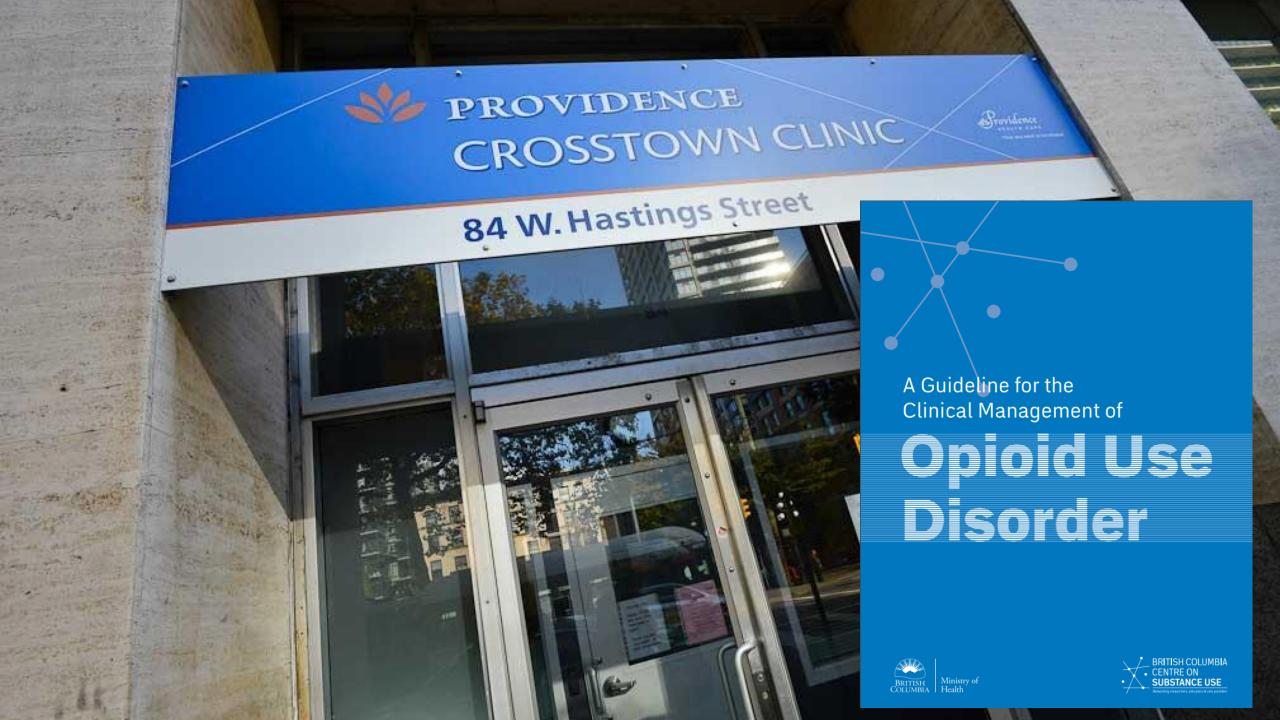


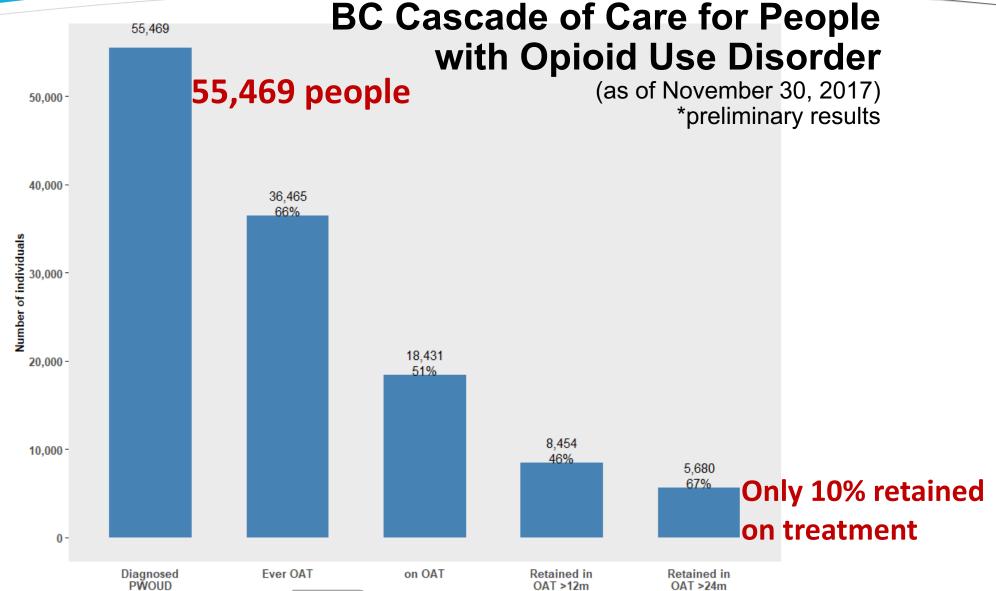
# Drug Checking





Initiative supported through 2017 City of Vancouver grant to the BC Centre on Substance Use to purchase original spectrometer





















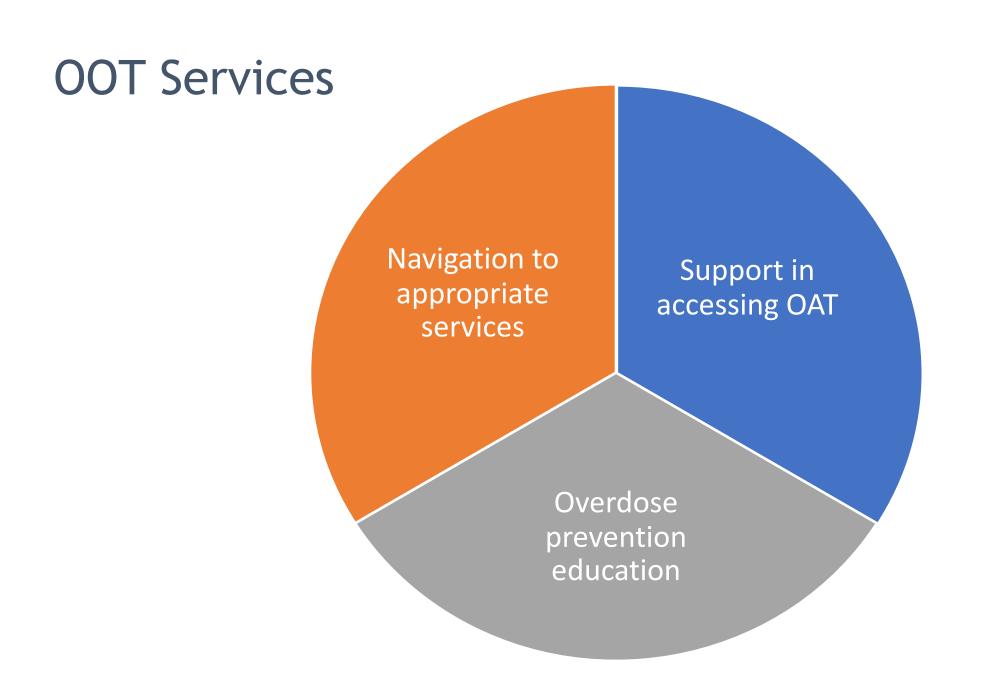
### Overdose Outreach Team

#### **OOT Purpose:**

Provide support/assistance to individuals & families attempting to navigate substance use services in Vancouver Coastal Health region (Vancouver, Richmond, North Shore)

#### **Who OOT Serves:**

Those who have recently experienced an overdose or at high risk of an overdose. Our goal is to connect with individuals who are **not well connected elsewhere in the community** 





### Increasing Clinical Capacity

Increasing Baseline Knowledge – Addictions 101

• BCCSU Online Addictions Diploma

Increasing Prescribers

Dine and Learns

BCCSU OAT Training

BCCSU iOAT Training

**Supporting Prescribers** 

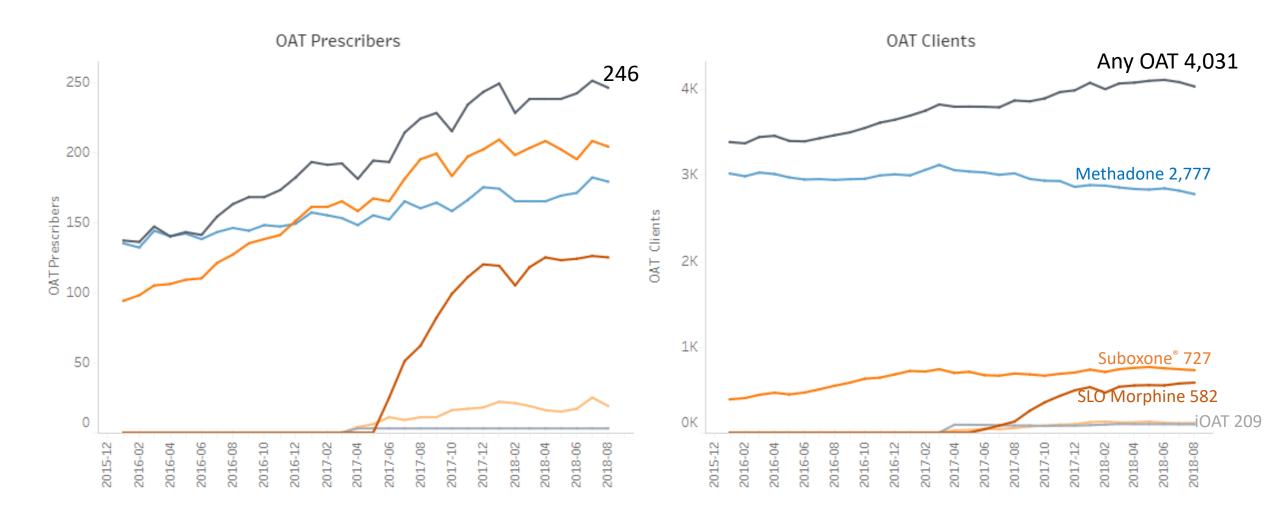
VCH OAT Network

Online OAT/iOAT CoP

**Increasing Speciality Capacity** 

- BCCSU Fellowships GPs, RNs, NPs, SWs
- 2 week clinical rotations (new resident grads, other clinicians)

### Patients on Opioid Agonist Therapy - Vancouver



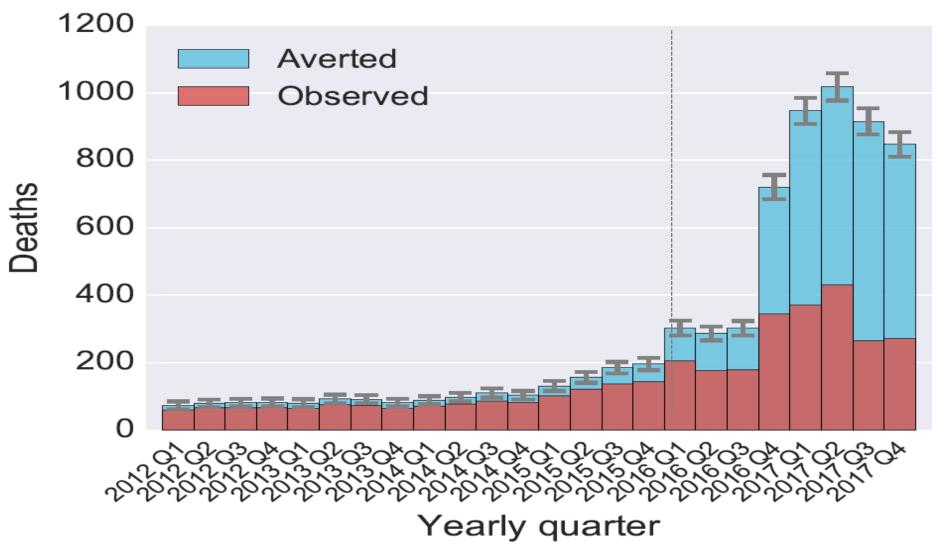
## **Community Action Teams**

- Minister Darcy announced Community Action Teams Feb. 1, 2018
- 20 communities with the most urgent need, including Vancouver
- \$100,000 in grant funding per community
- Membership: Municipality, First Nations, first responders, community agencies, Divisions of Family Practice, people and families with lived experience, Health Authority



## Modelling: Deaths Averted

Take home naloxone, overdose prevention sites, opioid agonist therapy



Model estimates would have seen 2.5 times more deaths if interventions not in place

Figure provided by Michael Irvine, BCCDC/UBC. Preliminary results and subject to change.

# Thank you

- Dr. Patricia Daly
- BC Coroners Service
- VCH Overdose Response Team