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# Alberta Health

## **Opioids and Substances of Misuse**

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### **Alberta Q2 Interim Report 2017**

**Analytics and Performance Reporting Branch**

**June 23, 2017**

*Alberta*  Government

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## Disclaimer

This surveillance report presents mortality data associated with fentanyl use in Alberta, collected by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

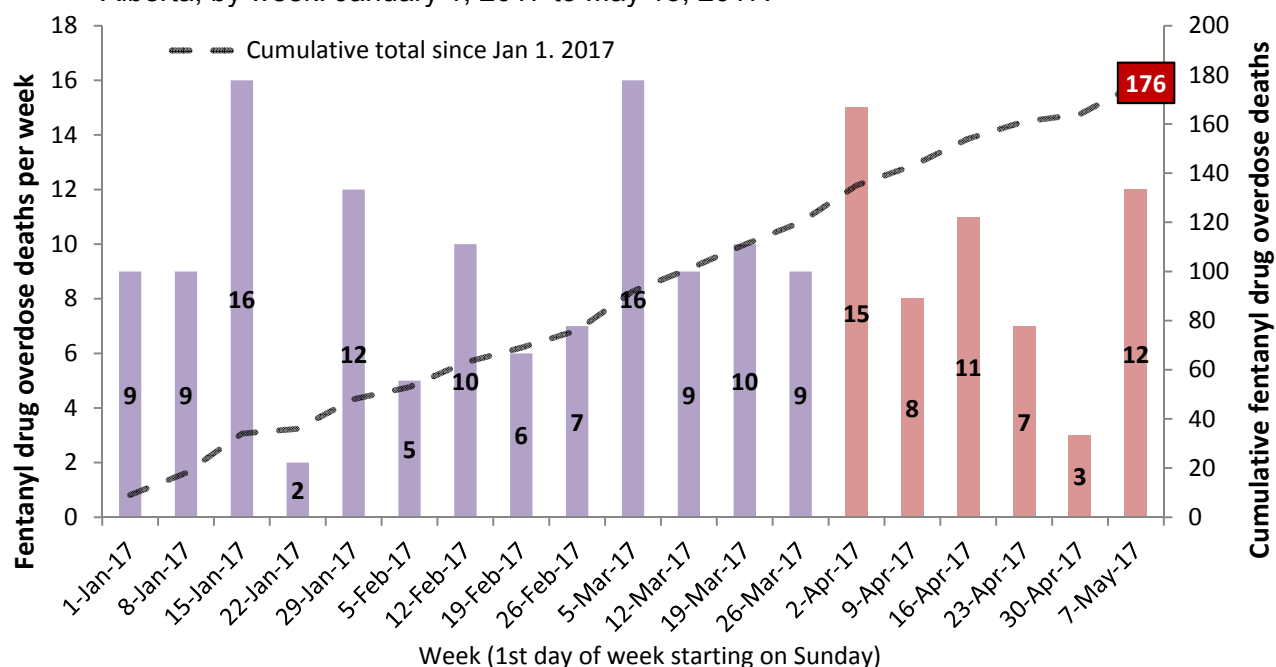
Mortality data is subject to change as certification of deaths can take six months or longer. Deaths in this report include individuals who died from an apparent drug overdose related to fentanyl, or a fentanyl analogue (norfentanyl, acetylfentanyl, 3-methylfentanyl, carfentanil, butyrylfentanyl), detected 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 May 13<sup>th</sup> 2017, **176** individuals died from an apparent drug overdose death related to fentanyl.
- In the six week period from April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 to May 13<sup>th</sup> 2017, **56** individuals died from an apparent drug overdose death related to fentanyl.
- The number of apparent drug overdose deaths related to fentanyl in 2017 continues to be significant, and the trend appears to be stabilizing based on the number of deaths in the previous six week periods.

**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 May 13, 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	13	4.4	20	6.6	15	4.9	10	3.3
Calgary	32	2.1	88	5.5	159	9.8	77	4.7
Central	15	3.2	39	8.2	39	8.1	10	2.1
Edmonton	36	2.8	79	5.9	118	8.7	58	4.2
North	31	6.5	53	10.8	32	6.5	21	4.3
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>363*</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>176*</b>	<b>4.1</b>

\*Carfentanil was involved in 32 deaths in 2016, and 34 of deaths in 2017, YTD.

YTD = January 1, 2017 to May 13, 2017

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