



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Beyond the Call

ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS: LOCAL CONTEXT

- British Columbia:
 - 2.5 times the national average
- Vancouver:
 - 4.3 times the national average



START OF THE PANDEMIC

 **CBC** | **MENU** 

British Columbia

B.C. releases plan to provide safe supply of drugs during COVID-19 pandemic

[Eva Uguen-Csenge](#) · CBC News · Posted: Mar 26, 2020 9:47 PM PT | Last Updated: March 27, 2020

- How will pandemic impact the opioid crisis?
- Potential for border restrictions to severely limit local drug supply.



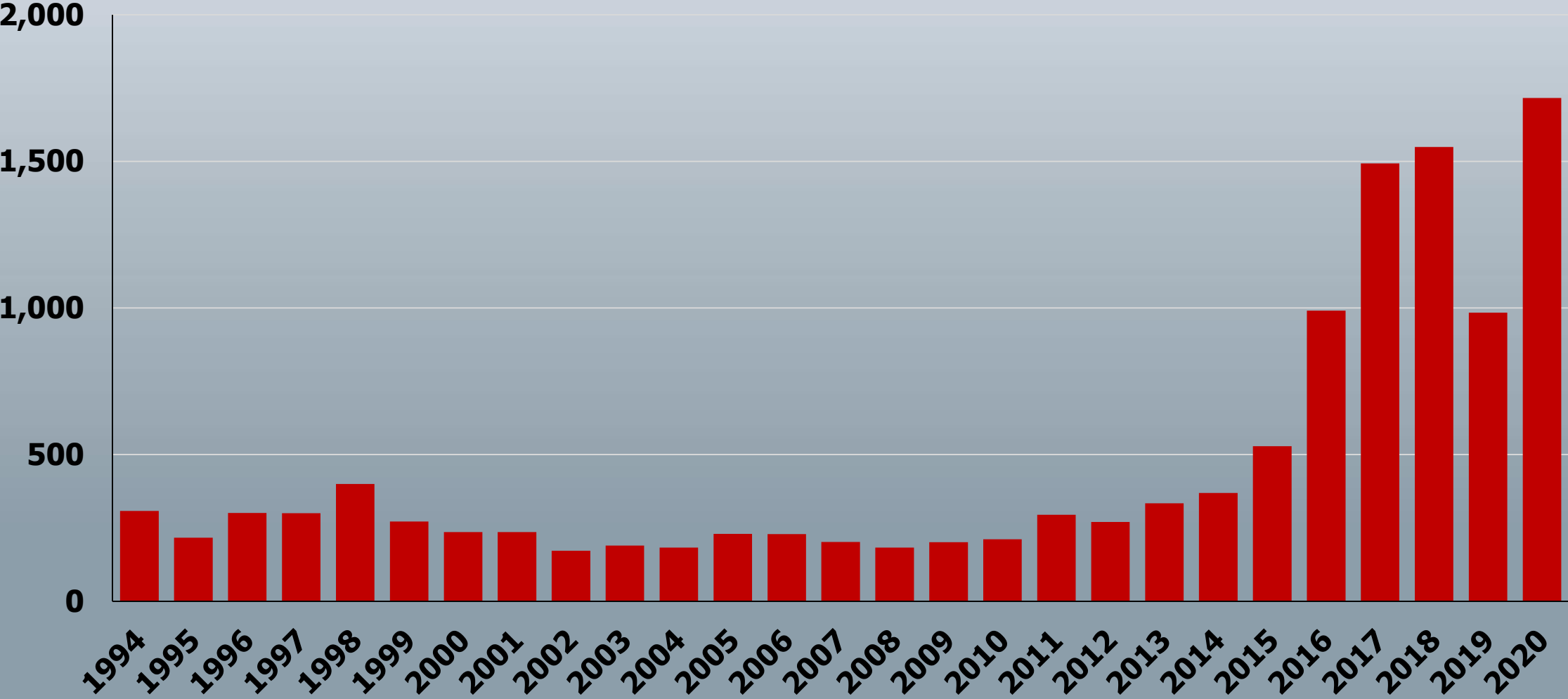
PANDEMIC IMPACTS

Prices: ~~expect~~  Unchanged

Toxicity: ~~expect~~  Increased 



B.C. – ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY DEATHS



2020 was B.C.'s deadliest year ever for drug overdoses, coroner says

1,716 people died due to illicit drug use last year, equating to 4.7 deaths a day — a 74% increase over 2019

[Andrea Ross](#) · CBC News · Posted: Feb 11, 2021 10:04 AM PT | Last Updated: February 11



- Nearly 5 British Columbians die per day
- In Vancouver, more than 1 person dies per day
- More deaths than suicide, traffic collisions and homicides **combined**



CURRENT STATUS

Record number of illicit drug overdoses in B.C. in January

- 49% of all cases involved benzodiazepines (etizolam)
- Naloxone is less effective in combating benzodiazepines
- Resurgence of carfentanil

VPD STRATEGY

- Compassion for those with substance use disorder
- Local history of being progressive
- Recognize the need for a health led approach



VPD STRATEGY

- Enforcement: focus on those doing the most harm
 - Importing
 - Manufacturing
 - Trafficking



DECRIMINALIZATION

- November 25th, 2020 – Vancouver Council motion
- December 7th, 2020 – written submission to Health Canada
- March 1st, 2021 – first framework submitted
- Work is ongoing
- Coordinated effort between:



SAFE SUPPLY



\$3.5M in funding for 'vending machines' that dispense safer drugs to prevent ODs

By Camille Bains • The Canadian Press

Posted March 3, 2021 8:14 am



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