

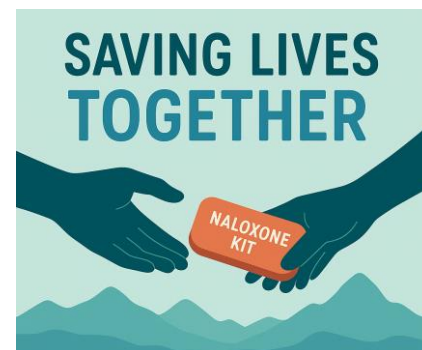
The Drug Poisoning Crisis & North Shore Businesses

The Drug Poisoning Crisis: An Ongoing Concern

The growing number of dangerous substances in street drugs is the main reason why more people are dying from drug overdoses, also known as drug poisonings. People can take drugs without knowing they contain other unexpected and harmful substances, which can lead to an overdose even in a small amount. Importantly, the drug poisoning crisis is not confined to any particular kind of person or area. The whole North Shore has been affected. Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

Key Stats to Know:

- Drug poisoning is **one of the leading causes of death for working-age people** in BC and on the North Shore.^{1,2}
- **Most drug poisoning deaths occurred in private residences** in BC and on the North Shore - either in their homes or the homes of others.^{2,3}
- **Nearly half of individuals who died from overdose in BC were employed**, with the trades & transport sectors being the most impacted.⁴



What You Can Do as a Business Owner?

As a business, you can play a crucial role in improving the health and safety of your employees and the broader community. Here are actions you can take to support the efforts to tackle the drug poisoning crisis:

1. Reduce Stigma in the Workplace

- Address harmful stereotypes and share factual information about the drug poisoning crisis.
- Complete free, online training to better understand the impacts of stigma: <https://stigma.vchlearn.ca/>

2. Be Prepared to Respond to an Overdose

- Ensure your employees are trained in First Aid, Overdose Recognition, and Naloxone use.
- Free Naloxone Training: Access a free online Naloxone 101 course here: <https://towardtheheart.com/naloxone-course>
- Businesses can also purchase naloxone kits from community pharmacies and arrange training for staff.

3. Support Employees and Community Members with Resources

- Vancouver Coastal Health offers a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use services on the North Shore: <https://www.vch.ca/en/health-topics/north-shore-mental-health-and-substance-use-services>
- Find free naloxone for people at risk or their loved ones in your area: <https://towardtheheart.com/site-finder>

Together, We Can Make a Difference.

By being informed, reducing stigma, and preparing for emergencies, we can help save lives and create a safer, more compassionate environment for all.

This initiative is made possible through collaboration with [Vancouver Coastal Health](#), the [District of North Vancouver](#), and the [North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce](#).

Citations:

¹ BC Centre for Disease Control Mortality Context App <http://bccdc.ca/>

² North Shore data retrieved by VCH Public Health

³ BC Coroners Services Unregulated Drug Death Dashboard <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events/death/coroners-service>

⁴ Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. (2018). [Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths in BC: Findings of Coroners' Investigations](#).