

## **VCH Overdose Surveillance Updates**

### **at VCH Emergency Departments, Insite, and Overdose Prevention Sites**

### **June 8, 2025 - June 14, 2025 (Week 24)**

**Note:** Caution is warranted when interpreting this week's report as data is missing or incomplete from the following site(s): Astoria, RLLF-E OPS, PSG and Sechelt OPS.

This update summarizes overdose visits in 9 of 13 VCH acute care facilities (ED), consumption visits resulting in an overdose at the Vancouver Supervised Injection Site (Insite), and Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS).

#### **ED Volumes (Figure 1)**

- 82 overdoses involving non-medical drugs/unknown substances were identified by the surveillance system in Week 24.
- Compared to historical data, the number of overdoses was below the historical average and below the upper band of 95% confidence limits.
- Compared to the previous week, the combined overdoses at ED remained the same.

#### **Insite & OPS Volumes (Figure 2)**

- 9 overdose events were recorded at Insite and OPSs in Week 24.
- Among the 9 events, 5 (56%) presented at Insite and 4 (44%) presented at an OPS.
- Compared to historical data, the number of overdoses was below the historical average and below the upper band of 95% confidence limits.
- Compared to the previous week, the combined overdoses at Insite and OPSs decreased.

#### **ER Overdose Rate (Figure 3)**

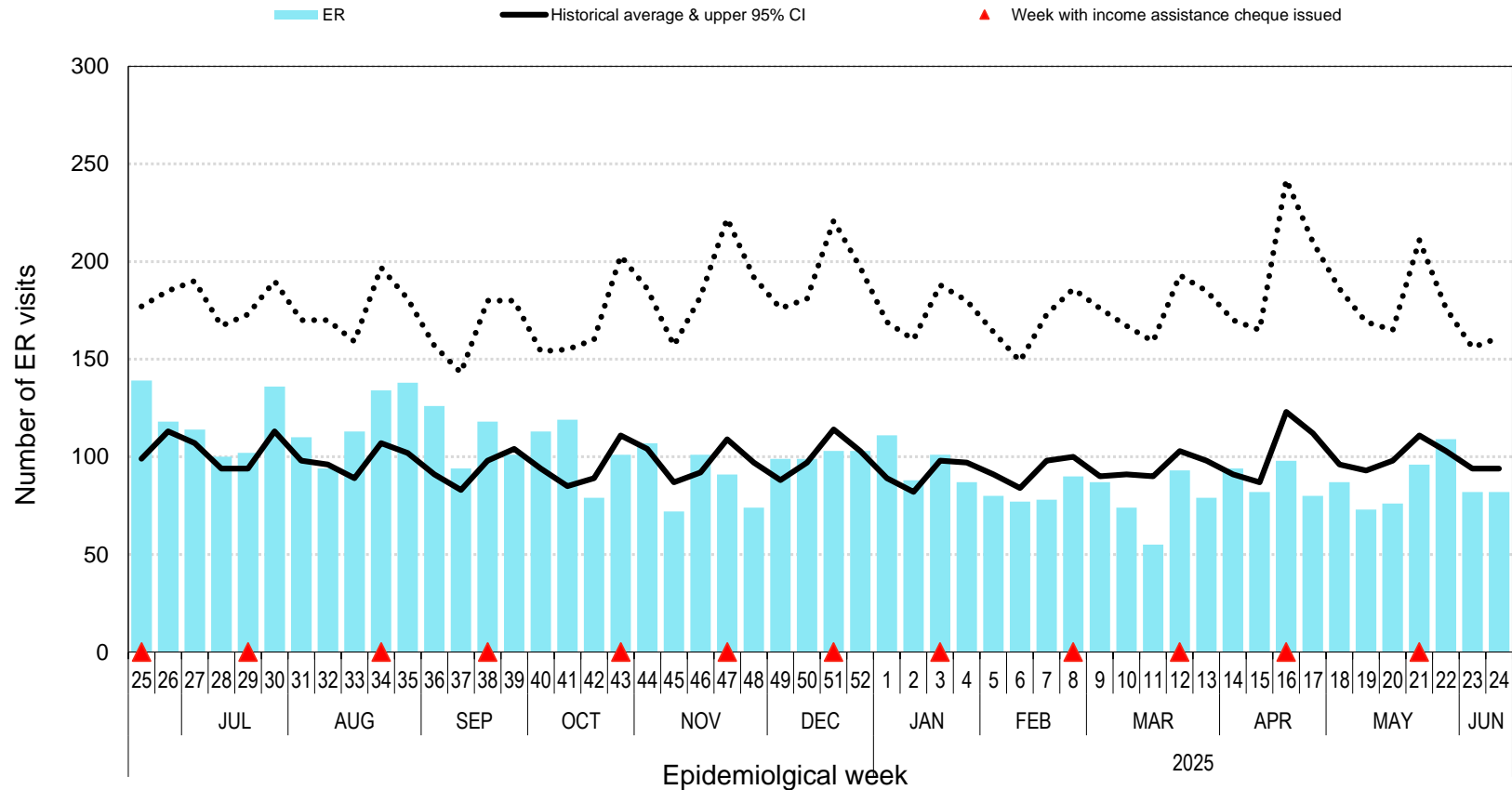
- The rate of overdoses involving non-medical drugs/unknown substances was below the historical average and below the upper band of 95% confidence limits in Week 24.
- Compared to the previous week, the rate of overdoses increased.

#### **Insite Overdose Rate (Figure 4)**

- The rate of overdose events among those using injection rooms was slightly below the historical average and below the upper band of 95% confidence limits in Week 24.
- Compared to the previous week, the rate of overdoses increased.

For the detailed summaries of each site, please refer to Appendix 1 for ED/Insite, Appendix 2 for OPS.

**Figure 1. Number of ED visits related to non-medical drug/unknown substance overdose\* by type of sites and epidemiological week Vancouver Coastal Health, 2024 compared to historical average and 95% confidence limits†**



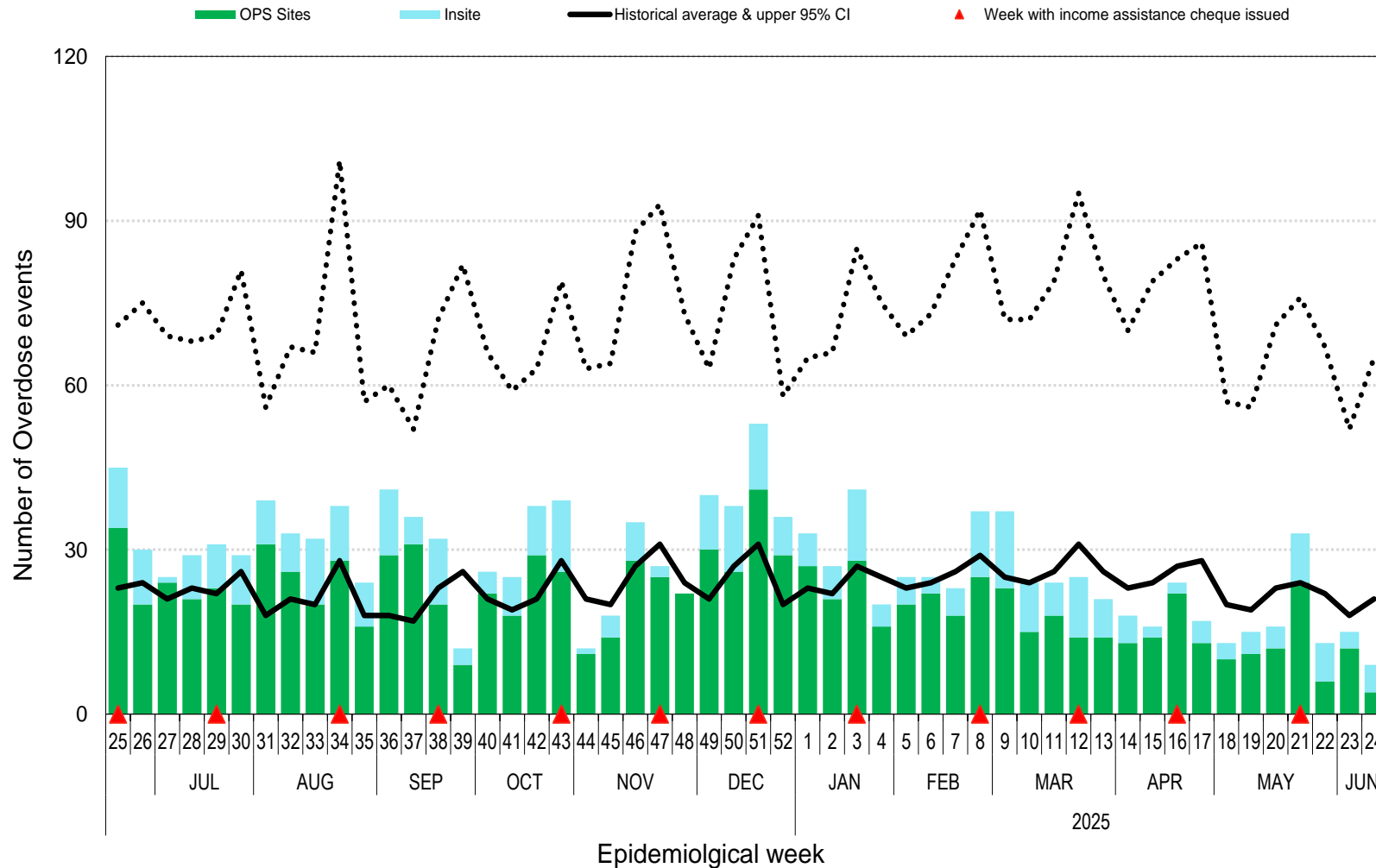
\*Overdose related visits are monitored through ICD-9/10 codes and keywords search where the substance-specific terms are indicated in presenting complaint, discharge diagnosis, nature of injury and mechanism of injury.

†Includes data since 2008.

Source: PHSU Emergency Department Visits Database from CareCast System (Richmond Hospital, UBC Hospital), and CST (Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital, Lions Gate Hospital, Pemberton Health Centre, Squamish General Hospital, Whistler Health Care Centre, Vancouver General Hospital, Sechelt Hospital) Overdose Visiting Dataset.

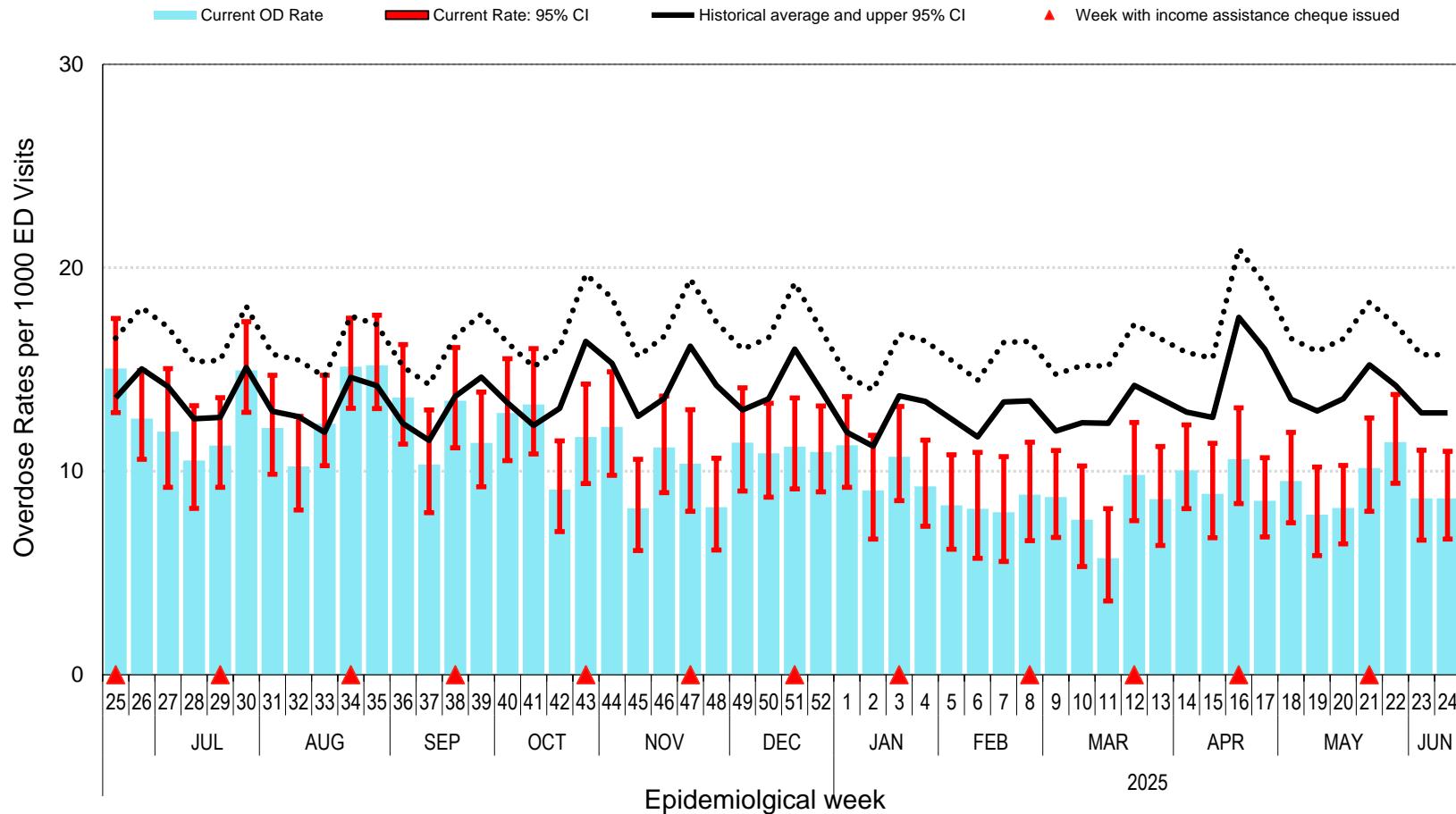
Prepared by: Vancouver Coastal Health, Public Health Surveillance Unit.

**Figure 2. Number of overdose events at Insite and overdose prevention sites\* by epidemiological week.**  
**Vancouver Coastal Health, 2024 compared to historical average and 95% confidence limits†**



Source: Insite, Vancouver Coastal Health, HIV/AIDS & Harm Reduction Programs and VCH OPS Program.  
 Prepared by: Vancouver Coastal Health, Public Health Surveillance Unit.

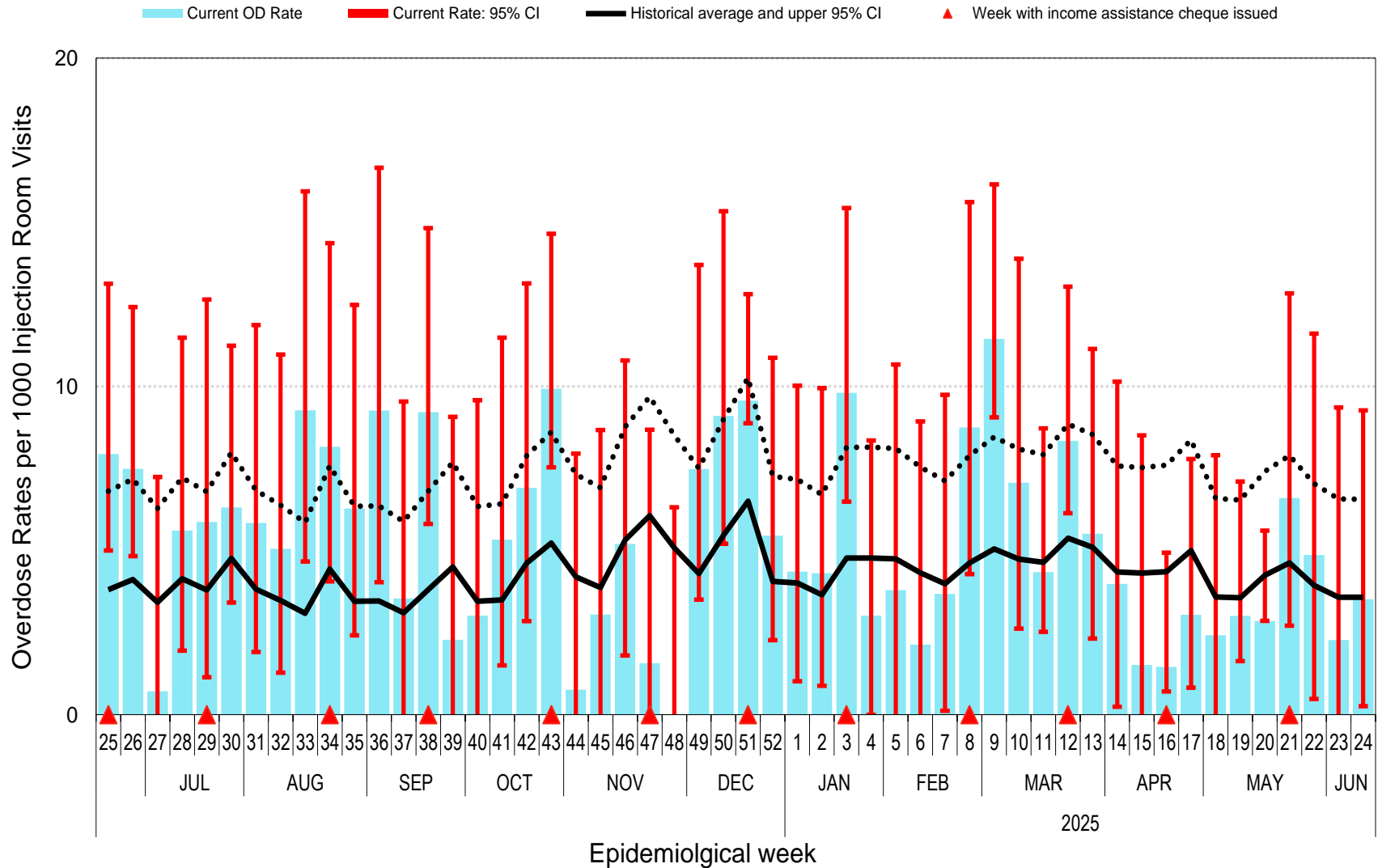
**Figure 3. Non-medical drug/unknown substance related overdose rates per 1000 ED visits\* by epidemiological week. Vancouver Coastal Health, 2024 compared to historical average and 95% confidence limits†**



\*Overdose related visits are monitored through ICD-9/10 codes and keywords search where the substance-specific terms are indicated in presenting complaint, discharge diagnosis, nature of injury and mechanism of injury.  
†Includes data since 2008.

Source: PHSU Emergency Department Visits Database from CareCast System (Richmond Hospital, UBC Hospital), and CST (Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital, Lions Gate Hospital, Pemberton Health Centre, Squamish General Hospital, Whistler Health Care Centre, Vancouver General Hospital, Sechelt Hospital) Overdose Visiting Dataset.  
Prepared by: Vancouver Coastal Health, Public Health Surveillance Unit.

**Figure 4. Overdose rates per 1000 Injection Room visits at Insite\* by epidemiological week. Vancouver Coastal Health, 2024 compared to historical average and 95% confidence limits†**



\*Supervised injection site. †Historical data includes data since 2005.  
Data source: Insite, Vancouver Coastal Health, HIV/AIDS & Harm Reduction Programs.  
Prepared by: Vancouver Coastal Health, Public Health Surveillance Unit.

## Appendix 1

### Overdoses surveillance updates at VCH Emergency Departments and Insite June 8, 2025 - June 14, 2025 (Week 24)

This update summarizes overdoses visits in 9 of 13 VCH acute care facilities (ED) and injections resulting in an overdose at Vancouver Supervised Injection Site (Insite).

***Please note the number only reflects the overdoses identified by the surveillance system, and may not represent the actual overdoses in ER and Insite.***

#### ED

- 132 visits related to overdoses were identified by the surveillance system in Week 24 (Figure 5).
- Among the 132 visits, 20% involved opioids, 30% alcohol, 2% cannabis, 8% medications, 1% stimulants, 8% other non-medical drugs, and 31% was unknown.
- Among the visits involving non-medical drugs (41), drugs were listed as fentanyl (3), other opioids (24), cannabis (2), amphetamine (1), GHB (1), ketamine (1), ecstasy (1), and unidentified (8).
- Compared to historical data, the number of overdoses was below the historical average (Figure 6).

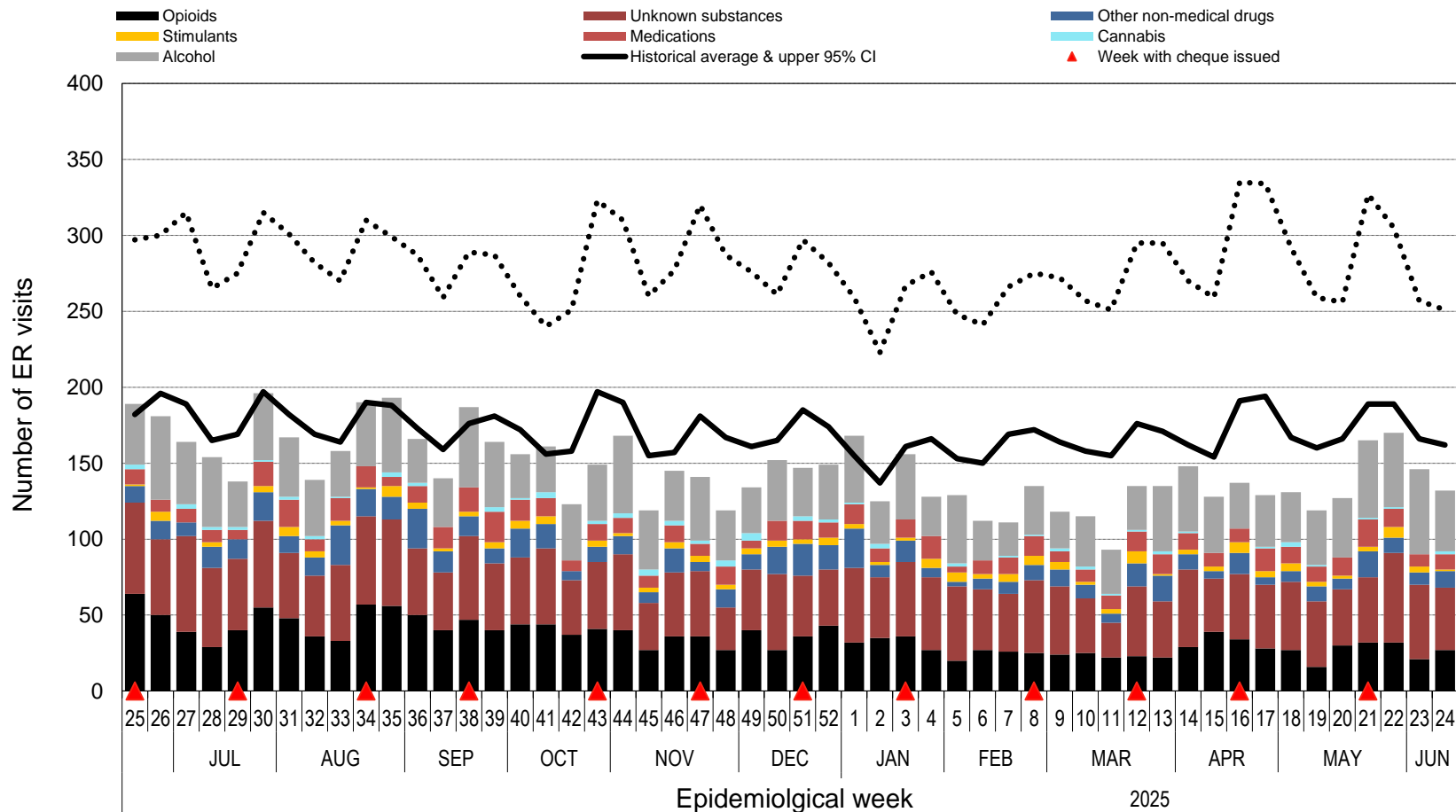
#### Insite (Figure 7)

- 5 visits resulting in an overdose were recorded at Insite in Week 24.
- Among those overdoses, all involved opioids, of which 3 required Narcan intervention.
- The number of overdoses was below the historical average and below the previous 3-week average.

#### ED & Insite visits related to opioid overdoses (Figure 8)

- The number of opioid related overdoses at EDs was above the historical average but slightly below the previous 3-week average.
- The number of opioid related overdoses at Insite was below the historical average and below the previous 3-week average.

**Figure 5. Number of ED visits related to overdose\* by substance type and epidemiological week. Vancouver Coastal Health, 2024 compared to historical average and 95% confidence limits†**



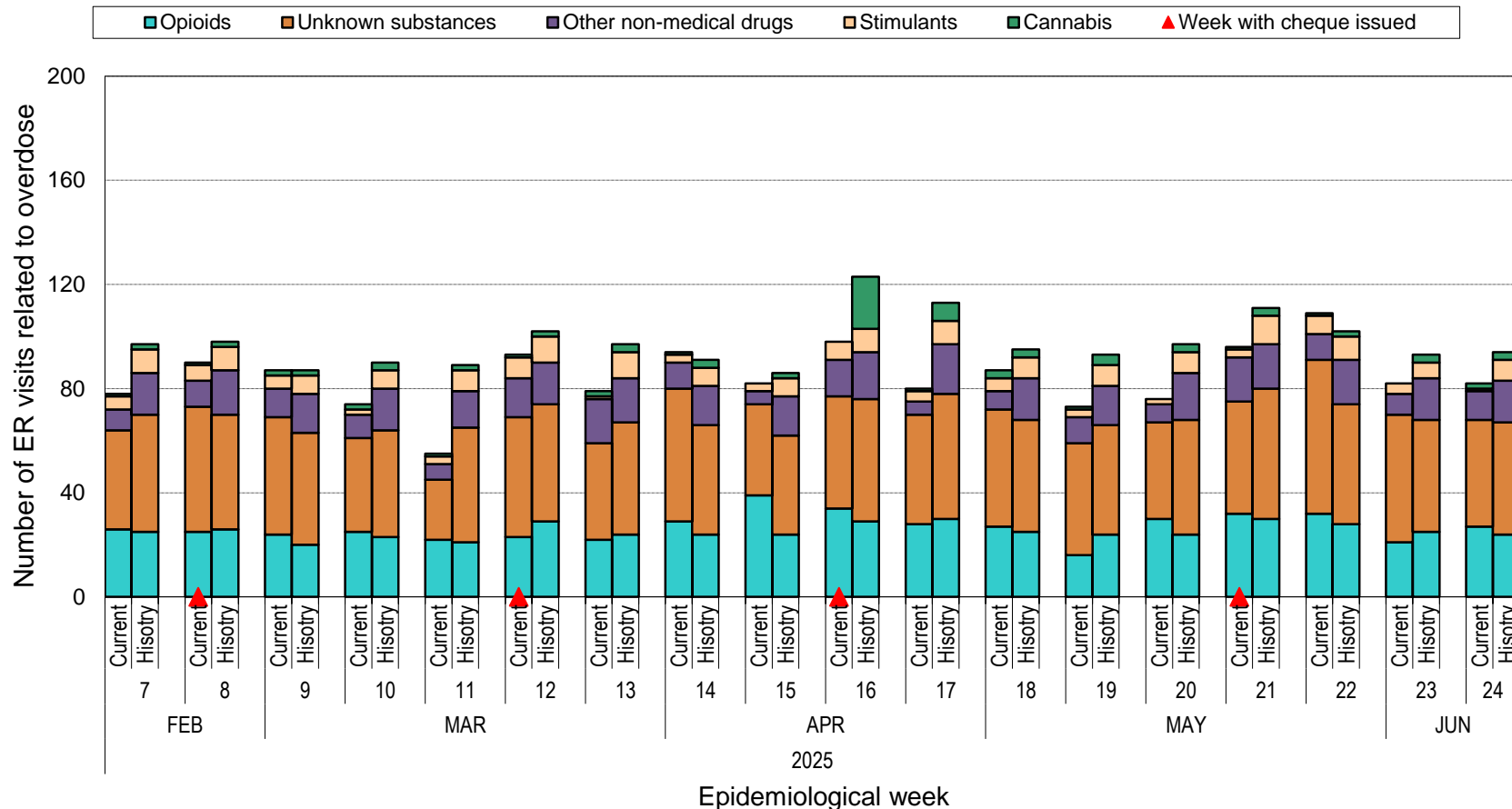
\*Overdose related visits are monitored through ICD-9/10 codes and keywords search where the substance-specific terms are indicated in presenting complaint, discharge diagnosis, nature of injury and mechanism of injury.

Classification of non-medical drugs is described in Table 1 on the last page of this report.

†Includes data since 2008.

Source: PHSU Emergency Department Visits Database from CareCast System (Richmond Hospital, UBC Hospital), and CST (Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital, Lions Gate Hospital, Pemberton Health Centre, Squamish General Hospital, Whistler Health Care Centre, Vancouver General Hospital, Sechelt Hospital) Overdose Visiting Dataset.

**Figure 6. Number of ED visits related to overdose\* involving non-medical drugs/unknown by epidemiological week. VCHA, 2024 compared to historical average†**



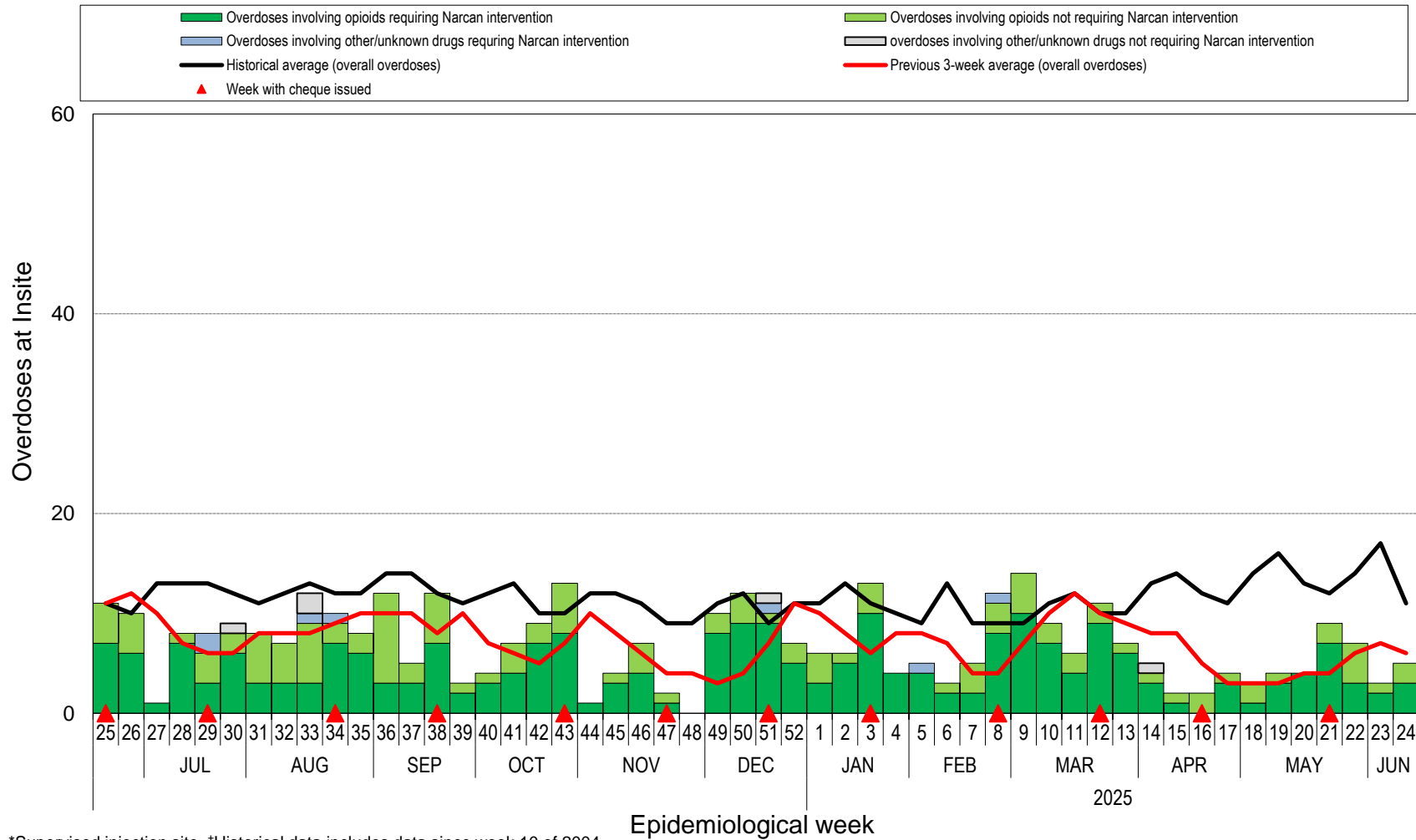
\*Overdose related visits are monitored through ICD-9/10 codes and keywords search where the substance-specific terms are indicated in presenting complaint, discharge diagnosis, nature of injury and mechanism of injury.

†Includes data since 2008.

Classification of non-medical drugs is described in Table 1 on the last page of this report.

Source: PHSU Emergency Department Visits Database from CareCast System (Richmond Hospital, UBC Hospital), and CST (Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital, Lions Gate Hospital, Pemberton Health Centre, Squamish General Hospital, Whistler Health Care Centre, Vancouver General Hospital, Sechelt Hospital) Overdose Visiting Dataset.

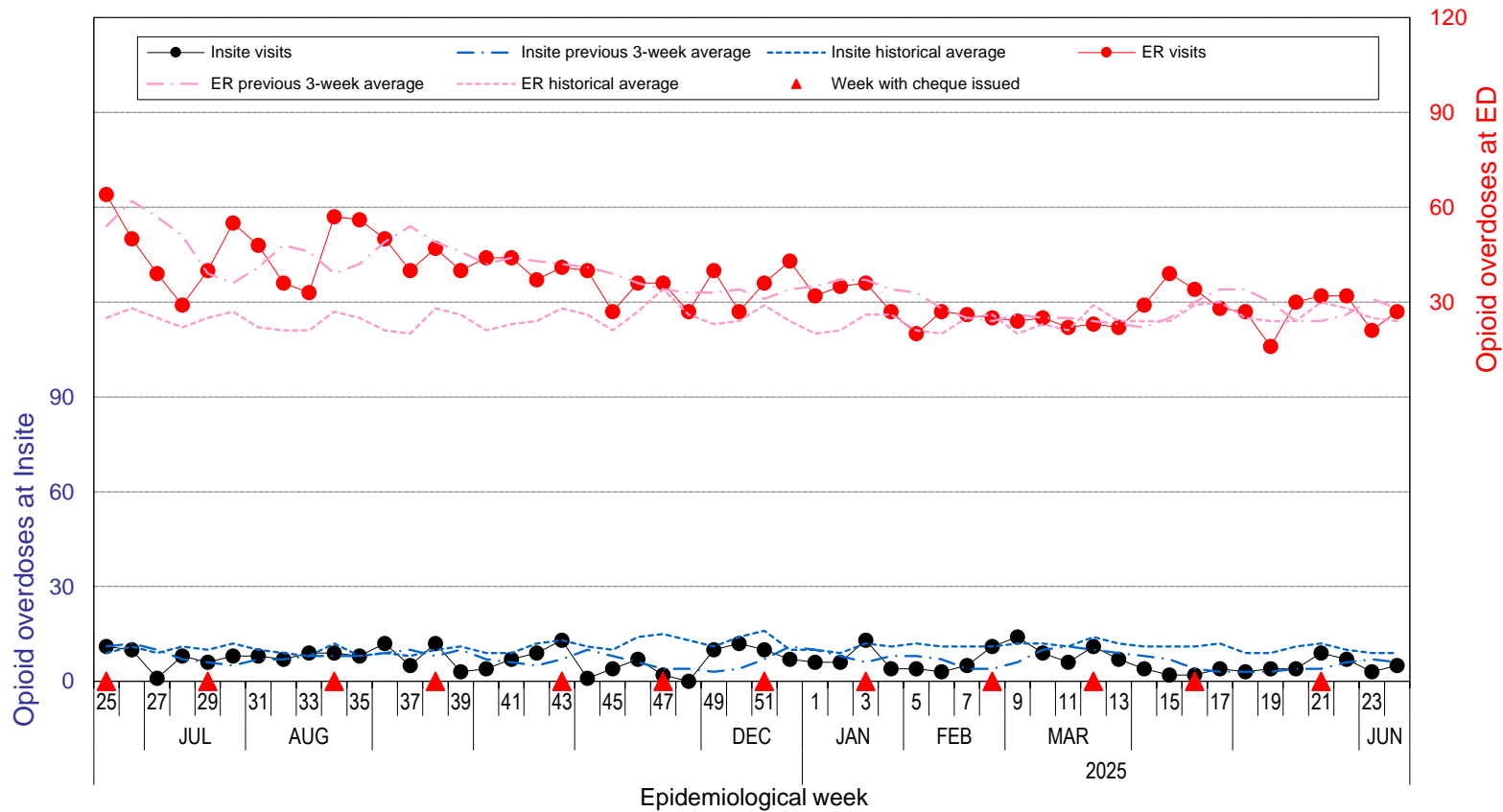
**Figure 7. Number of Vancouver Insite\* visits resulting in an overdose by epidemiological week. VCHA, 2024 compared to previous 3-week average and historical average†**



\*Supervised injection site. †Historical data includes data since week 10 of 2004.

Data source: Insite, Vancouver Coastal Health, HIV/AIDS & Harm Reduction Programs.  
Prepared by: Vancouver Coastal Health, Public Health Surveillance Unit.

**Figure 8. Number of ED and Vancouver Insite\* visits related to opioid overdose† by epidemiological week. Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, 2024**

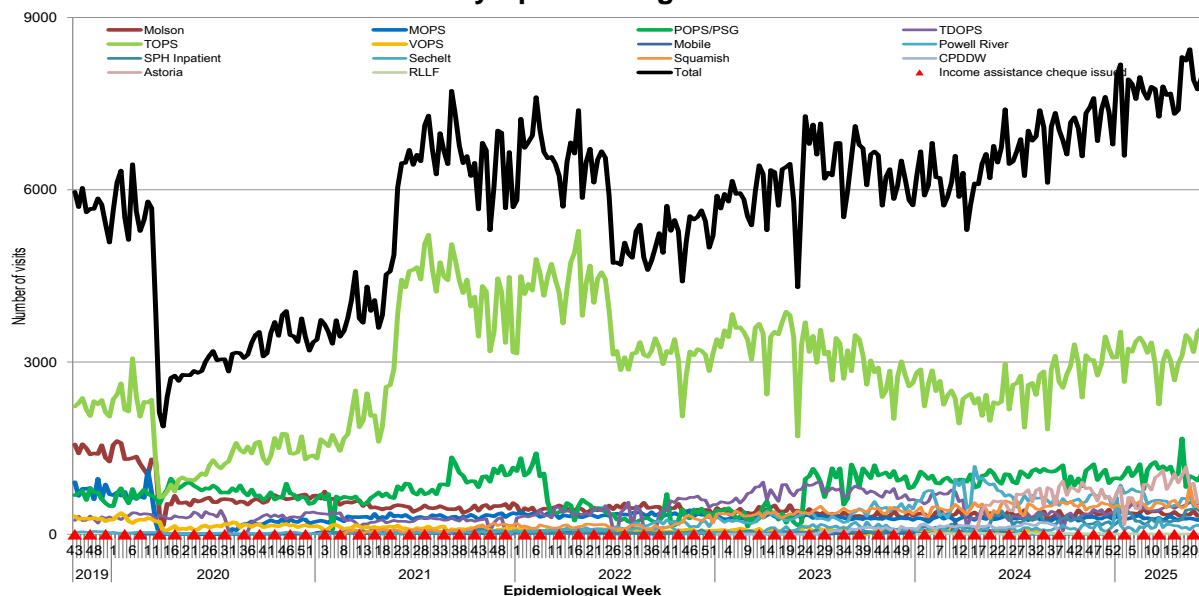


\*Supervised injection site. †Opioid related visits are monitored through ICD-9/10 codes and a keyword search where the opioid related term is indicated in presenting complaint, discharge diagnosis, nature of injury and mechanism of injury.  
 Data sources: 1. PHSU Emergency Department Visits Database from CareCast System (Richmond Hospital, UBC Hospital), and CST (Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital, Lions Gate Hospital, Pemberton Health Centre, Squamish General Hospital, Whistler Health Care Centre, Vancouver General Hospital, Sechelt Hospital) Overdose Visiting Dataset.  
 2. Insite visits: Insite, Vancouver Coastal Health, HIV/AIDS & Harm Reduction Programs.  
 Prepared by: Vancouver Coastal Health, Public Health Surveillance Unit.

## Appendix 2

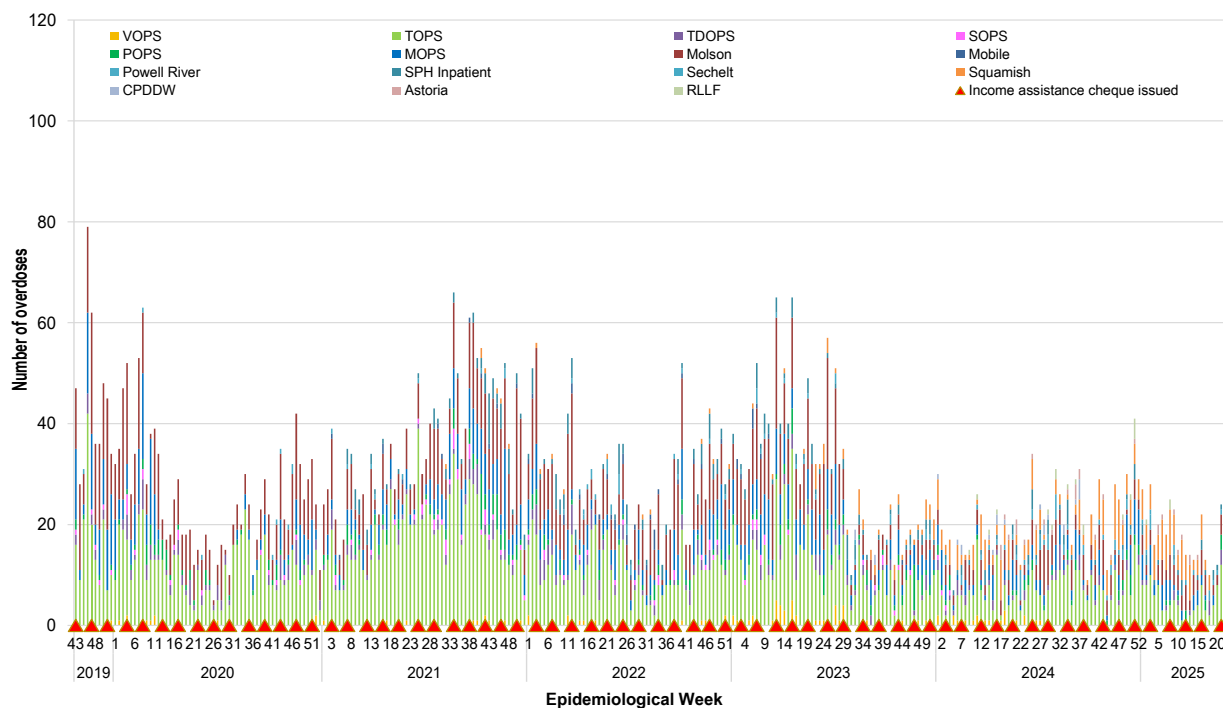
### Vancouver Coastal Health Overdose Prevention Site Summary

#### VCH Overdose Prevention Sites Visit Volume by Epidemiological Week and Sites\*



\*Number of SOPS visits has been removed as it does not represent individual visits and is being revised.

#### VCH Overdose Prevention Sites Overdose Events by Epidemiological Week and Sites



**Table 1. Classification of non-medical drugs  
in data from emergency room/department (ER/ED) visits <sup>1</sup>**

| Non-medical drugs identified in ED data | Cannabis | Stimulants | Opioids* | Other non-medical drugs |
|---|----------|------------|----------|-------------------------|
| AMPHETAMINE                             |          | X          |          |                         |
| COCAINE                                 |          | X          |          |                         |
| CRACK                                   |          | X          |          |                         |
| CRYSTAL METH                            |          | X          |          |                         |
| ECSTACY                                 |          |            |          | X                       |
| FENTANYL                                |          |            | X        |                         |
| GHB                                     |          |            |          | X                       |
| HEROIN                                  |          |            | X        |                         |
| KETAMINE                                |          |            |          | X                       |
| MARIJUANA                               | X        |            |          |                         |
| MDMA                                    |          |            |          | X                       |
| METHADONE                               |          |            | X        |                         |
| MORPHINE                                |          |            | X        |                         |
| OPIOID                                  |          |            | X        |                         |
| RECREATIONAL                            |          |            |          | X**                     |
| Other non-medical drugs                 |          |            |          | X                       |

\* In the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) classification, there is no class called Opioids. Opioids are classified as Narcotics.<sup>1</sup>

\*\* Hallucinogens are sometimes considered for recreational use according to National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), -- "More recently, people report using these drugs (referring to hallucinogens) for social or recreational purposes, including to have fun, deal with stress, have spiritual experiences, or just to feel different."<sup>2</sup>

#### References:

1. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of the United States. *Drugs of Abuse, 2020 edition*. <https://www.campusdrugprevention.gov/sites/default/files/2021-11/Drugs%20of%20Abuse%202020-Web%20Version-508%20compliant.pdf> [Accessed in June, 2022].
2. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). *Hallucinogens Drug Facts*. <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/hallucinogens>. [Accessed in June, 2022].