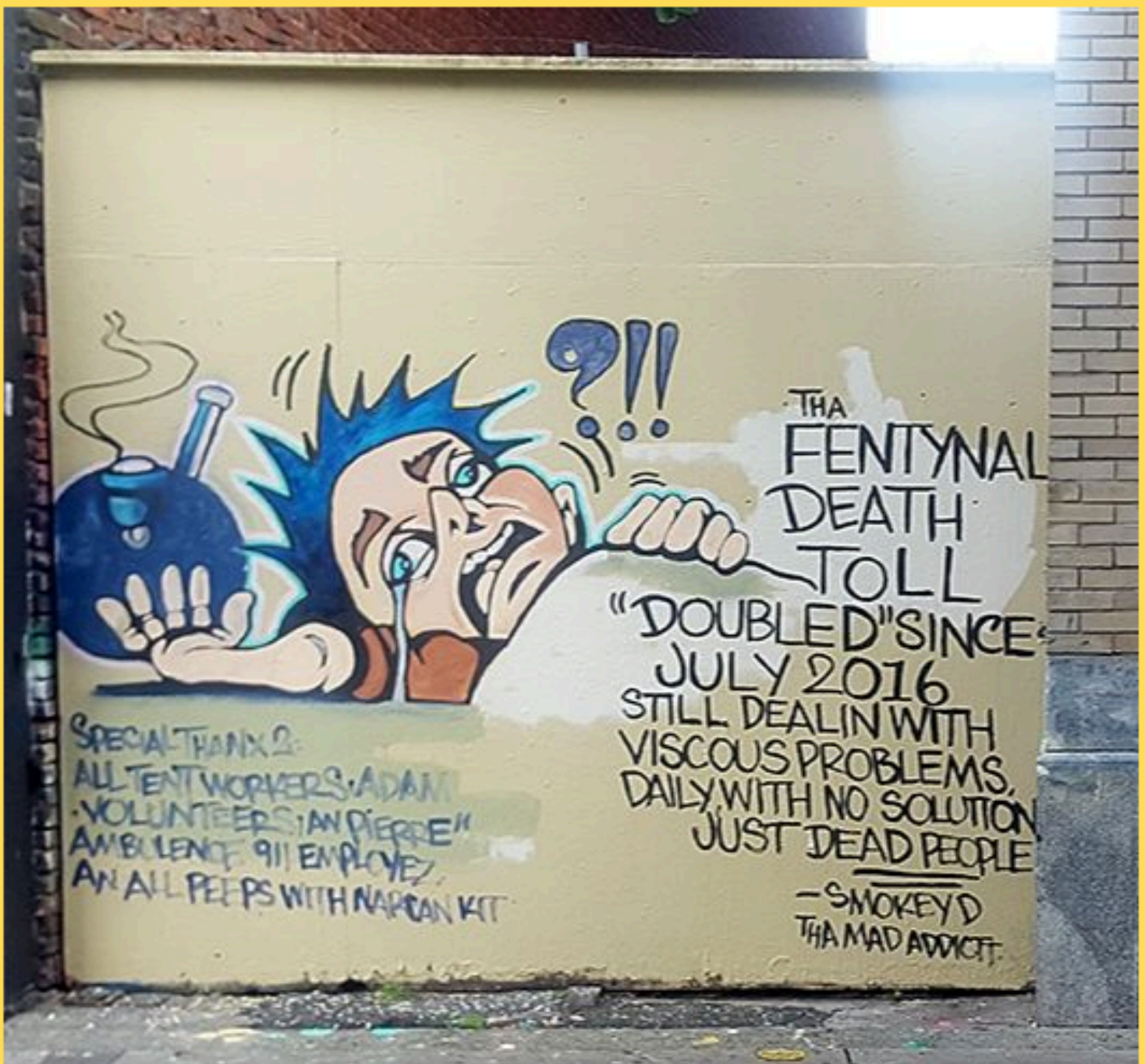


Let's Talk Overdose: May Newsletter

Addictions and Concurrent Disorders Research Group



June 2021

23

The current public health crisis is historic. The threat to injection drug users is significant. In British Columbia, twice as many people are dying due to opioid overdose than COVID-19 and it will not get better soon. Similar to the HIV pandemic, we need to mobilize ideas, resources and people to come together for a more effective response. We need everybody, the most committed and focussed people to organize an effective response, for that we need to talk about everything. All experiences are important, every evidence can help!

This newsletter shall highlight the most important facts and create transparency for better decision making. Comments or additional facts are welcome.

Join us for the 'Let's Talk Overdose' virtual event to be part of important conversations surrounding the overdose crisis. Get your free ticket, submit an abstract or register for the youth case competition below.

[REGISTER](#)

What is the current situation of the overdose crisis? See below for some indicators and comments that demonstrate the severity of this public health emergency:

- There have been **498 overdose deaths** within the first three months of 2021. This is 97 more than the same time in 2020.
- There were **1,716 overdose deaths** in 2020, a record high since the start of the overdose crisis.
- We are currently **on track to surpass 2020's record number** of overdose deaths based on the first five months of 2021

- BC Emergency Health Services responded to **138 calls related to overdose in April 2021 alone** - this is a record number since the start of the overdose crisis

THE CRISIS IN NUMBERS

5.5

OVERDOSE DEATHS PER DAY IN BC

85%

OF OVERDOSE FATALITIES INVOLVING FENTANYL

312

VISITS TO OVERDOSE PREVENTION SITES PER DAY (2019)

74

**CALLS TO
EMERGENCY
SERVICES EACH
DAY FOR
OVERDOSES**

3,634

**PEOPLE
EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS
IN METRO
VANCOUVER**

To address this crisis, we first need to face the reality of the situation. Therefore, we will be releasing monthly "Lets Talk Overdose" newsletters to highlight the most important indicators and news related to the opioid overdose crisis.

The Addictions and Concurrent Disorders Research Group