



## Alcohol-Related

### Issue

In British Columbia, accidental poisoning is the second leading cause of mortality from an external cause<sup>1</sup>. In Vancouver, the primary cause of poisoning resulting in emergency room visits, is due to alcohol. The risk for unintentional injury increases significantly with the use of alcohol<sup>4</sup>. Some immediate risks associated with alcohol consumption include motor vehicle collisions, pedestrian injuries, falls, intimate partner violence, homicide and suicide and alcohol poisoning. In British Columbia, unintentional poisonings cost \$152 million, annually to our health care system<sup>3</sup>. In Canada, the economic cost of alcohol-related harm is \$14.6 billion each year<sup>4</sup>. It is clear that the prevalence of alcohol-related injuries is high, and therefore alcohol-related injuries are a priority for Vancouver Coastal Health.

### Statistics

- In Canada, \$3.3 billion is spent on direct health care costs due to alcohol-related harm<sup>4</sup>
- In BC, 91% of deaths are related to drugs, followed by 6.5% of deaths related to alcohol<sup>3</sup>
- In BC, on average, there are 306 unintentional poisoning deaths each year<sup>3</sup>
- Compared to the other sub regions, Vancouver experiences the highest ER Rate due to poisoning/overdose<sup>2</sup>
- ER visits in Vancouver due to poisoning are higher for males compared to females<sup>2</sup>
- The highest rates of ER visits due to poisoning are due to alcohol<sup>2</sup>

### Tools

- **Parachute’s Horizon** is an online hub that connects Canadians with evidence-based tools to prevent injuries including alcohol-related injuries - <http://horizon.parachutecanada.org/en/?s=alcohol>
- **Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse**—A national website which provides information and resources to the public on alcohol abuse, and the associated consequences - <http://www.ccsa.ca/Eng/topics/alcohol/Pages/default.aspx>
- The **BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit (BCIRPU)** website includes facts, reports & publications, educational components and additional resources available to the public on a variety of issues including poisoning - <http://www.injuryresearch.bc.ca/quick-facts/poisoning/>
- **Centre for Addiction and Mental Health** – A national website that provides information on mental health and addictions, as well as programs and services available for those facing addiction and mental health challenges - [http://www.camh.ca/en/hospital/care\\_program\\_and\\_services/Pages/care\\_program\\_and\\_services.aspx](http://www.camh.ca/en/hospital/care_program_and_services/Pages/care_program_and_services.aspx)

### References

1: BC Trauma Registry Annual Data Summary Report 2013-2014 2: VCH Injury Profile 2014 3: BC Injury Research Prevention Unit 4: Canadian Center on Substance Abuse 5: Icon made by Freepik at [www.flaticon.com](http://www.flaticon.com)