

## Deaths and Hospitalizations due to Alcohol and Other Drug Use

The problematic use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs leads to substantial health and social costs for British Columbians.<sup>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14</sup>

The Centre for Addictions Research of BC (CARBC) has provided estimates of the hospitalizations and deaths, where alcohol, tobacco or illicit drug use was a direct cause or contributing factor. This body of work was based upon the concept and methodology of attributable-fractions.<sup>15</sup> Here is a summary for Northern BC.

### Alcohol

In 2008, of all BC residents, persons residing in Northern BC had the highest estimated rate of acute care hospitalizations for conditions related to the use of alcohol (674 hospitalizations per 100,000 persons). In 2008, there were approximately 1800 hospitalizations where alcohol was a direct cause or contributing factor.<sup>16</sup>

### Tobacco

In 2008, of all BC residents, persons residing in Northern BC had the highest rate of acute care hospitalizations for conditions related to tobacco (791 per 100,000 persons). In 2008, there were approximately 2100 hospitalizations where tobacco use was a direct cause or contributing factor.<sup>17</sup>

### Illicit Drugs

In 2008, of all BC residents, persons residing in Northern BC had the highest rate of hospitalization for conditions related to illicit drugs (148 per 100,000 persons). In 2008, there were approximately 396 hospitalizations where illicit drug use was a direct cause or contributing factor.<sup>18</sup>

### Substance Use, Gender (Sex), Hospitalizations and Deaths

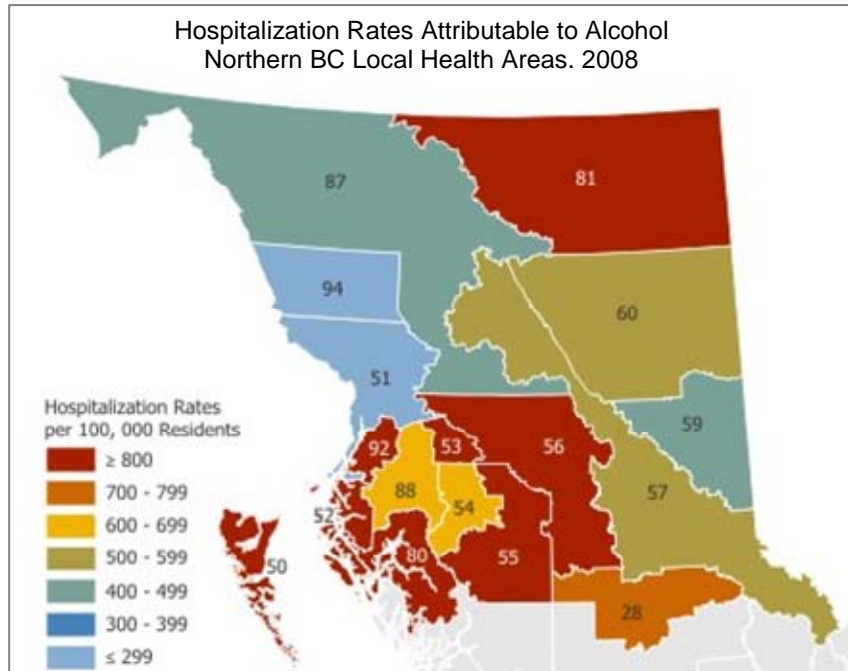
In 2008, northern BC residents had the highest rates of alcohol and tobacco related deaths in BC, and the lowest mortality attributable to illicit drugs. Except for the hospitalizations related to illicit drugs, **males consistently outnumbered females in hospitalizations and deaths, by a ratio of approximately 2 to 1.**<sup>19, 20</sup>

*The Centre for Addictions Research of BC (CARBC) is a provincial research network hosted by the University of Victoria in collaboration with Simon Fraser University, Thompson Rivers University, the University of British Columbia and the University of Northern British Columbia.*

*The CARBC works closely with multiple sectors, including health, child and family services, justice, education, public safety and liquor licensing to ensure the best available evidence is considered in policy-making processes. Centre for Addictions Research of BC: <http://carbc.ca/>*

## Alcohol

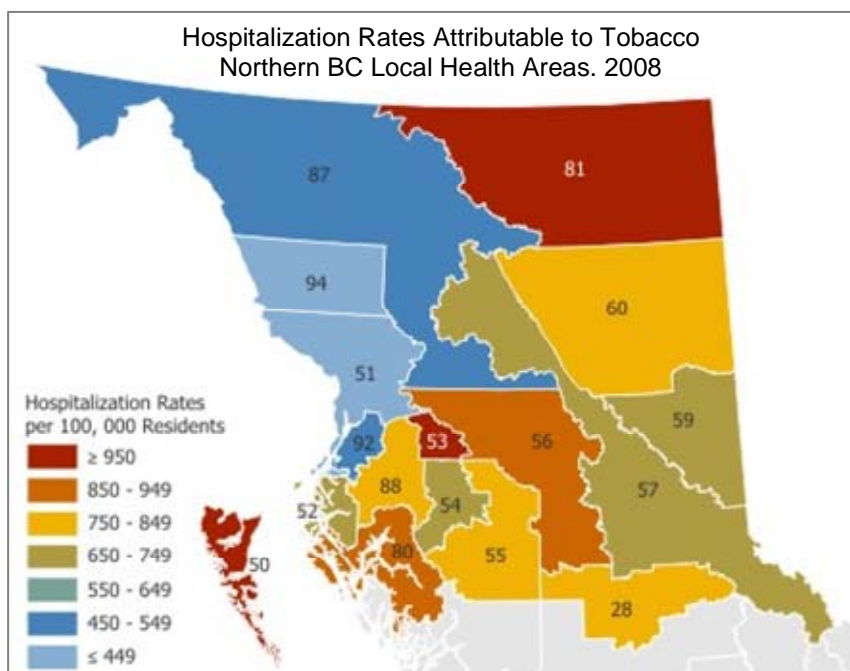
In 2008, Northern residents had the highest rates of hospitalization for conditions related to the use of alcohol. The greatest number of hospitalizations occurred in Prince George. The highest rates were experienced in Haida Gwaii and Fort Nelson.



Hospitalization Counts and Rates Attributable to Substance Use: 2008 <sup>21</sup>						
Local Health Area	Alcohol		Tobacco		Illicit Drugs	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
050 Haida Gwaii	88	1735.5	59	1175.2	20	425.7
052 Prince Rupert	116	852.8	99	750.0	26	197.2
053 Upper Skeena	78	1563.6	59	1252.9	7	176.6
054 Smithers	91	621.1	104	723.0	18	110.5
080 Kitimat	104	980.3	99	906.4	15	135.1
088 Terrace	124	625.9	158	778.7	22	113.8
092 Nisga'a	21	1142.5	--	503.8	--	129.9
028 Quesnel	166	707.5	209	807.6	80	393.9
055 Burns Lake	66	923.2	61	808.8	0	74.7
056 Nechako	141	1012.5	135	885.6	19	135.4
057 Prince George	475	513.4	673	734.1	102	104.6
059 Peace River South	116	434.4	184	719.4	22	82.0
060 Peace River North	156	537.7	201	801.5	33	97.5
081 Fort Nelson	94	1520.5	48	1709.5	32	587.6
Northern BC Total	1836	674	2096	791.0	396	148.0
Source: CARBC: Alcohol and Other Drug Monitoring Project: 2010. <a href="http://www.AODmonitoring.ca">www.AODmonitoring.ca</a>						
Rates shown above are age and sex standardized.						

## Tobacco

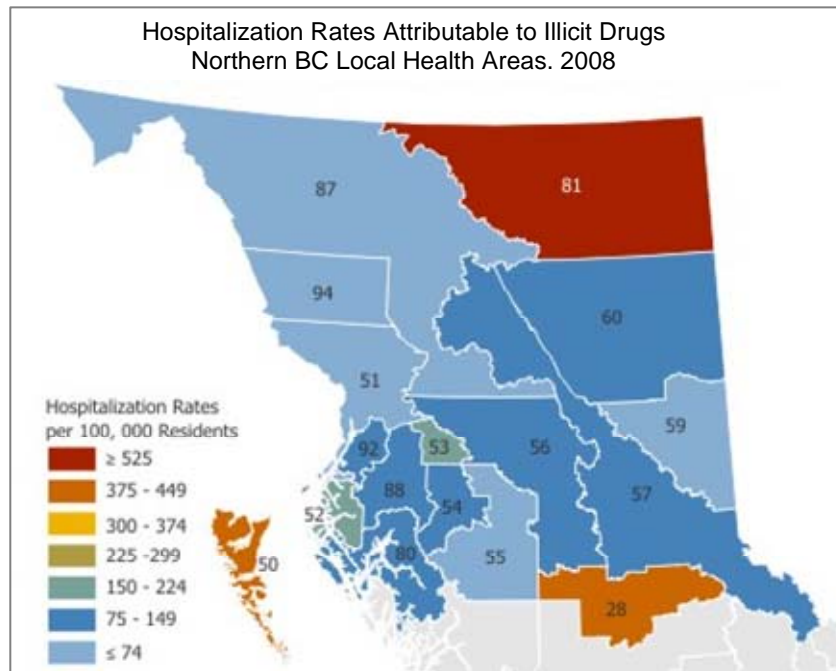
In 2008, Northern residents had the highest rates of hospitalization for conditions related to the use of tobacco. The greatest number of hospitalizations occurred in Prince George. The highest rates were experienced in Fort Nelson and Upper Skeena.



Local Health Area	Alcohol		Tobacco		Illicit Drugs	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
050 Haida Gwaii	88	1735.5	59	1175.2	20	425.7
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## Illicit Drugs

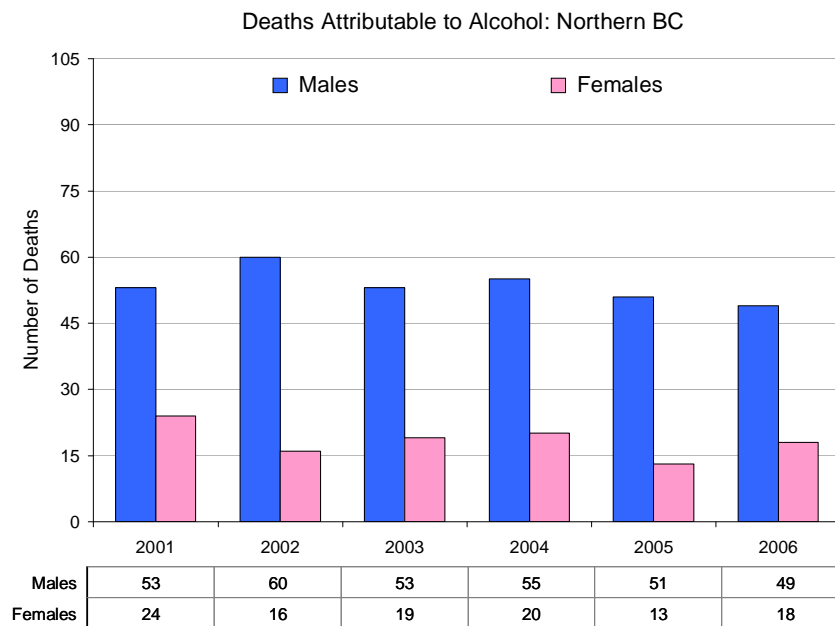
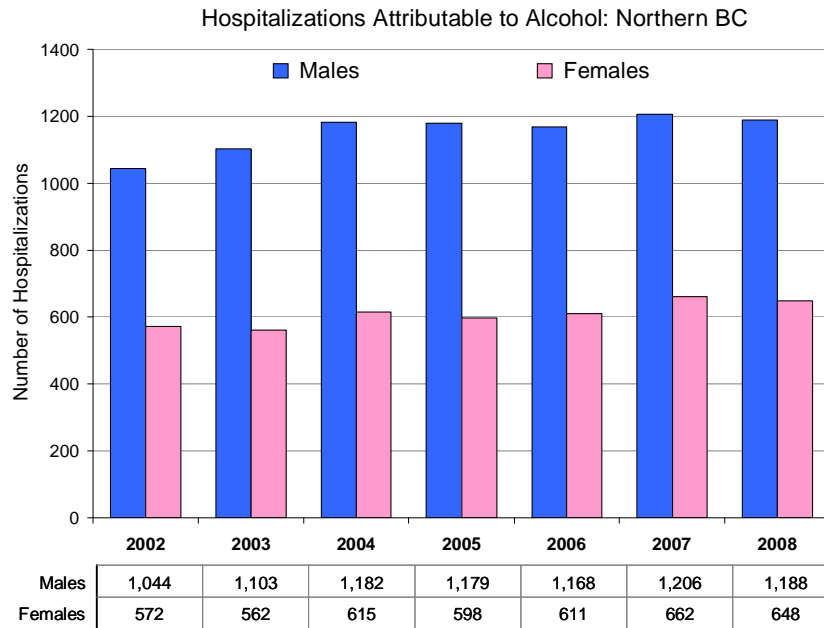
In 2008, Northern residents had the highest rates of hospitalization for conditions related to the use of illicit drugs. The greatest number of hospitalizations occurred in Prince George. The highest rates were experienced in Fort Nelson and Haida Gwaii.



Hospitalization Counts and Rates Attributable to Substance Use: 2008 <sup>23</sup>						
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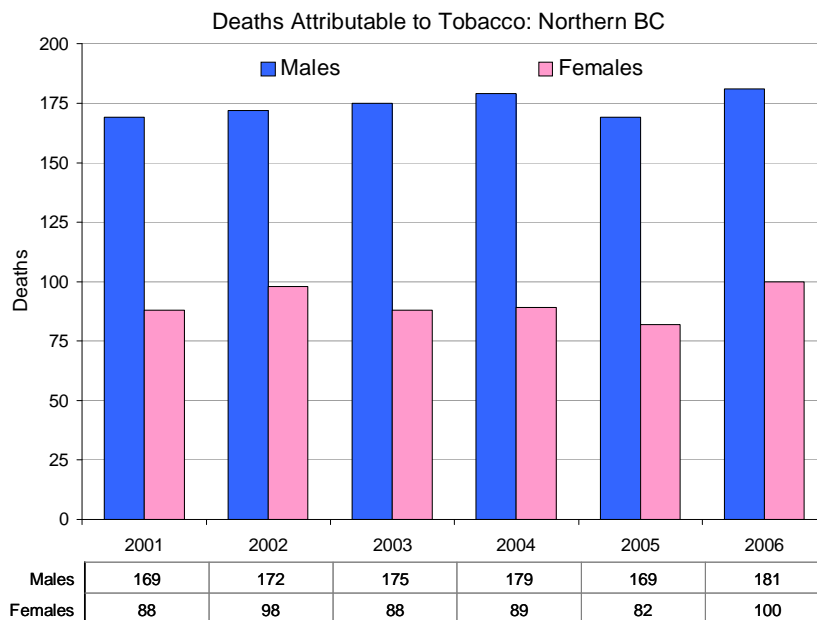
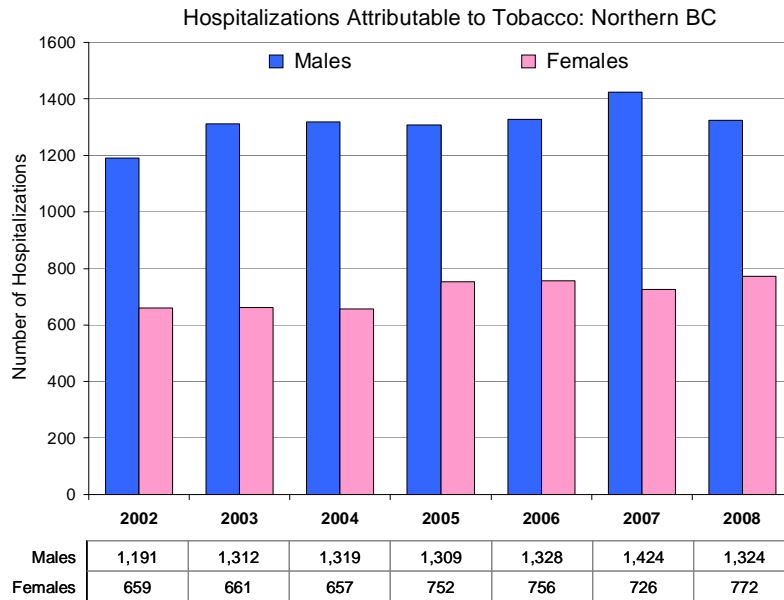
## Hospitalizations and Deaths by Gender - Alcohol

Northern BC residents have the highest rates of alcohol related hospitalizations and deaths in the province. The graphs below show the sex differences.<sup>24, 25</sup>



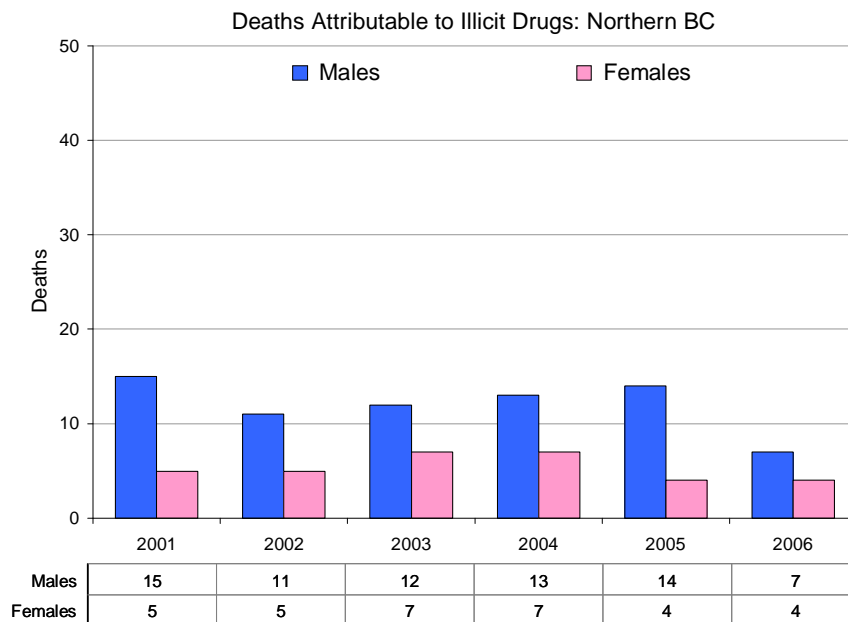
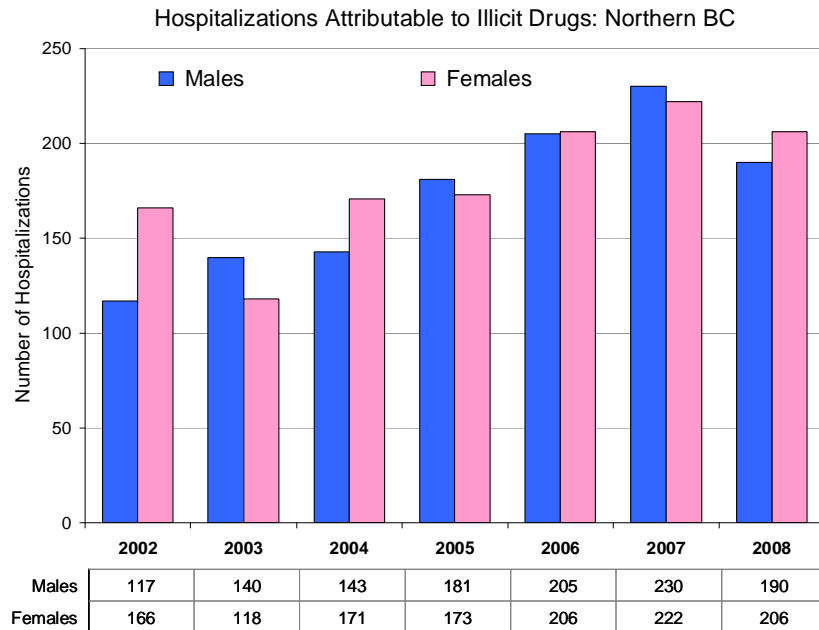
## Hospitalizations and Deaths by Gender - Tobacco

Northern BC residents have the highest rates of tobacco related hospitalizations and deaths in the province. The graphs below show the sex differences.<sup>26, 27</sup>



## Hospitalizations and Deaths by Gender - Illicit Drugs

Northern BC residents have the highest rates of illicit drug related hospitalizations and the lowest mortality. The graphs below show the sex differences.<sup>28, 29</sup>



## References

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- <sup>15</sup> Centre for Addictions Research in BC. Alcohol and Other Drug Monitoring Project: Mortality and Morbidity, Methodology: <http://carbc.ca/AODMonitoring/ResearchComponents/MortalityMorbidity.aspx>
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- <sup>26</sup> Hospitalizations: Counts and Rates Attributable to Alcohol, Tobacco, and Illicit Drugs for BC Local Health Areas. Special update for Northern Health by CARBC: AOD Monitoring Project: March 2010. [www.AODmonitoring.ca](http://www.AODmonitoring.ca)



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