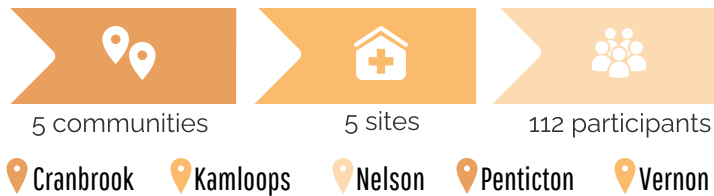


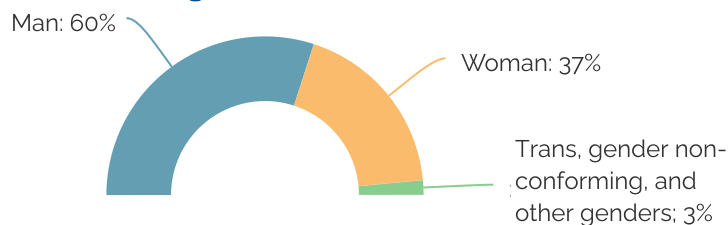
2019 BC Harm Reduction Client Survey

The B.C. Harm Reduction Program administered a survey to harm reduction supply distribution site clients across BC from October to December 2019 to assess regional differences in drug use and inform harm reduction planning and service quality improvement. Key findings from the survey are presented here. The total number of respondents for each question may differ.

Who took part in Interior?



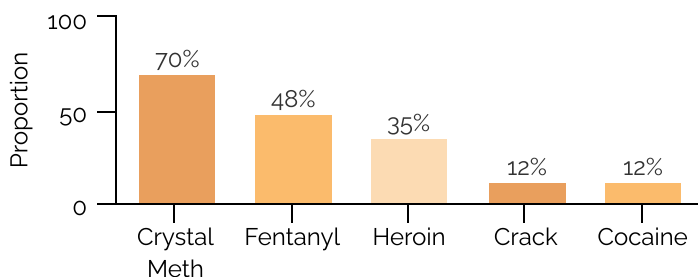
Self-identified gender



Drug use

More than half of respondents (55%) identified **SMOKING** or **INHALATION** as the preferred method of drug use, while 36% preferred injection, and 4% preferred snorting.

Past 3-days self-reported drug use



Overdose

10% experienced an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

14% experienced a **STIMULANT OVERDOSE** in the past six months

53% witnessed an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

Potential harms



Of 84 people that used glass pipes to smoke drugs in the past 6 months:

- 26% used a **second-hand pipe**
- 39% **injected instead** when they couldn't find unused smoking equipment



Of 56 people that injected drugs in the past 6 months:

- 19% had **trouble getting unused needles**
- 4% had fixed with a **needle used by someone else**



Nearly **two thirds of participants (62%) reported using drugs alone** often or always. Reasons for using drugs alone included:

- not wanting to share drugs;
- not having anyone else around;
- convenience and comfort; and,
- not wanting others to know.

Keeping safe and harm reduction



73% of participants owned a **Take Home Naloxone kit**; **51%** owned a cell phone.



Of those that injected drugs, about two thirds (**64%**) had used drugs at an **Overdose Prevention Services** site in the past 6 months.



Of 70 people that had tried to access opioid agonist therapy (OAT) in the past six months, **81%** did not report difficulties while **19%** reported difficulties, including:

- were not offered preferred OAT
- unable to find a prescribing physician
- worry about being stigmatized at clinic
- had no pharmacies nearby



Health Canada



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BCCDC HARM REDUCTION SERVICES