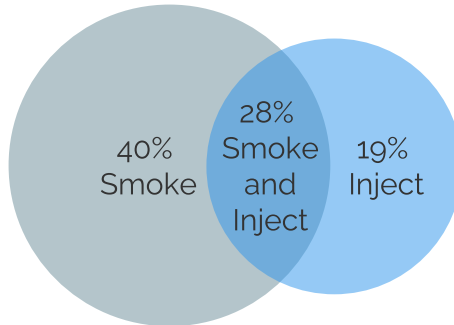


Smoking Opioids

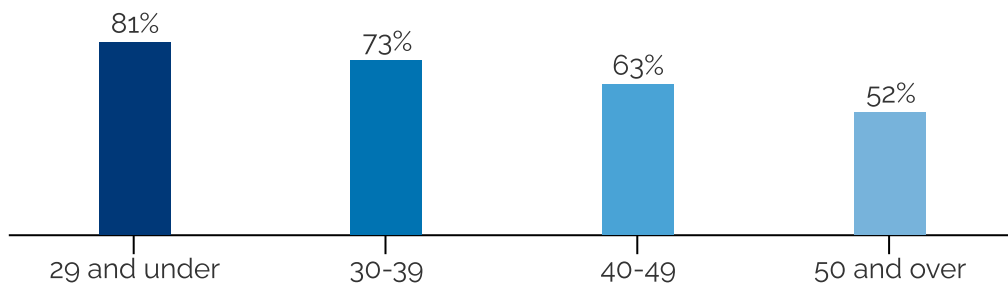
This infographic shares information on people who used opioids in the last 3 days (n = 369). The data were collected through the BC Harm Reduction Client Survey which was administered to harm reduction supply distribution site clients across BC between October to December, 2019.

Mode of opioid administration in the last 3 days



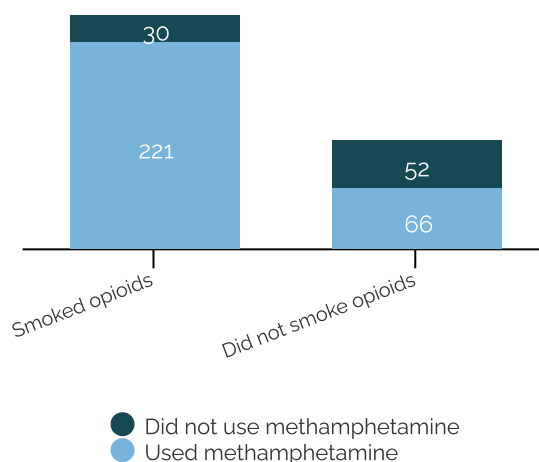
Of the 369 people who reported using opioids in the last 3 days, 251 or 68% reported smoking them. Of the total sample, 40% (n = 148) reported only smoking in the last 3 days, 28% (n = 103) reported smoking and injecting, while 19% (n = 70) reported only injecting. 15% (n = 55) reported other modes of administration including snorting, swallowing, or other.

Smoking opioids by age



Smoking was reported more frequently in younger age groups.

Smoking opioids and methamphetamine use



Of the 251 people who smoked opioids, 221 (88%) reported using methamphetamine in the past 3 days, while of the 118 who used opioids but did not smoke them, 66 (56%) used methamphetamine.

Other findings:

- Of the 369 people who used opioids, 109 (29.5%) reported having an overdose in the last 6 months; 73% of those who overdosed reported smoking opioids.
- 89% of people who smoked opioids used drugs alone.
- 77% of people who smoked opioids had a Take-Home Naloxone kit; it is important to remember that you cannot use a kit on yourself in the event of an overdose.

Don't use alone and stagger use so that someone is able to respond to an overdose. If you are alone, use at an Observed Consumption Site or with the Lifeguard app. Ask your care provider for more information if you are interested in seeking opioid agonist therapy or other treatment options.