

Harm Reduction Client Survey 2023: Drug Use Amounts & Possession

Since 2012, the BC Centre for Disease Control has asked people who use substances about their health and access to harm reduction and healthcare services. Between December 2023 and March 2024, we asked participants about the illegal substances they use and possess, and whether they noticed recent changes in the drug market.

British Columbia

Who took part?

 **20** Communities

 **23** Sites

 **433** Participants

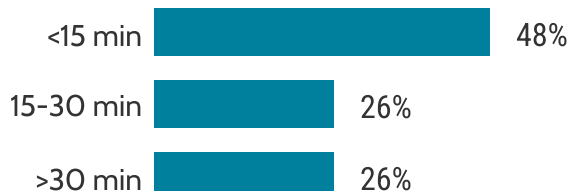
 **5** Health Authorities

Possession of drugs

Common ways to get substances

-  1. Buying
-  2. Receiving from others
-  3. Trading goods and services

How long does it take to get to your dealer?*



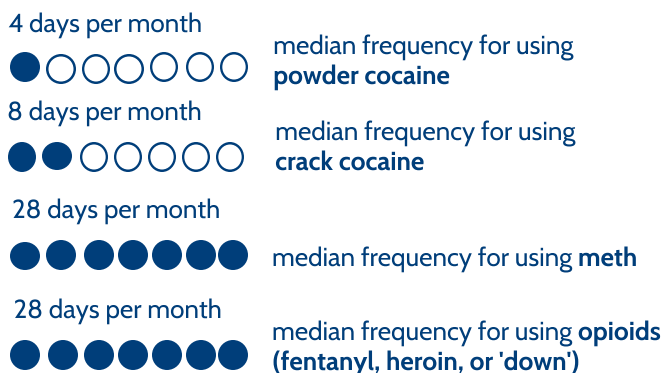
*more than 1/3 of participants did not provide an answer.

Who do you buy for?

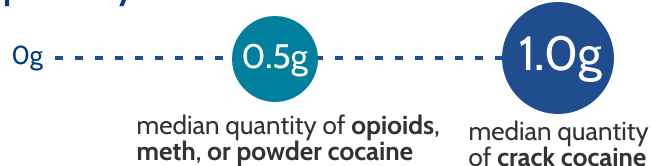


Drug use

Frequency of use in the last month (28 days)




Amount of a single substance used on a typical day



Respondents who use multiple substances daily used a median of **2.1g** on a typical day.

Changes in the drug supply

 **41%** said the substances they use have become more toxic or potent since February 2023.

Key takeaways



Most individuals report using less than 2.5g of substances daily, regardless of the substances they use.

Some people exceed the 2.5g threshold when they get enough for multiple days or multiple substances, to get better pricing, to share, or for convenience.

Participation was limited to people who access harm reduction sites, and results are therefore not representative of all people who use substances in BC. As of 2022, this project is made possible with funding from the Ministry of Health.

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THE heart
BCCDC HARM REDUCTION SERVICES

BC Centre for Disease Control