

Harm Reduction Client Survey 2023: OPS/SCS and Public Substance Use

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 their Overdose Prevention Site and Supervised Consumption Site (OPS/SCS) use and public substance use.

British Columbia

Who took part?

 **20** Communities

 **23** Sites

 **433** Participants

 **5** Health Authorities

OPS/SCS use



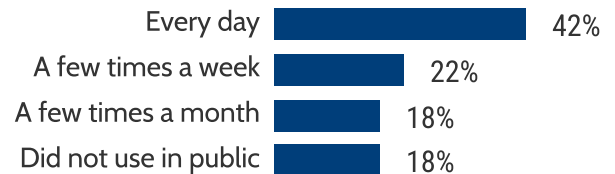
Mode of substance use at OPS/SCS



Public substance use

Participants were asked about using substances in public places like parks, transit stops, and sidewalks.

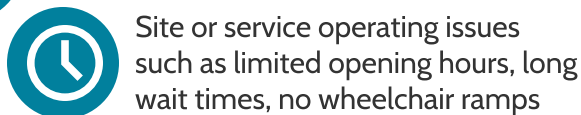
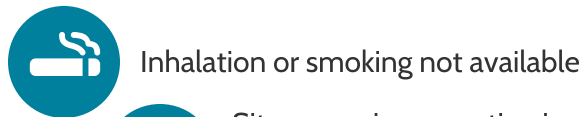
Frequency of public substance use



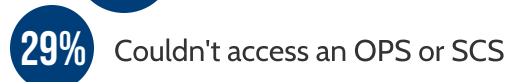
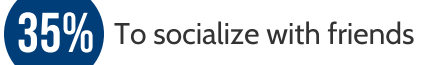
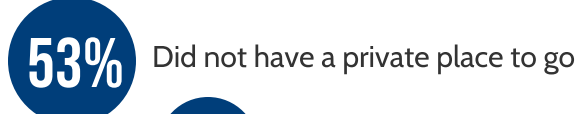
- Respondents with **no regular place to stay** or who **live in a shelter** reported both daily **public substance use** and **OPS/SCS use** more often than respondents with more stable housing.
- More respondents who **used an OPS/SCS** reported daily substance use in public compared to those who did not use at an OPS/SCS.

Top barriers to using at an OPS/SCS

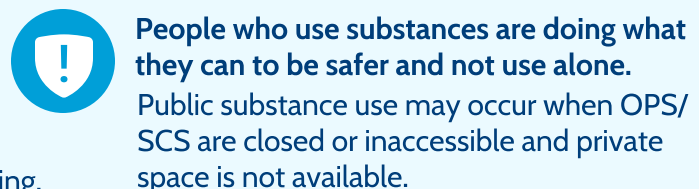
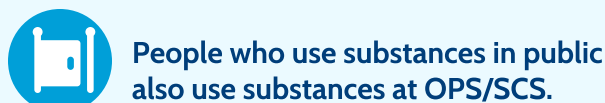
Over 50% of respondents experienced barriers or difficulties using at an OPS/SCS.



Reasons for using in public places



Key takeaways



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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BC Centre for Disease Control