

Harm Reduction Client Survey 2023

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-March 2024, we asked participants questions about substance and harm reduction supply use as well as experiences in their communities.

British Columbia

Who took part?



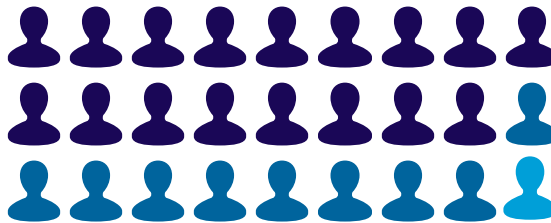
Sites

- Vancouver Coastal
- Island
- Interior
- Northern
- Fraser



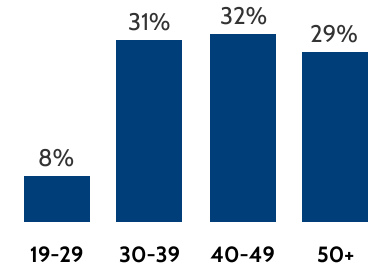
Participants

Self-identified gender



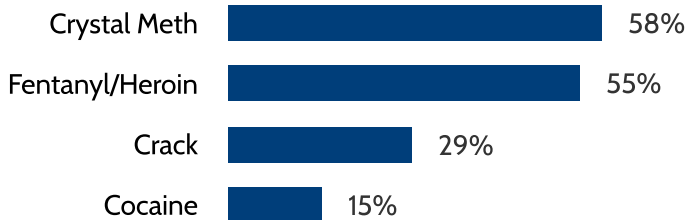
● Man (63%) ● Woman (33%) ● Gender expansive (4%)

Age distribution



Substance Use Patterns

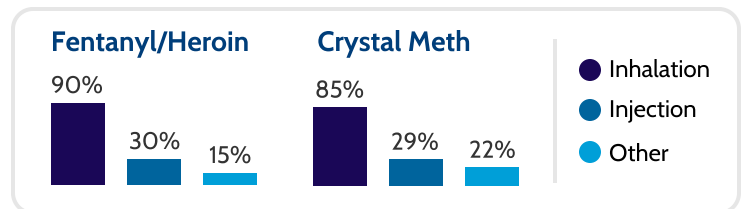
Substances used in the past 3 days



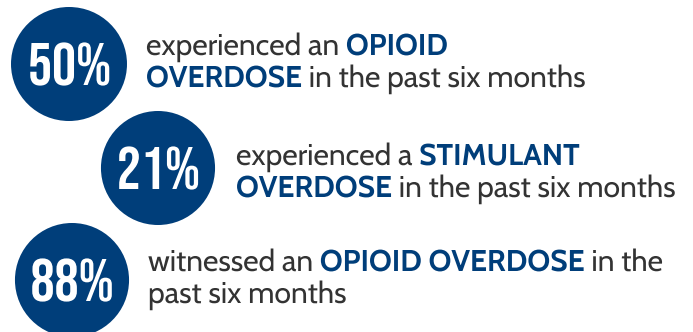
Frequency of use



Method of use in the past 3 days, by substance



Overdose



Potential harms



Of 371 people that have smoked/inhaled substances in the past 6 months:

- 78% shared or borrowed a used pipe (includes using stimulants with pipes previously used for opioids)
- 60% used a broken/cracked pipe or had a smoking-related injury



Of 193 respondents who reported injecting substances in the past 6 months:

- 23% borrowed a used a needle

Keeping safe and harm reduction



80% of participants owned a Take Home Naloxone kit.



In the past 6 months, 64% had used substances at an overdose prevention site or supervised consumption site.

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 2023, this project is made possible with funding from the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions.