

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.

Island Health

Who took part?

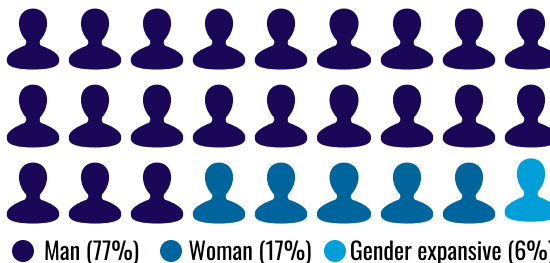


Victoria
Campbell River

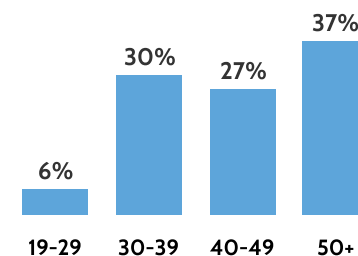


Nanaimo

Self-identified gender

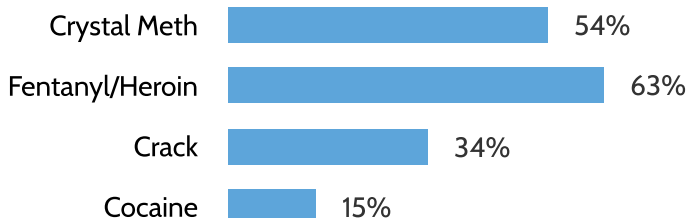


Age distribution

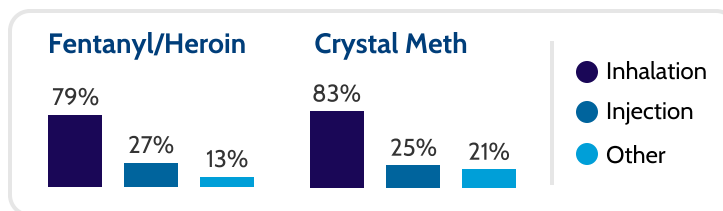


Substance Use Patterns

Substances used in the past 3 days



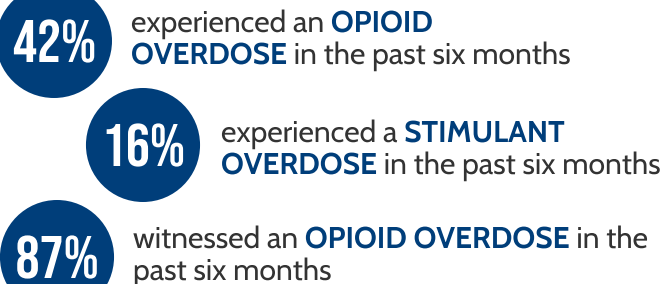
Method of use in the past 3 days, by substance



Frequency of use



Overdose



Potential harms

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- Of 77 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)
 - 62% used a broken/cracked pipe or had a smoking-related injury
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- Of 44 respondents who reported injecting substances in the past 6 months:
- 30% borrowed a used a needle

Keeping safe and harm reduction

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- 77% of participants owned a Take Home Naloxone kit.
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- In the past 6 months, 90% 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.