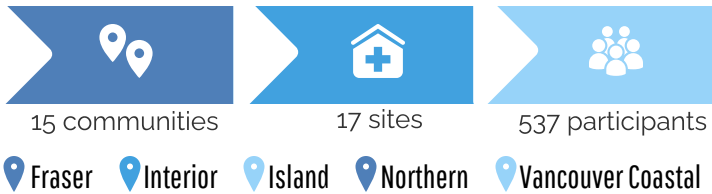


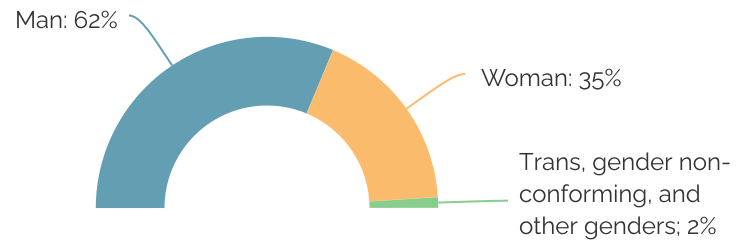
2021 BC Harm Reduction Client Survey

The B.C. Harm Reduction Program administered a survey to harm reduction supply distribution site clients across BC from March 2021 to January 2022 to assess regional differences in drug use and inform harm reduction planning and service quality improvement. Key findings from the survey are presented here. The total number of respondents for each question may differ.

Who took part?

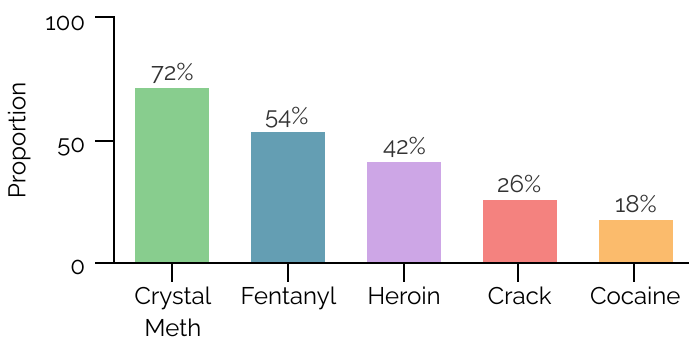


Self-identified gender



Substance use patterns

Past 3-days self-reported drug use



The median number of substances reported used in the past 3 days was 3.

Mode of substance use

Among those that reported heroin use:

- 34% injected; 82% smoked

Among those that reported fentanyl use:

- 36% injected; 78% smoked

Overall, 64% of respondents identified **SMOKING** or **INHALATION** as the preferred method of drug use, while 14% preferred injection, and 4% preferred snorting.

Overdose

24% experienced an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

62% witnessed an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

10% experienced a **STIMULANT OVERDOSE** in the past six months

Potential harms



Of 388 people that used glass pipes to smoke drugs in the past 6 months:

- 20% used a **second-hand pipe**
- 6% **injected instead** when they couldn't find unused smoking equipment



Of 213 people that injected drugs in the past 6 months:

- 7% had **trouble getting unused needles**
- 11% had **fixed with a needle used by someone else**



More than half of participants (53%) reported using drugs alone often or always.

Keeping safe and harm reduction



74% of participants owned a **Take Home Naloxone kit**, but only half (51%) owned a cell phone.



Of those that injected drugs, 45% had used drugs at an **Overdose Prevention Services site** in the past 6 months.



Of 189 people that had accessed opioid agonist therapy (OAT) in the past six months, 40% **since discontinued its use**, reporting difficulties that include:

- unable to access pharmacy during working hours
- OAT treatment wasn't effective
- unable to make clinic appointment time
- OAT dose was too low
- had no pharmacies nearby