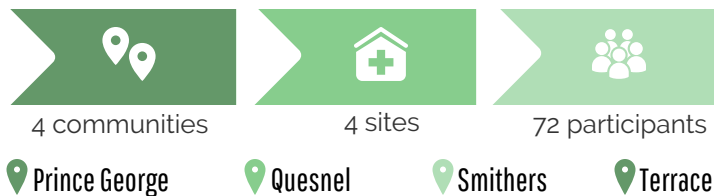


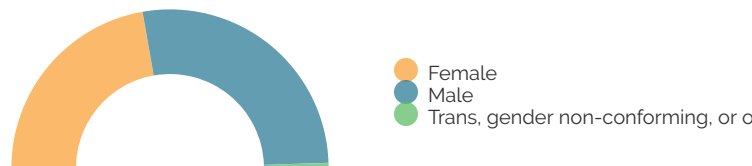
# 2018 BC Harm Reduction Client Survey

The B.C. Harm Reduction Program administered a survey to harm reduction supply distribution site clients across BC in 2018 to assess regional differences in drug use and inform harm reduction planning and quality improvement.

## Who took part in Northern?



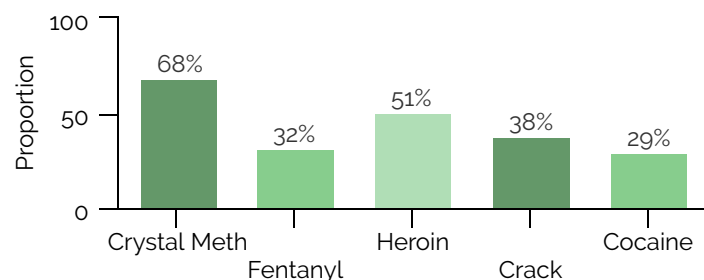
## Self-identified gender



## Drug use

About half of respondents identified **INJECTION** as the preferred method of drug use, while 40% preferred inhalation or smoking, and 7% preferred snorting.

### Past week self-reported drug use



## Overdose

**27%** experienced an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

**12%** experienced a **STIMULANT OVERDOSE** in the past six months

**50%** witnessed an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

## Potential harms

Of 52 people that used pipes from harm reduction sites to smoke drugs:

- 32% used a **second-hand pipe**
- 28% **injected** instead when they couldn't find unused smoking equipment

Of 35 people that injected drugs in the past month:

- 21% had **trouble getting unused needles**
- 15% had fixed with a **needle used by someone else**

About half of participants reported using drugs alone some of the time. Reasons for using drugs alone included:

- convenience and comfort;
- not having anyone else around;
- not wanting to share drugs; and,
- not wanting others to know.

## Keeping safe and harm reduction

73% of participants owned a **Take Home Naloxone kit**, but only 38% owned a cell phone.

Of those that injected drugs, 38% had injected at an **Overdose Prevention Services** site in the past month.

Of 37 people that had tried to access opioid agonist therapy (OAT) in the past six months, 1 in 5 reported difficulties including:

- unable to find a prescribing physician
- prescription stopped due to positive urine test
- had no pharmacies nearby