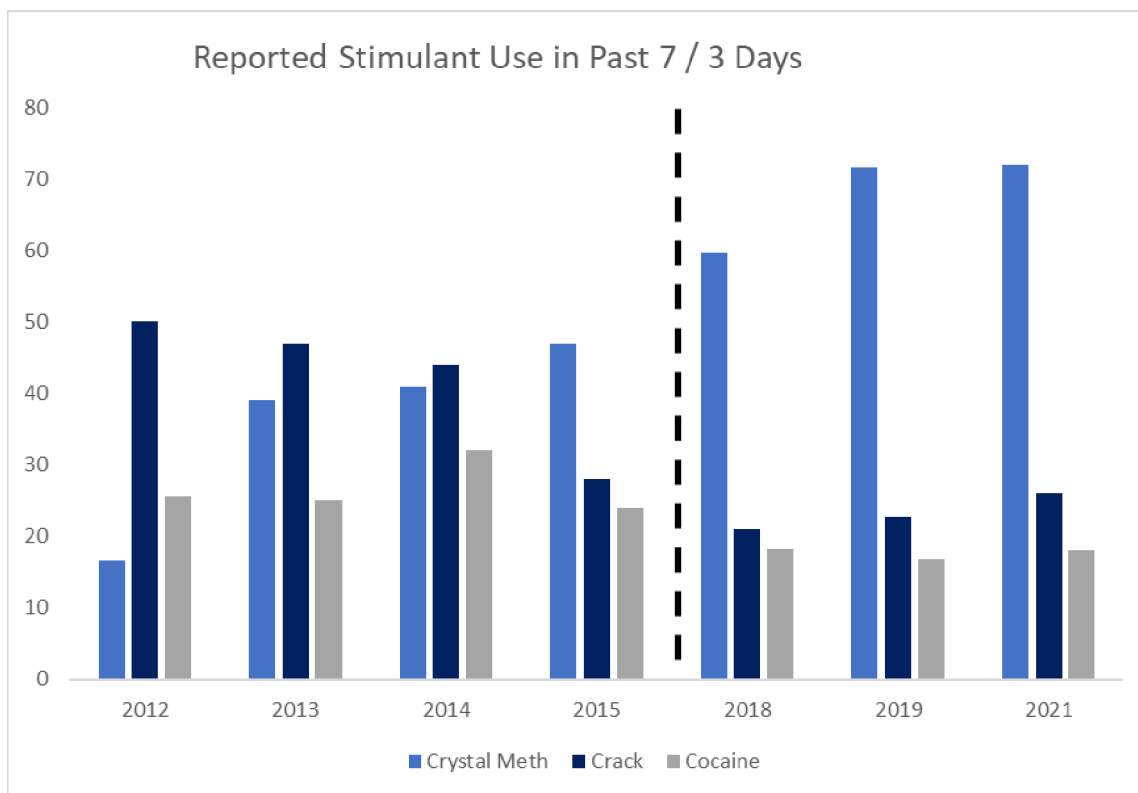


Trend of Substances Reported Used

During 2012-2015, substances used in the past 7 days were reported; in 2018 substance use in the past 3 and 7 days was reported to be congruent with substances detected in the urine. In 2019 and onwards, substance use in the past 3 days only was asked. (See Figures 1 and 2).

Crystal meth has been the most commonly used substance among clients of harm reduction sites in British Columbia (BC) since 2018; 72% of respondents reported crystal meth use in 2019 and 2021. Crystal meth is frequently reported as being used concurrently with opioids as found in publications and urine toxicology.¹⁻³

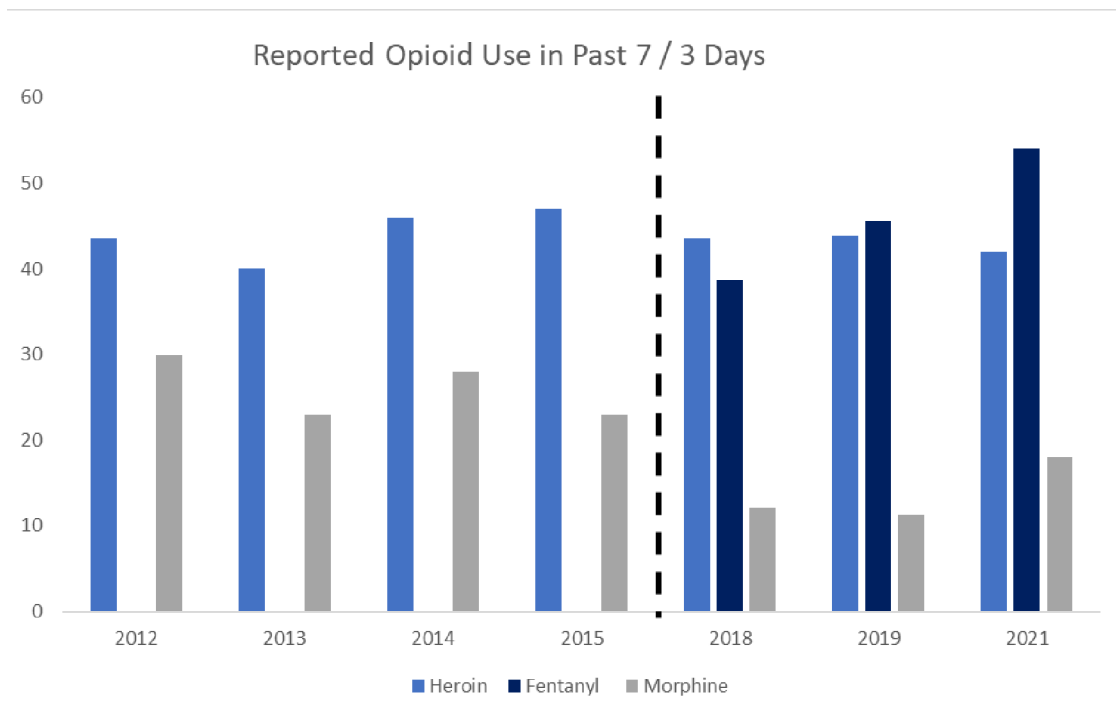
Figure 1 - Reported Stimulant Use in Past 7 / 3 Days



Trend of Substances Reported Used

Although more than 40% of respondents reported heroin use in 2019 and 2021, less than 4% of opioid samples from BC tested by the Health Canada laboratory in 2021 contained heroin.⁴

Figure 2 - Reported Opioid Use in Past 7 / 3 Days



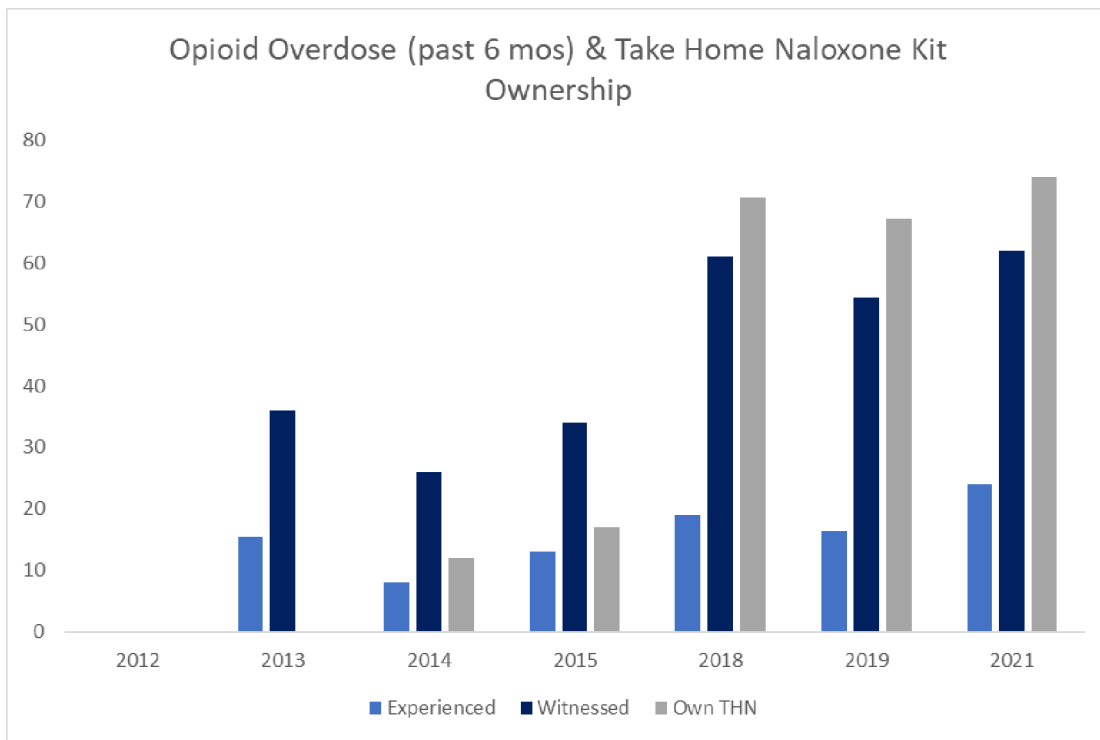
Overdoses and Take Home Naloxone Ownership

In 2013, questions were added regarding experiencing and witnessing an overdose in the past 6 months and in 2014 a question was added about take home naloxone kit ownership (Figure 3).

In 2014, 12% of respondents reported owning a take-home naloxone kit. Since 2018, this has increased to above two-thirds of respondents.

Respondents reporting witnessing an overdose have increased over time. In 2021, 62% of respondents reported witnessing an overdose and 24% reported experiencing an overdose in the past 6 months.

Figure 3 - Opioid Overdose (past 6 mos) & Take Home Naloxone Kit Ownership



References

1. Correlates of concurrent use of stimulants and opioids among people who access harm reduction services in British Columbia, Canada: Findings from the 2019 Harm Reduction Client Survey. (Apr 2022)
2. Crystal Methamphetamine Use in BC: A Cross-sectional Study of People Who Access Harm Reduction Services (May 2021)
3. Urine toxicology screening among 2018 and 2019 harm reduction client survey participants (Dec 2021)
4. Health Canada Drug Analysis Service (Mar 2023)