

# Interactions with Law Enforcement

The B.C. Harm Reduction Program administered a survey to harm reduction supply distribution site clients across BC from November 2022 to mid-January 2023. We asked participants "In the last three months, have you had direct contact with police (municipal police, RCMP, transit police)?"

British Columbia



Communities



Sites



Participants



Health Authorities

- Vancouver Coastal
- Island
- Interior
- Northern
- Fraser

## Recent Interaction with Law Enforcement



Half of all participants had contact with police in the last 3 months

A higher proportion of participants who had contact with police in the last 3 months were:

- Cis men
- 30 to 39 years
- People who used stimulants in the last 3 days
- Concerned about losing housing in the last 6 months

## Details of Interactions

Among participants who had contact with police in the last 3 months:

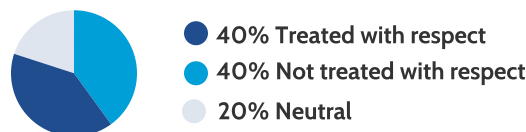
48% reported that police asked for ID or ran their name through the system

37% reported being arrested for a reason unrelated to selling or possession of drugs

31% reported having harm reduction supplies, such as syringes or pipes, taken by police

12% reported being arrested for drug possession

## Treatment by police in most recent interaction



## Drugs seized

1 in 4 had drugs not prescribed, including illegal drugs, seized by police

A higher proportion of participants reported that police seized their non-prescribed drugs, including illegal drugs, in the following health authorities:

- Interior Health
- Fraser Health

48% of participants who had drugs seized by police (n=13) reported over 2.5 grams were taken

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 2022, this project is made possible with funding from the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions