Who took part?

22 communities 27 sites 486 participants

Self-identified gender

Drugs use

More than half of respondents identified SMOKING or INHALATION as the preferred method of drug use, while 34% preferred injection, and 6% preferred snorting.

Past week self-reported drug use

Potential harms

Of 318 people that used pipes from harm reduction sites to smoke drugs:
- 27% used a second-hand pipe
- 20% injected instead when they couldn’t find unused smoking equipment

Of 214 people that injected drugs in the past month:
- 24% had trouble getting unused needles
- 13% 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.

Overdose

19% experienced an OPIOID OVERDOSE in the past six months

15% experienced a STIMULANT OVERDOSE in the past six months

57% witnessed an OPIOID OVERDOSE in the past six months

Keeping safe and harm reduction

About two thirds of participants owned a Take Home Naloxone kit, but less than half owned a cell phone.

Half of those that injected drugs had injected at an Overdose Prevention Services site in the past month.

Of 245 people that had tried to access opioid agonist therapy (OAT) in the past six months, 1 in 4 reported difficulties including:
- 38% unable to find a prescribing physician
- 19% prescription stopped due to positive urine test
- 19% worry about being stigmatized at clinic
- 16% were not offered preferred OAT