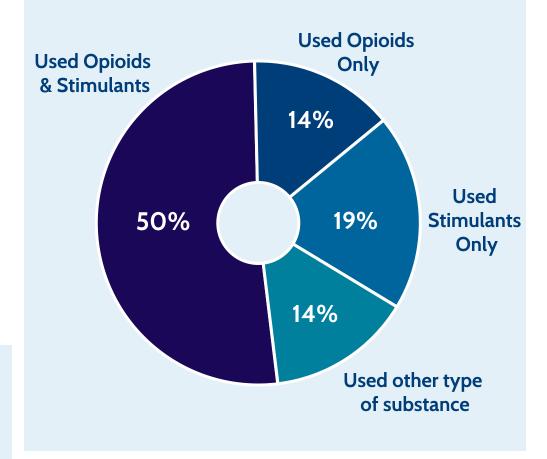
# Half of people who use substances use **BOTH STIMULANTS AND OPIOIDS**

It is common for clients of harm reduction sites to use more that one substance at a time.

For harm reduction services to work well, they need to meet the needs of people who use opioids, stimulants, or both.



"It's not just an opioid crisis.

The unregulated supply for people who use stimulants is also extremely volatile."

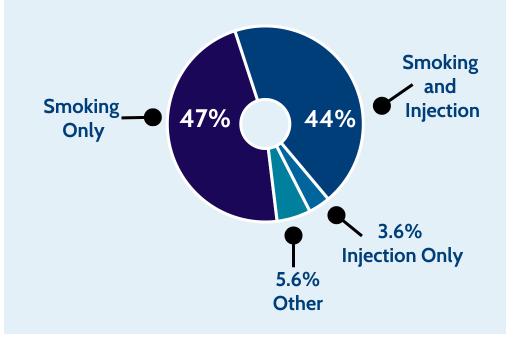




of respondents reported

#### **SMOKING SUBSTANCES**

in the last 6 months



Smoking is now the most common way that people use substances. Many people both smoke and inject substances.

Smoking can damage the lungs and lead to serious health problems, including toxic drug poisoning.

Harm reduction services, including overdose prevention sites need to be available to support people who smoke substances.





of respondents

#### USE SUBSTANCES ALONE

a few times a week or more.

Using substances alone is more dangerous because no one is there to give naloxone or call 911 if you have a drug poisoning.

People who use substances alone need supports that are easy to get and meet their needs.

- Supports for people to use more safely alone, like virtual services.
- Safe, easy to access, and private places for people to observe others using substances.

"Discrimination leads to people using in isolation. Isolation leads to deaths. These deaths are preventable."





of respondents

## HAVE WITNESSED AN OVERDOSE

in the last 6 months

The unregulated supply is the leading cause of toxic drug poisoning. Harm reduction can support people who respond to overdoses by:

- Providing take home naloxone kits.
- Recognizing and supporting people with lived and living experience who continue to care for their community.

"Every one of these people who lost their life was someone's loved one. People who use substances truly are the first responders in the toxic drug supply crisis."





of respondents had a naloxone kit

Naloxone reverses the effects of opioid overdose and can prevent death. Harm reduction can support people who respond to overdoses by:

- Providing take home naloxone kits.
- Teaching the "SAVE ME" steps to respond to an opioid poisoning. For example, it is important to give breaths in addition to using naloxone.

"Naloxone is a critical intervention but overdoses are getting more complicated with the increasingly toxic and volatile drug supply."





of respondents had a

### WOUND OR INFECTION

needing medical care in the last 6 months

People who use substances often need medical care for infections and wounds.

Services that are easy to access and free of judgment can help connect people who use substances with health care.

Getting care early prevents wounds from becoming more serious and harder to treat.

"Many people who use drugs are unable to access the care they need. Their experiences have led to resistance to health care due to a longstanding lack of safe, trauma-informed, person-centered, culturally appropriate care."



