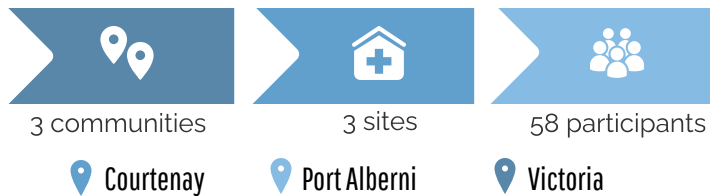


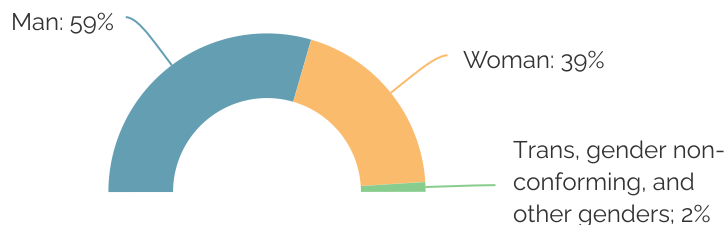
2019 BC Harm Reduction Client Survey

The B.C. Harm Reduction Program administered a survey to harm reduction supply distribution site clients across BC from October to December 2019 to assess regional differences in drug use and inform harm reduction planning and service quality improvement. Key findings from the survey are presented here. The total number of respondents for each question may differ.

Who took part on the Island?



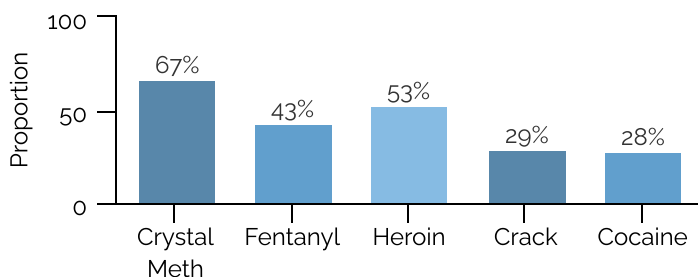
Self-identified gender



Drug use

More than 75% of respondents identified **SMOKING** or **INHALATION** as the preferred method of drug use, while 17% preferred injection, and 7% preferred snorting.

Past 3-days self-reported drug use



Overdose

21% experienced an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

5% experienced a **STIMULANT OVERDOSE** in the past six months

65% witnessed an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

Potential harms



Of 49 people that used glass pipes to smoke drugs in the past 6 months:

- 29% used a **second-hand pipe**
- 4% **injected** instead when they couldn't find unused smoking equipment



Of 26 people that injected drugs in the past 6 months:

- none had **trouble getting unused needles**
- 13% had fixed with a **needle used by someone else**



Half of participants (50%) reported using drugs **alone** often or always. Reasons for using drugs alone included:

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

Keeping safe and harm reduction



88% of participants owned a **Take Home Naloxone kit**, while 52% owned a cell phone.



Of those that injected drugs, 88% had used drugs at an **Overdose Prevention Services site** in the past 6 months.



Of 37 people that had tried to access opioid agonist therapy (OAT) in the past six months, **59% did not report difficulties** while **41% reported difficulties**, including:

- unable to find a prescribing physician
- had no pharmacies nearby
- were not offered preferred OAT
- worry about being stigmatized at clinic
- prescription stopped due to positive urine test



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