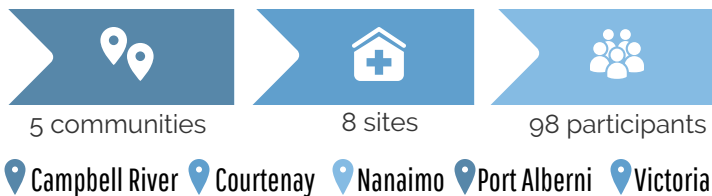


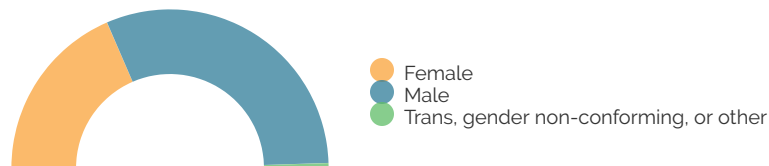
2018 BC Harm Reduction Client Survey

The B.C. Harm Reduction Program administered a survey to harm reduction supply distribution site clients across BC in 2018 to assess regional differences in drug use and inform harm reduction planning and quality improvement.

Who took part on the Island?



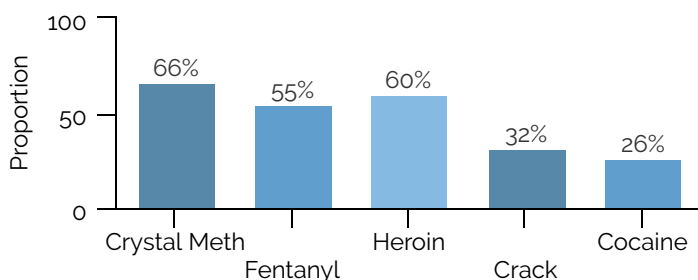
Self-identified gender



Drug use

More than half of respondents identified **INJECTION** as the preferred method of drug use, while 40% preferred smoking or inhalation, and 6% preferred snorting.

Past week self-reported drug use



Overdose

18% experienced an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

19% experienced a **STIMULANT OVERDOSE** in the past six months

66% witnessed an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

Potential harms



Of 68 people that used pipes from harm reduction sites to smoke drugs:

- 31% used a **second-hand pipe**
- 16% **injected instead** when they couldn't find unused smoking equipment



Of 56 people that injected drugs in the past month:

- 27% had **trouble getting unused needles**
- 14% 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.

Keeping safe and harm reduction



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



Of those that injected drugs, 68% had injected at an **Overdose Prevention Services site** in the past month.



Of 66 people that had tried to access opioid agonist therapy (OAT) in the past six months, about **1 in 3** reported **difficulties** including:

- unable to find a prescribing physician
- were not offered preferred OAT
- worry about being stigmatized at clinic
- prescription stopped due to positive urine test

