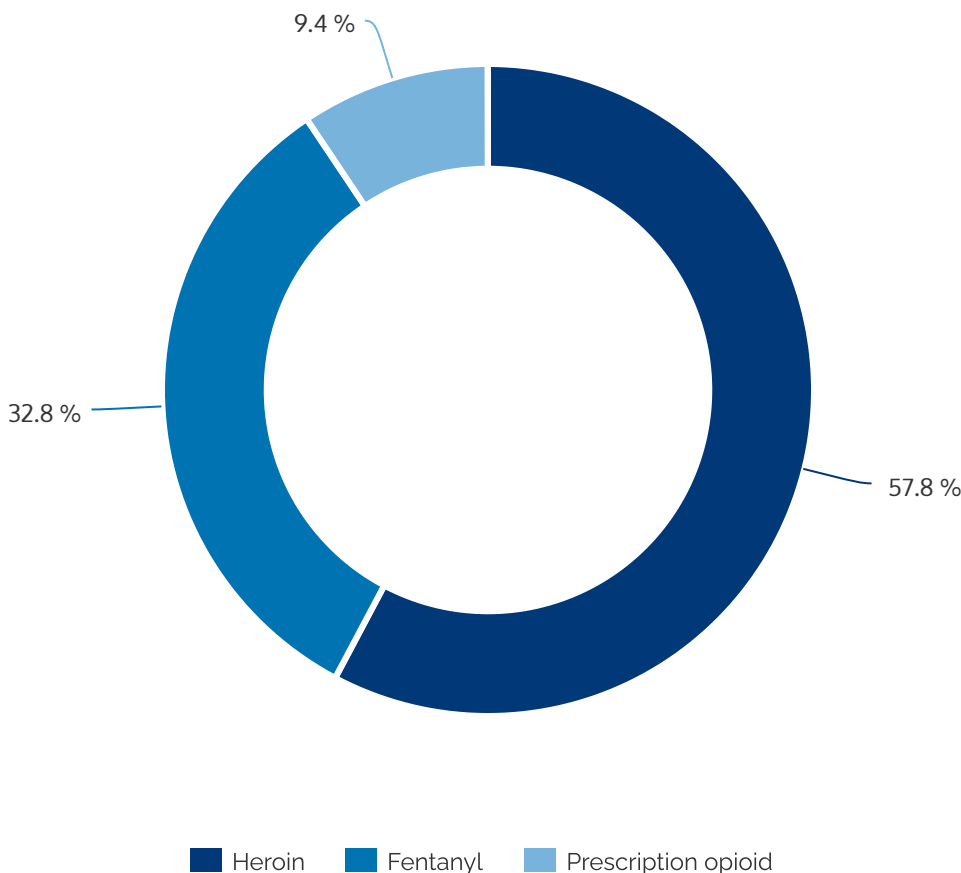


Preferred 'Down': Results of a BC Survey

This infographic shows the 'down' preference of 405 people who used opioids and reported a preference. The data were collected through the 2019 BC Harm Reduction Client Survey which was administered to harm reduction supply distribution site clients across BC.



Down Preference Among People Who Use Opioids

When asked what down (or opioid) participants prefer to use, most reported preferring heroin (n = 234), followed by fentanyl (n = 133), and prescription opioids (n = 38, e.g. morphine, oxycodone, hydromorphone (Dilaudid), methadone/Methadose, buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone)).

Age Category	Heroin (N=234)	Fentanyl (N=133)	Total (N=367)
≤29	46 (54.8%)	38 (45.2%)	84 (23.5%)
30-39	75 (58.1%)	54 (41.9%)	129 (36.1%)
40-49	54 (66.7%)	27 (33.3%)	81 (22.7%)
≥50	52 (82.5%)	11 (17.5%)	63 (17.6%)

Down Preference and Age

While a larger proportion of people under 29 preferred fentanyl, more people in all age categories reported preference for heroin.

Policy Implications

Treatment such as opioid agonist therapy can decrease risk of overdose; but doesn't work for everyone. A range of interventions is needed for people who use opioids. Our results can help to inform safe supply policy and programming to separate individuals from the toxic drug supply and save lives.



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