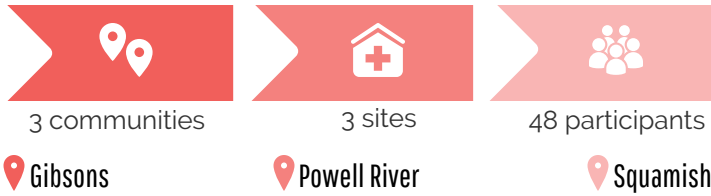


# Vancouver Coastal Health - Coastal Rural Communities

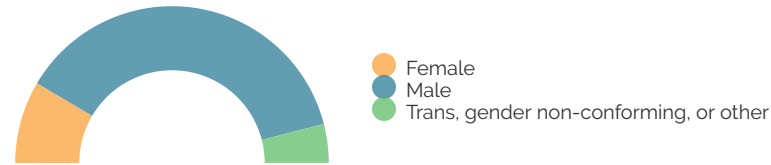
## 2018 BC Harm Reduction Client Survey

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 in Vancouver Coastal?



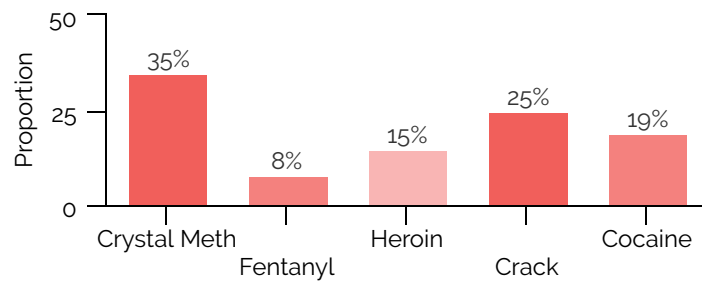
### Self-identified gender



### Drug use

Two thirds of respondents identified **SMOKING** or **INHALATION** as the preferred method of drug use, while 9% preferred injection, and 5% preferred snorting.

#### Past week self-reported drug use



### Overdose

**10%** experienced an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

**13%** experienced a **STIMULANT OVERDOSE** in the past six months

**36%** witnessed an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

### Potential harms



Of 20 people that used pipes from harm reduction sites to smoke drugs:

- 22% used a **second-hand pipe** when they couldn't find unused smoking equipment



Of 15 people that injected drugs in the past month:

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



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



About **half of participants owned a Take Home Naloxone kit**; two thirds owned a cell phone.



Of those that injected drugs, 20% had injected at an **Overdose Prevention Services** site in the past month.



Of 16 people that had tried to access opioid agonist therapy (OAT) in the past six months, **38% reported difficulties** including:

- prescription stopped due to positive urine test
- worry about being stigmatized at clinic
- unable to find a prescribing physician



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