

Harm Reduction Client Survey 2024

Since 2012, the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control has asked people who use substances about their health and access to harm reduction and healthcare services. Between September - November 2024, we asked participants questions about substance and harm reduction supply use as well as experiences in their communities. All responses are self-reported.

Island Health

Who took part?



Sites

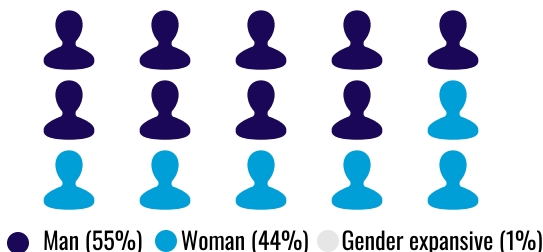


81% from large communities
0% from medium communities
19% from small communities

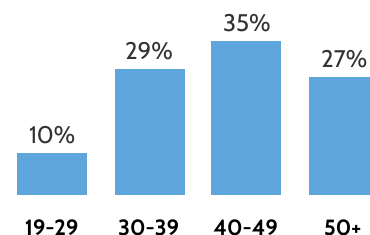


Participants

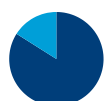
Gender



Age distribution



Substance use patterns



84% of participants reported
USING EVERY DAY

Overdose

34%

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

9%

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

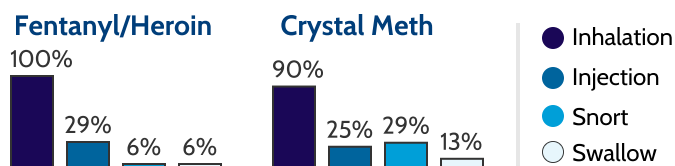
82%

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

Substances used in the past 3 days



Method of use in the past 3 days, by substance



Potential harms



Among the 92% of respondents who inhaled (smoked) substances in the past six months:

- 81% borrowed or shared a used pipe
- 53% borrowed or shared a pipe that was used for opioids/down to use stimulants
- 55% used a cracked or broken pipe
- 36% had an injury because of smoking



- 23% were unable to get smoking supplies when they wanted them (e.g., due to volume limits).

Harm reduction



83% of respondents owned a Take Home Naloxone kit.



Overdose prevention services and supervised consumption site (OPS/SCS) usage:

- 77% of respondents used substances at OPS/SCS
- 68% of respondents accessed other services there (e.g., picked up supplies, peer support, wound care, and referrals).



70% of respondents were connected to a regular health care provider.

Participation was limited to people who access harm reduction sites and want to participate, and results are not representative of all people who use substances in BC. This survey is made possible with funding from the Ministry of Health.