

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.

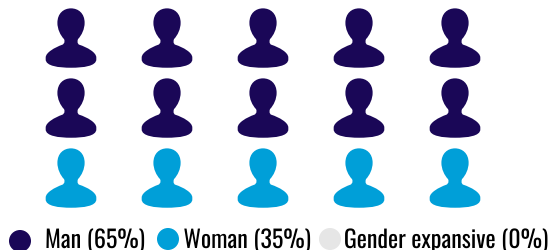
Vancouver Coastal Health

Who took part?

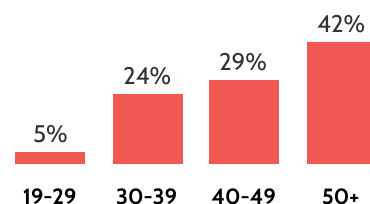


- 59% from large communities
- 0% from medium communities
- 41% from small communities

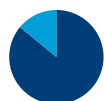
Gender



Age distribution



Substance use patterns



86% of participants reported **USING EVERY DAY**

Overdose

35%

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

18%

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

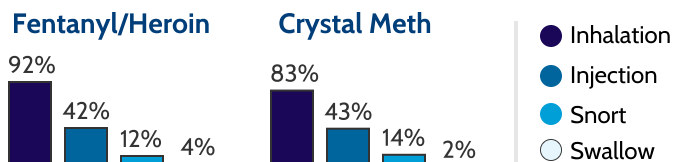
77%

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



Harm reduction



80% of respondents owned a Take Home Naloxone kit.



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

- 86% of respondents used substances at OPS/SCS
- 63% of respondents accessed other services there (e.g., picked up supplies, peer support, wound care, and referrals).



71% of respondents were connected to a regular health care provider.

Potential harms



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

- 55% borrowed or shared a used pipe
- 48% borrowed or shared a pipe that was used for opioids/down to use stimulants
- 54% used a cracked or broken pipe
- 35% had an injury because of smoking



- 27% were unable to get smoking supplies when they wanted them (e.g., due to volume limits).

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.