# Harm Reduction Client Survey 2024: Interactions with Law Enforcement

Since 2012, the BC Centre for Disease Control has asked people who use substances about their health and access to harm reduction and healthcare services. Between September and November 2024, we asked participants about their experiences and interactions with law enforcement (municipal police, RCMP, transit police) in the last 3 months.

**British Columbia** 

## Who took part?

120 Communities





9 5 Health Authorities

#### Interactions with law enforcement



Had **contact with law enforcement** for any reason in the last 3 months.

In 2022, before decriminalization, 50% had contact. In 2023, 59% had contact.

34%

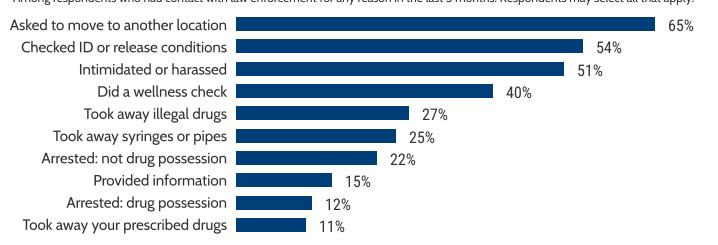
Agree that they were **treated with respect** in their last interaction with law enforcement.

In 2022, before decriminalization, 40% agreed. In 2023, 36% agreed.



#### **Details of interactions**

Among respondents who had contact with law enforcement for any reason in the last 3 months. Respondents may select all that apply.



### Key takeaways



People often had contact with police even when they were not being arrested for personal possession.



People who use substances said interactions with police have not changed in how often they happen and how they are treated.

Participation was limited to people who access harm reduction sites, and results are therefore not representative of all people who use substances in BC. As of 2022, this project is made possible with funding from the Ministry of Health.



