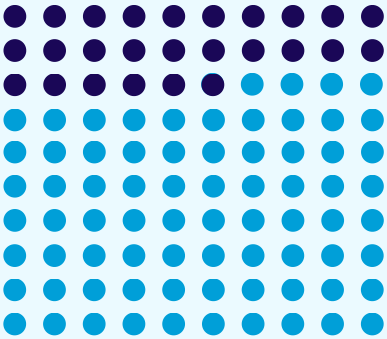
Who is in the BC Provincial Overdose Cohort?

June 2026

BC's Provincial Overdose Cohort (BC-ODC) represents people who were identified as having an unregulated drug poisoning event (i.e. overdose) between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2024, and who had linked demographic data available in BC's administrative health datasets.

72,142 people experienced a drug poisoning event from 2015-2024

From January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2024...

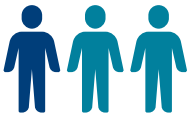


18,409 people (26%) had a fatal drug poisoning event

53,733 people (74%) had a non-fatal drug poisoning event

The BC-ODC undercounts non-fatal drug poisoning events. Some non-fatal drug poisoning events happen in community with no contact from health care, so the BC-ODC cannot capture these.

Many people experienced multiple drug poisoning events



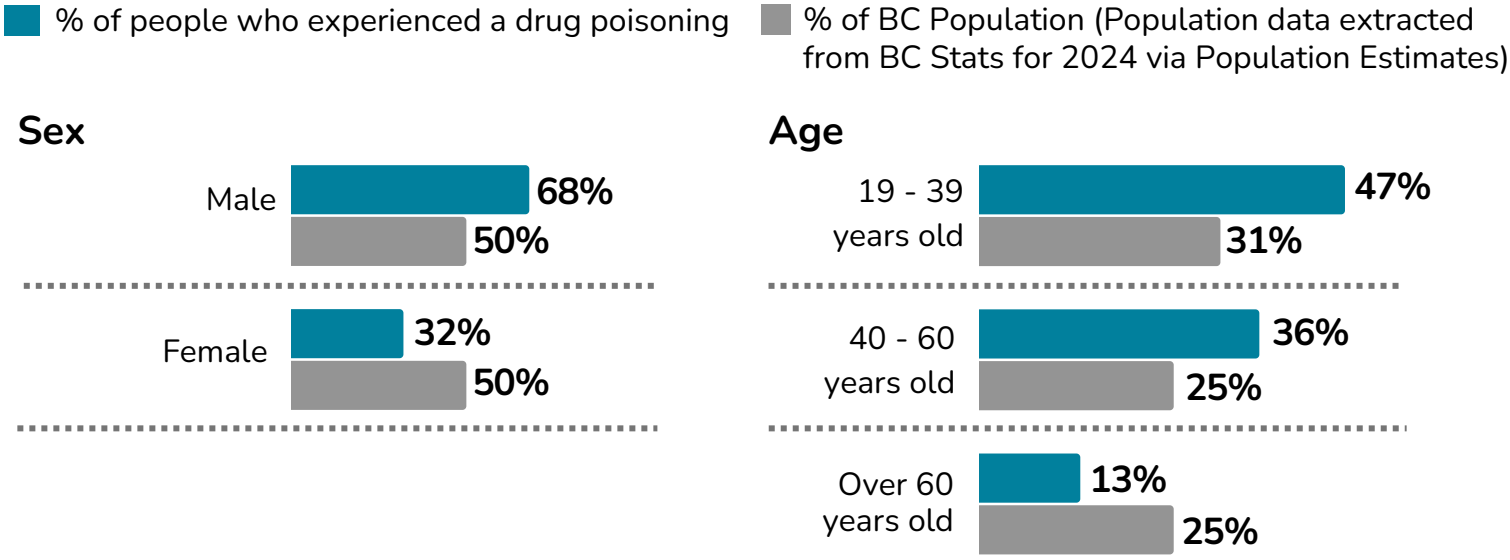
1 in 3 people who had a drug poisoning event

(37%) have had multiple drug poisoning events.

1 in 3 people who died of a drug poisoning

(36%) had a non-fatal drug overdose event prior to their death.

Men and 19-39 year olds are over-represented in drug poisoning events



Visit the BC-ODC website for more information and findings from research using the BC-ODC.

Provincial Health Services Authority | BC Centre for Disease Control | BCEHS BC Emergency Health Services | British Columbia