

Setting Priorities for Research on the BC Provincial Overdose Cohort

March 2026

The BCCDC's Harm Reduction and Substance Use Services (HRSUS) Analytics Team co-led a process with PEEP (an advisory group of people with lived/living experience of substance use), to identify research priorities for the the BC Provincial Overdose Cohort (BC-ODC) – a collection of linked administrative health data on people who have contacted health care for overdose, or who have died of overdose in BC.

Top 3 Research Priorities & Research Questions

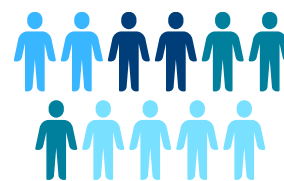
Top Research Priorities	Top Priority Research Questions
Youth	What are the gaps in treatment and harm reduction services for youth and what are the impacts of these service gaps on overdose rates at provincial and regional levels?
Policy and Guideline Impacts	What are the impacts of drug policies and substance use service guidelines and intersecting policies (e.g. housing) on overdose?
Barriers and Access to Treatment and Harm Reduction Services	What are the individual, social, and structural barriers to accessing treatment and harm reduction services?

Multiple organizations collaborated to identify and rank priorities

We held a full-day workshop with **PEEP** to discuss research priorities. Discussion themes were coded and grouped into 5 high-level priorities and sub-priorities.

FNHA and the **BC Ministry of Health** provided ongoing input throughout.

51 Survey Respondents, from 36 organizations ranked priorities and sub-priorities.



- 18% Health Service Provider
- 20% Researcher
- 27% People with lived/living experience
- 35% Decision Makers



PEEP
Professionals for Ethical
Engagement of Peers



This informed the development of a survey distributed to partners.

Next steps: Advancing research on these priority areas

We are continuing to collaborate with PEEP, health service providers, researchers, and decision makers to advance work in each of the priority areas. For more information please see the BC Provincial Overdose Cohort Website or contact shania.au@bccdc.ca.

BC-ODC Data Stewards: BC Coroners Service, BC Ministry of Health, BC Emergency Health Services

