

2018 BC Harm Reduction Client Survey

The B.C. Harm Reduction Program administered a survey to harm reduction supply distribution site clients across BC in 2018 to assess regional differences in drug use and inform harm reduction planning and quality improvement.

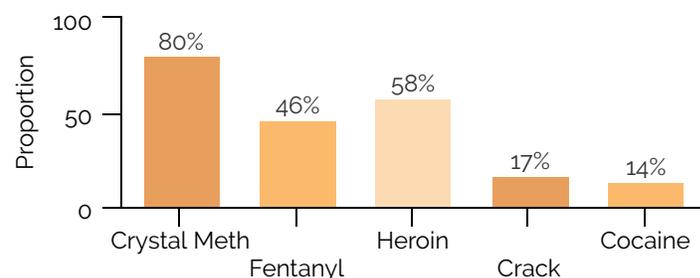
Who took part in Interior?



Drug use

More than half of respondents identified **SMOKING** or **INHALATION** as the preferred method of drug use, while 27% preferred injection, and 3% preferred snorting.

Past week self-reported drug use



Potential harms

 Of 45 people that used pipes from harm reduction sites to smoke drugs:

- 19% used a **second-hand pipe**
- 35% **injected instead** when they couldn't find unused smoking equipment

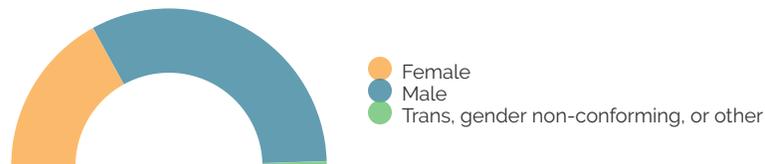
 Of 33 people that injected drugs in the past month:

- 34% had **trouble getting unused needles**
- 19% had fixed with a **needle used by someone else**

 About **one third of participants reported using drugs alone** some of the time. Reasons for using drugs alone included:

- convenience and comfort;
- not having anyone else around;
- not wanting to share drugs; and,
- not wanting others to know.

Self-identified gender



Overdose

22% experienced an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

13% experienced a **STIMULANT OVERDOSE** in the past six months

47% witnessed an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

Keeping safe and harm reduction



About **two thirds of participants** owned a **Take Home Naloxone kit**; 57% owned a cell phone.



Of those that injected drugs, one third had injected at an **Overdose Prevention Services** site in the past month.



Of 35 people that had tried to access opioid agonist therapy (OAT) in the past six months, **1 in 4 reported difficulties** including:

- unable to find a prescribing physician
- prescription stopped due to positive urine test
- worry about being stigmatized at clinic
- were not offered preferred OAT