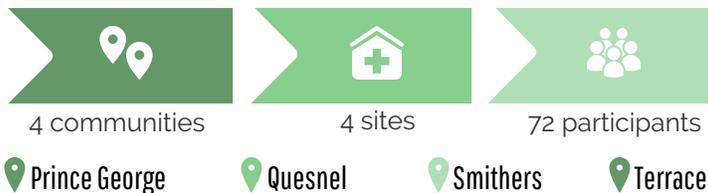


2018 BC Harm Reduction Client Survey

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 Northern?



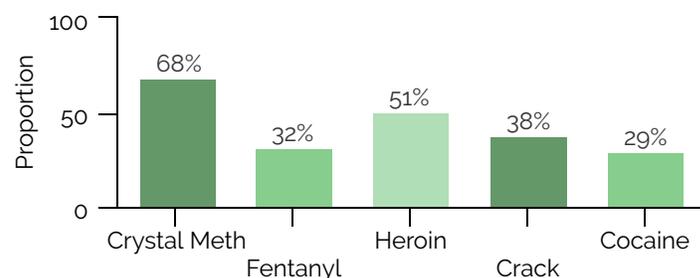
Self-identified gender



Drug use

About half of respondents identified INJECTION as the preferred method of drug use, while 40% preferred inhalation or smoking, and 7% preferred snorting.

Past week self-reported drug use



Overdose

27% experienced an OPIOID OVERDOSE in the past six months

12% experienced a STIMULANT OVERDOSE in the past six months

50% witnessed an OPIOID OVERDOSE in the past six months

Potential harms

Of 52 people that used pipes from harm reduction sites to smoke drugs:

- 32% used a second-hand pipe
- 28% injected instead when they couldn't find unused smoking equipment

Of 35 people that injected drugs in the past month:

- 21% had trouble getting unused needles
- 15% had fixed with a needle used by someone else

About half 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.

Keeping safe and harm reduction

73% of participants owned a Take Home Naloxone kit, but only 38% owned a cell phone.

Of those that injected drugs, 38% had injected at an Overdose Prevention Services site in the past month.

Of 37 people that had tried to access opioid agonist therapy (OAT) in the past six months, 1 in 5 reported difficulties including:

- unable to find a prescribing physician
- prescription stopped due to positive urine test
- had no pharmacies nearby