

Vancouver Coastal Health - Coastal Rural Communities 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 Vancouver Coastal?



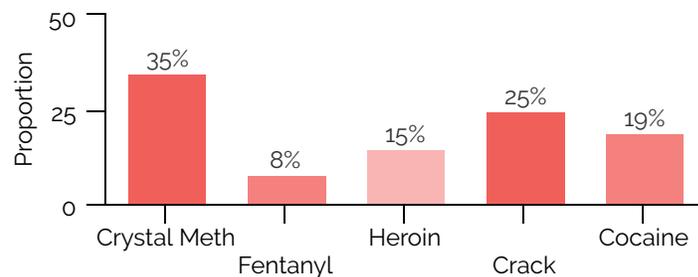
Self-identified gender



Drug use

Two thirds of respondents identified **SMOKING** or **INHALATION** as the preferred method of drug use, while 9% preferred injection, and 5% preferred snorting.

Past week self-reported drug use



Overdose

10% experienced an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

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

36% witnessed an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

Potential harms



Of 20 people that used pipes from harm reduction sites to smoke drugs:

- 22% used a **second-hand pipe** when they couldn't find unused smoking equipment



Of 15 people that injected drugs in the past month:

- 27% had **trouble getting unused needles**



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



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



Of those that injected drugs, 20% had injected at an **Overdose Prevention Services** site in the past month.



Of 16 people that had tried to access opioid agonist therapy (OAT) in the past six months, **38% reported difficulties** including:

- prescription stopped due to positive urine test
- worry about being stigmatized at clinic
- unable to find a prescribing physician



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