

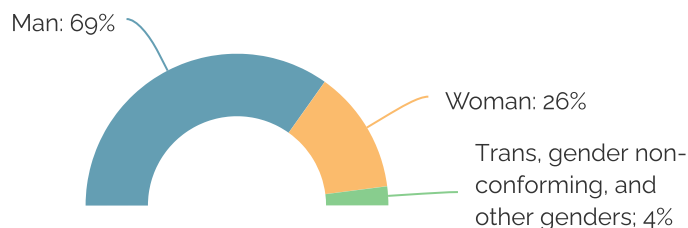
2019 BC Harm Reduction Client Survey

The B.C. Harm Reduction Program administered a survey to harm reduction supply distribution site clients across BC from October to December 2019 to assess regional differences in drug use and inform harm reduction planning and service quality improvement. Key findings from the survey are presented here. The total number of respondents for each question may differ.

Who took part in Vancouver Coastal?



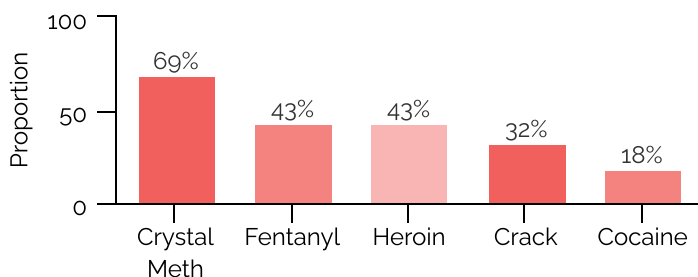
Self-identified gender



Drug use

More than half of respondents (58%) identified **SMOKING** or **INHALATION** as the preferred method of drug use, while 31% preferred injection, and 4% preferred snorting.

Past 3-days self-reported drug use



Overdose

20% experienced an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

9% experienced a **STIMULANT OVERDOSE** in the past six months

61% witnessed an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

Potential harms



Of 124 people that used glass pipes to smoke drugs in the past 6 months:

- 35% used a **second-hand pipe**
- 15% **injected instead** when they couldn't find unused smoking equipment



Of 75 people that injected drugs in the past 6 months:

- 3% had **trouble getting unused needles**
- 9% had fixed with a **needle used by someone else**



More than **half of participants (51%) reported using drugs alone** often or always. 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



72% of participants owned a Take Home Naloxone kit; less than half (49%) owned a cell phone.



Of those that injected drugs, **77% had used drugs at an Overdose Prevention Services site** in the past 6 months.



Of 82 people that had tried to access opioid agonist therapy (OAT) in the past six months, **83% did not report difficulties** while **17% reported difficulties**, including:

- were not offered preferred OAT
- unable to find a prescribing physician
- worry about being stigmatized at clinic