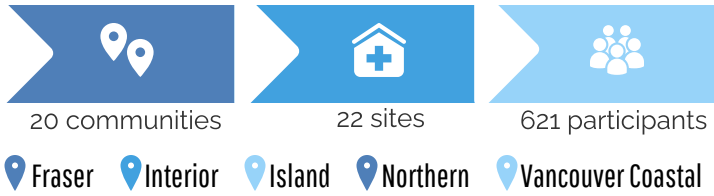


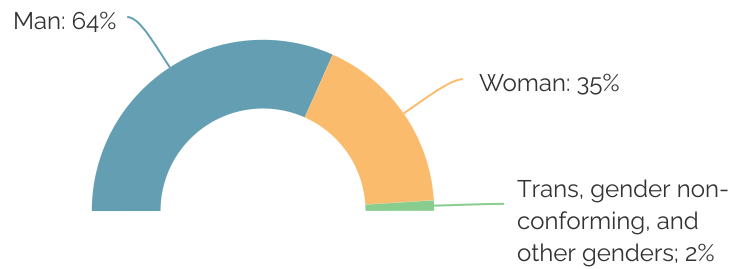
# 2019 BC Harm Reduction Client Survey

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?

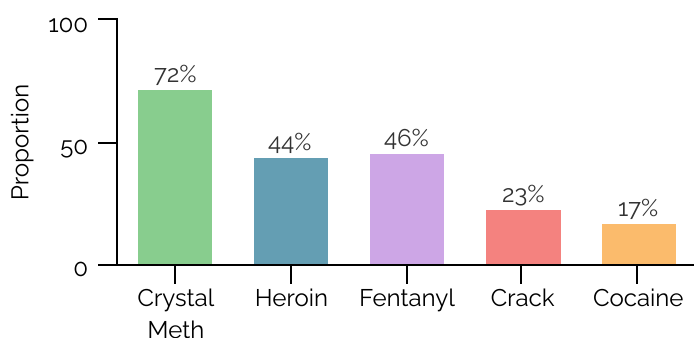


## Self-identified gender



## Substance use patterns

### Past 3-days self-reported drug use



The median number of substances reported used in the past 3 days was 3.

### Mode of substance use

Among those that reported heroin use:

- 50% injected; 73% smoked

Among those that reported fentanyl use:

- 48% injected; 67% smoked

Overall, 63% of respondents identified **SMOKING** or **INHALATION** as the preferred method of drug use, while 28% preferred injection, and 4% preferred snorting.


## Overdose

**17%** experienced an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months

**57%** witnessed an **OPIOID OVERDOSE** in the past six months


**12%** experienced a **STIMULANT OVERDOSE** in the past six months

## Potential harms




Of 497 people that used glass pipes to smoke drugs in the past 6 months:

- 32% used a **second-hand pipe**
- 20% **injected instead** when they couldn't find unused smoking equipment



Of 283 people that injected drugs in the past 6 months:


- 10% had **trouble getting unused needles**
- 8% 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



69% of participants owned a **Take Home Naloxone kit**, but less than half (46%) owned a cell phone.



Of those that injected drugs, 55% had used drugs at an **Overdose Prevention Services site** in the past 6 months.



Of 334 people that had tried to access opioid agonist therapy (OAT) in the past six months, **80% did not report difficulties** while **20% reported difficulties**, including:

- unable to find a prescribing physician
- were not offered preferred OAT
- worry about being stigmatized at clinic
- prescription stopped due to use of positive urine test
- had no pharmacies nearby