

Harm Reduction Client Survey 2022: Hesitance to Seek Services

The B.C. Harm Reduction Program administered a survey to harm reduction supply distribution site clients across BC from November 2022 to mid-January 2023. We asked participants "In the last six months, have any of the following things made you hesitant to access services you need to be healthy?"

British Columbia

Who took part?



Communities



Sites



Participants



Health Authorities

- Vancouver Coastal
- Island
- Interior
- Northern
- Fraser

Who Experiences Hesitance?



47.4% of participants were hesitant to seek services for at least one reason

58%

of people AGES 40 - 49

52%

of people concerned about **LOSING HOUSING** in the past six months

53%

of **CIS WOMEN**

49% of people from **VANCOUVER COASTAL**

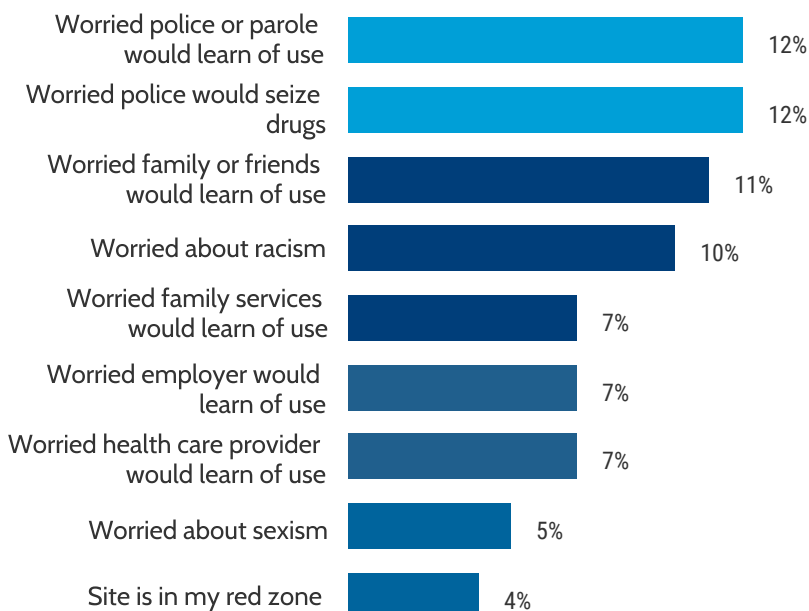
57% of people from **ISLAND HEALTH**

46% of people from **NORTHERN HEALTH**

48% of people from **INTERIOR HEALTH**

37% of people from **FRASER HEALTH**

Reasons for Hesitance



Remove Barriers, Reduce Hesitance

- Results indicate there are still negative repercussions from the legal system simply for using substances
- Reduce police presence at service delivery sites to facilitate access to services
- Stigmatizing interactions with care providers, especially unnecessary involvement of security and police, deter access
- Enhance client-centered, non-judgmental care for people who use substances
- Decriminalization may help shift social perceptions of substance use and reduce stigma from family and friends

Participation was limited to people who access harm reduction sites, and results are therefore not representative of all people who use substances in BC. As of 2022, this project is made possible with funding from the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions