ALCOHOL & DRUG USE AMONG ADULTS IN STREET-BASED SETTINGS in Victoria, BC 2010-2015

Data are drawn from the “High Risk Populations” study and based on a sample of adults over 19 recruited from drop-in and emergency shelter programs for street-involved adults in downtown Victoria. Participants must have used substances other than alcohol and marijuana at least once a month for the past 6 months to be eligible for the study. Data are not representative of the general population in Victoria. A total of 684 interviews have been completed between 2010 and 2015.

- Are these adults getting help with their substance use?
  - **Adults IN STREET-BASED SETTINGS WHO USE SUBSTANCES**
    - **AVERAGE AGE** 41
    - **25% FEMALE**
    - **72% MALES**
    - **28% TRANSGENDER**
    - **90% STRAIGHT**
    - **1% LESBIAN**
    - **6% OTHER**

- Who took part in the study?
  - **72% Males**
  - **28% Transgender**
  - **25% Female**
  - **90% Straight**
  - **1% Lesbian**
  - **6% Other**

- Why are these adults using alcohol and other drugs?
  - “Pain relief”
  - “Replaces prescriptions”
  - “Helps with moods”
  - “Makes me forget”
  - “Increased productivity”
  - “Makes me function normally”
  - “Experience well-being”
  - “Emotional escape”

- Are these adults injecting drugs?
  - 39% of OVERDOSES were by INJECTION

- Are these adults experiencing harms from their substance use?
  - 40% live in a shelter/house
  - 17% rent an apartment/house
  - 30% have no fixed address

- What are the most commonly used drugs?
  - Alcohol
  - Heroin
  - Crack
  - Crack pipes
  - Crystal Meth
  - Cocaine
  - Cannabis
  - Other substances

- Are these adults getting help with their substance use?
  - 25% currently accessing treatment services
  - 26% self-reported an overdose
  - 5% of overdoses were by injection

- Are these adults experiencing harms from their substance use?
  - 23% have consumed non-narcotic antidepressants, over-the-counter pain relievers, alcohol, etc., in their lifetime
  - 23% have consumed non-narcotic antidepressants, over-the-counter pain relievers, alcohol, etc., in their lifetime

- Are these adults engaging in harm reduction?
  - 30% rent an apartment/house
  - 40% live in a shelter/house
  - 30% have no fixed address

- Data drawn from “High Risk Populations” study: uvic.ca/research/centres/carbc/projects/aod-monitoring/high-risk-populations.php

Thank you to the participants and community agencies who make this research possible.