**What are the most commonly used drugs?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Amount used in a typical day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>8 x 500mL/40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joints</td>
<td>4 x 44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes</td>
<td>13 x 22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Are these youth injecting drugs?**

- **29%** have ever injected drugs
  - Top substances by those who had injected in the past 30 days:
    - Alcohol: 78%
    - Marijuana: 91%
    - Ecstasy: 34%
    - LSD: 24%
    - Crystal Meth: 41%
    - Heroin: 23%
    - Codeine/Codine/T3S/T4S: 21%
    - Xanax: 16%
    - Adderall: 12%

**Why are these youth using alcohol and other drugs?**

- Helps you socialize
- Helps me sleep
- escape from stress, cold, harassment
- Mind expansion
- Gain in personal confidence
- Help with mental illness
- Helps with emotional/mental problems
- It's normal for me
- It won't ruin my life
- Bored
- It's legal
- It's normal for me
- People around me use it
- Peer pressure
- You get high faster
- Happy feeling
- You can't get addicted
- You can control it
- It's fun

**Are these youth experiencing harms from their substance use?**

- **64%** self-reported an overdose
- **13%** of overdoses were by injection
- **64%** were taking at least one other drug at overdose
- **74%** reported at least one alcohol-related harm & injury
- **44%** said their overdose training included naloxone
- **38%** usually injected with others
- **12%** were by injection
- **74%** of people who had overdose training included naloxone

**Are these youth getting help with their substance use?**

- **9%** currently accessing treatment services
- **7%** residential treatment
- **26%** withdrawal management
- **67%** counselling
- **22%** peer support
- **25%** rainy day plans
- **16%** life with friends/caregivers
- **24%** live with a parent
- **4%** keep an apartment/house
- **19%** have no fixed address

**DRUG USE AMONG YOUTH IN STREET-BASED SETTINGS who use substances in Victoria, BC 2010-2015**

- **48%** female
- **52%** male

**MARIJUANA**

- **24%** current use
- **76%** past year
- **87%** past 6 months

**ALCOHOL**

- **83%** current use
- **90%** past year
- **96%** past 6 months

**CIGARETTE**

- **46%** current use
- **83%** past year
- **91%** past 6 months

**HEROIN**

- **35%** current use
- **40%** past year
- **50%** past 6 months

**CRYSTAL METH**

- **41%** current use
- **44%** past year
- **50%** past 6 months

**ECSTASY**

- **34%** current use
- **38%** past year
- **44%** past 6 months

**TOBACCO**

- **96%** current use
- **97%** past year
- **99%** past 6 months

**COCAINE**

- **37%** current use
- **40%** past year
- **46%** past 6 months

**METHAMPHETAMINE**

- **21%** current use
- **24%** past year
- **30%** past 6 months

**OPiates**

- **13%** current use
- **19%** past year
- **25%** past 6 months

**MALNUTRITION**

- **10%** current use
- **15%** past year
- **20%** past 6 months

**AVERAGE AGE**

- **19**

**HOUSING STATUS**

- **19%** rent an apartment/house
- **30%** live in a shelter
- **24%** have no fixed address
- **16%** live with parents/caretakers
- **19%** female

**RACE**

- **70%** white
- **24%** indigenous
- **6%** other

**SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

- **67%** straight
- **24%** gay/lesbian
- **5%** bisexual
- **4%** transgender
- **2%** other

**GENDER**

- **56%** male
- **44%** female

**Other substances involved in overdose:**

- **MARIJUANA**
- **ALCOHOL**
- **CRYSTAL METH**
- **HEROIN**

**MAIN SUBSTANCES IN OVERDOSE:**

- **1** alcohol
- **2** ecstasy
- **3** crystal meth
- **4** heroin

**WHO took part in the study?**

- This data is based on a sample of youth between ages 14 & 24 recruited from drop-in and emergency shelter programs for street involved youth in downtown Victoria.
- Participants had to have used substances other than alcohol and marijuana within the past 6 months. Data is not representative of the general youth population. 500 interviews have been completed from 2010-2015.

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

- University of Victoria
- Center for Addictions Research of BC