

Who took part in the study?

🖈 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/or cannabis 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 790 interviews were completed between 2010 and 2016.

AVERAGE AGE 41

72% CAUCASIAN 19% INDIGENOUS

9% OTHER

25% FEMALE

90% STRAIGHT **7**% BISEXUAL

7% GAY/LESBIAN

42% LIVE IN A SHELTER

HOUSING STATUS

75% MALE <1% TRANSGENDER <1/6 OTHER

28% RENT AN APARTMENT/HOUSE **16%** HAVE NO FIXED ADDRESS

What are the most commonly used drugs? In the past 30 days



65%

ALCOHOL

56%

MTD

RX OPIOIDS*



CRYSTAL METH

HEROIN

COCAINE

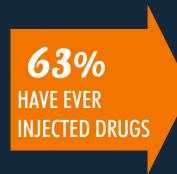
METHADONE

21% HAVE CONSUMED NON-BEVERAGE **ALCOHOL** (MOUTHWASH, RUBBING ALCOHOL, ETC) IN THEIR LIFETIME (2015-2016 DATA)

HAVE CONSUMED FENTANYL IN THE PAST 30 DAYS (2015-2016 DATA)

Are these adults injecting drugs?

Top 3 substances by those who have injected the last 30 days:





2 RX OPIOIDS*

3 AMPHETAMINES

*RX opioids includes morphine, dilaudid, oxycodone, codeine $^{\scriptscriptstyle +}$ amphetamines include both prescription (e.g. ritalin) and non-prescription (e.g. crystal meth)

Are these adults engaging in harm reduction?



NEEDLES (PAST 30 DAYS)

OF ADULTS WHO USED CRACK **ACCESSED CLEAN CRACK** PIPES OR MOUTHPIECES (PAST 30 DAYS)

43% **USUALLY INJECTED** WITH OTHERS



70% SAID THEIR OVERDOSE TRAINING INCLUDED NALOXONE (2015-16)

Are these adults experiencing harms from their substance use?

REPORTED EXPERIENCING AT LEAST ONE DRUG-RELATED ONE ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM & HARM IN THE PAST YEAR

self-reported an OVERDOSE ever

AVERAGE # of OVERDOSES ever:

of OVERDOSES were by INJECTION

MAIN SUBSTANCES IN OVERDOSE:

1 ATT HEROIN

ALCOHOL

CRACK

61% WERE TAKING AT LEAST ONE OTHER DRUG AT OVERDOSE Other substances involved in overdose:

CANNABIS 🐱

ALCOHOL

CRACK //

AMPHETAMINES //

Are these adults getting help with their substance use?

24% **CURRENTLY ACCESSING** TREATMENT SERVICES (2012-2016)



COUNSELLING 19%



WITHDRAWAL **MANAGEMENT** 45%



21%

PEER SUPPORT



RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT 5%

Why are these adults using alcohol and other drugs?

"I just like the feeling"

better"

"Makes me feel

"Pain control"

"Helps me

"Pain and anxiety)

"No benefits"

"Stay up to protect belongings"

"Getting high"

"Makes me forget about my day"

Helps with my fear

and being lonely"

socially"

"Makes me thrive and

want to live"

reduction"

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



Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research







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