ALCOHOL & DRUG USE AMONG ADULTS IN STREET-BASED SETTINGS WHO USE SUBSTANCES IN VICTORIA, BC 2010-2016

Who took part in the study?

Data 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.

What are the most commonly used drugs?

In the past 30 days, 94% used alcohol, 72% cannabis, 56% cocaine, 28% crack, and 51% heroin.

Are these adults injecting drugs?

63% have ever injected drugs. Top 3 substances by those who have injected in the last 30 days: heroin, RX opioids, and amphetamines.

Are these adults experiencing harms from their substance use?

60% reported experiencing at least one alcohol-related harm & 36% at least one drug-related harm in the past year.

Are these adults getting help with their substance use?

24% currently accessing treatment services for substance use (2012-14), 19% counselling, 21% peer support, and 5% residential treatment.

Why are these adults using alcohol and other drugs?

"I just like the feeling," "Pain control," "Makes me feel better," "Helps with my fear and being lonely," "Makes me forget about my day," "Pain and anxiety reduction," "Stay up to protect belongings," "No benefits," "Makes me thrive and want to live."