

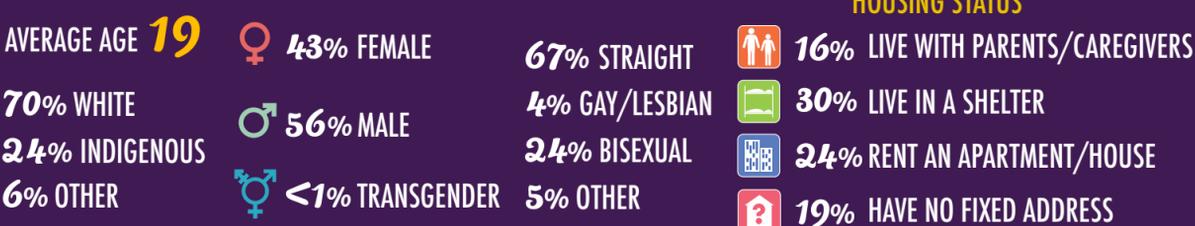
ALCOHOL & DRUG USE AMONG Youth

IN STREET-BASED SETTINGS * in Victoria, BC
2010-2015

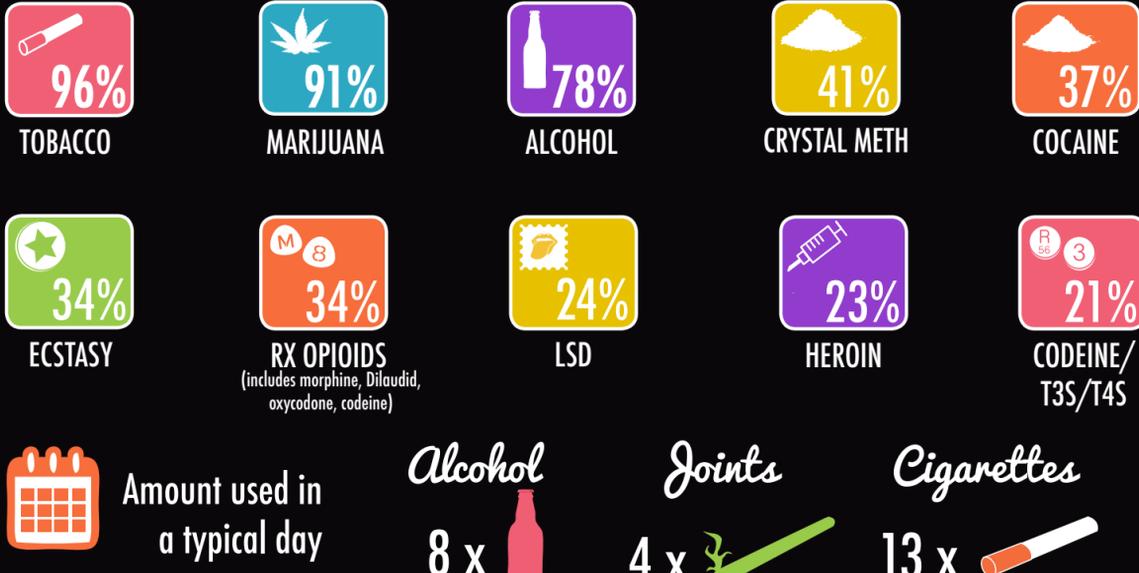


Who took part in the study?

* 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.



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



Are these youth injecting drugs?

29%
HAVE EVER INJECTED DRUGS

Top substances by those who had injected in the past 30 days:



*RX opioids includes morphine, Dilaudid, oxycodone, codeine

Are these youth engaging in harm reduction?

89%
OF YOUTH WHO INJECTED
ACCESSED CLEAN
NEEDLES (PAST 30 DAYS)

74%
OF YOUTH WHO USED CRACK
ACCESSED CLEAN CRACK
PIPES OR MOUTH PIECES
(PAST 30 DAYS)

38%
USUALLY INJECTED
WITH OTHERS

83%
WOULD USE OR SUPPORT A
SUPERVISED INJECTION SITE
(2012 - 2015)

35%
HAVE HAD OVERDOSE
TRAINING (2015)

44%
SAID THEIR OVERDOSE
TRAINING INCLUDED
NALOXONE (2015)

Are these youth experiencing harms from their substance use?

83% REPORTED EXPERIENCING AT LEAST ONE DRUG-RELATED HARM &

74% REPORTED AT LEAST ONE ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM IN THE PAST YEAR.

64% self-reported an OVERDOSE ever

AVERAGE # of OVERDOSES ever: **4**
(Overdose is self-defined by participant)

13% of OVERDOSES were by INJECTION

MAIN SUBSTANCES IN OVERDOSE:

- 1 ALCOHOL
- 2 ECSTASY
- 3 CRYSTAL METH
- 4 HEROIN

64% WERE TAKING AT LEAST ONE OTHER DRUG AT OVERDOSE

Other substances involved in overdose:



Are these youth getting help with their substance use?

9%
CURRENTLY ACCESSING
TREATMENT SERVICES

COUNSELLING
67%

WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT
26%

PEER SUPPORT
22%

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT
7%

Why are these youth using alcohol and other drugs?

"Helps you socialize"

"Anxiety relief"

"Happy feelings"

"Don't feel the pain"

"It's normal for me"

"Help with mental illness"

"Gain in personal confidence"

"Helps me sleep"

"Escape from stress, cold, harassment"

"Mind expansion"

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

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



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