

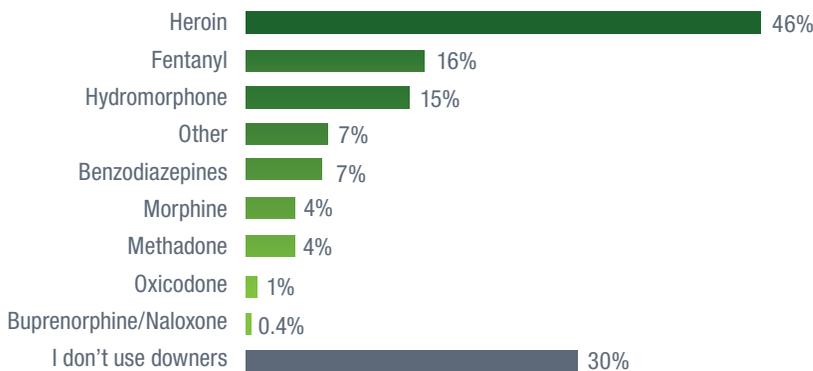
What Do People Who Use Drugs Want and Need?

Results from the Community Urinalysis and Self-Report Project

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

- Between 2019 and 2021, 1,526 people who use drugs from seven regions across Canada anonymously answered survey questions.
- Questions included substances used in the previous three days and substance use preference and experiences.

“If you use downers (opioids), what would you prefer to use?”*



Many participants reported using multiple substances in the previous three days:†

55%

used both **opioids** and **stimulants**.

13%

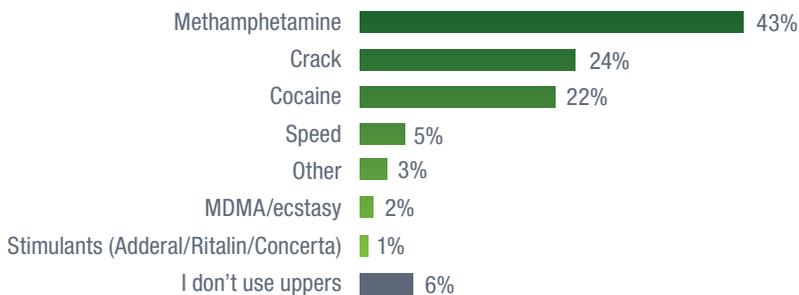
used both **opioids** and **benzodiazepines**.



Overall, most participants reported smoking **methamphetamine, crack and certain opioids, like fentanyl**.

Methadone was often reported used, but it was not often preferred. The most preferred opioids are available from the unregulated supply, safer supply programs or injectable opioid agonist therapy.

“If you use uppers (stimulants), what would you prefer to use?”*



In contrast, the most preferred stimulants typically come from the unregulated rather than regulated supply.

*Excludes participants from Edmonton, Montreal (2020) and Thunder Bay.

†Excludes participants from Montreal (2019 and 2020).

! Preferences may be influenced by substance effects, cost, availability and other factors.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Listen to, engage with and compensate people who use drugs as experts and the people directly affected by these actions.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Improve drug predictability by expanding access to a safer drug supply that meets the needs of people who use drugs.
- Meet the needs of people who smoke their drugs by considering access to safer supply options that can be smoked, observed inhalation services and safer smoking supplies.
- Address the unique needs of people who use drugs by collecting more detailed data on needs and preferences, and developing services accordingly.

Listen to, engage with and compensate people who use drugs as experts and the people directly affected by these actions.

The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction thanks the Community Urinalysis and Self-Report Project Working Group, all partner sites and participants for their contributions.

Additional findings are presented in: Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction. (2022). *Community Urinalysis and Self-Report Project: Cross-Canada report on the use of drugs from the unregulated supply, 2019-2021 data*. Ottawa, Ont.: Author. <https://www.ccsa.ca/community-urinalysis-and-self-report-project-cross-canada-report-use-drugs-unregulated-supply-2019>. For more information, see <https://www.ccsa.ca/urinalysis-and-self-reporting>