

DRUG CHECKING MORE COMMON IN PEOPLE WHO HAVE SEEN AN OVERDOSE

WHAT WE DID

This study looked at whether people who witnessed an overdose were more likely to check their drugs in Vancouver.

From June 2018 to December 2018, **1,429** people who use drugs took part in the study.

QUICK FACT

People may check their drugs as a result of having seen someone overdose recently.

WHAT WE FOUND

54% of participants had recently witnessed an overdose.

14% of participants had recently checked their drugs.

Participants that witnessed an overdose were over twice as likely to check their drugs.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Even though people who use drugs can check their drugs, most people are not doing so.

This study shows that having seen someone overdose may motivate people to check their drugs.

Especially during the overdose crisis, access to drug checking can be useful to let people know what is in their drugs.

For more information about the evaluation please visit:

www.bccsu.ca/drug-checking/

Beaulieu T, Hayashi K, Nosova E, et al. Effect of witnessing an overdose on the use of drug checking services among people who use illicit drugs in Vancouver, Canada. *Am J Drug Alcohol Abuse*. 2020;26:1-6. doi:10.1080/00952990.2019.1708087