

### WHAT IS THIS RESEARCH ABOUT?

- In May 2017, Canada enacted GSDOA to provide protection from simple drug possession (and related) charges to everyone at a drug overdose event when 9-1-1 is called to the scene
- Whether GSDOA has encouraged 9-1-1-calling among people who use drugs (PWUD) is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE DO?

We conducted our research in two parts:

- Between June-November 2018, we administered a questionnaire to assess knowledge of this law among 1258 PWUD in Vancouver.
- Between 2014-2018, among 540 PWUD who reported witnessing an overdose, we examined the level of 9-1-1-calling and the effect of GSDOA on 9-1-1-calling rates.

### WHAT DID WE FIND?

#### PART 1: LOW KNOWLEDGE OF THE GSDOA

28% or 358 out of 1258 PWUD knew what GSDOA protected them for

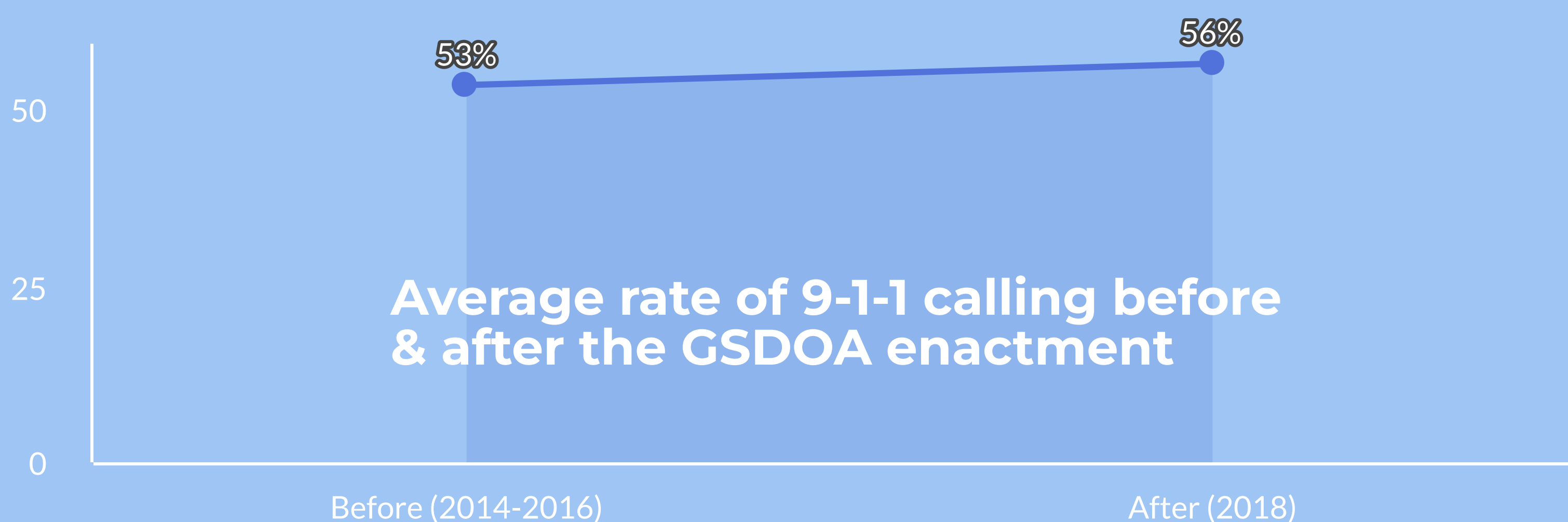
**33% overestimated GSDOA protections**

PWUD who dealt drugs were **more likely** to have accurate knowledge

PWUD who experienced negative encounters with the police were **less likely** to have accurate knowledge

**28% had accurate knowledge**

#### PART 2: NO CONSIDERABLE CHANGE IN 9-1-1-CALLING BEFORE & AFTER THE GSDOA



Average rate of 9-1-1 calling before & after the GSDOA enactment

PWUD who lived in a single room occupancy hotel (SRO) were **less likely** to call 9-1-1

### TAKEAWAYS

Expansion of GSDOA protections (such as immunity from drug dealing) may support calling among those who dealt drugs (a common activity among PWUD)

Educational interventions to increase knowledge of the GSDOA are needed

Interventions are needed to reduce repercussions at PWUD's residences, including increasing tenancy security at SROs to protect PWUD's housing when calling for help

Increased efforts to reduce all possible repercussions associated with 9-1-1 calling are urgently needed

**PART 1:** Moallem S, DeBeck K, Milloy MJ, Somers J, Kerr T, Hayashi K. Knowledge of a Drug-Related Good Samaritan Law Among People Who Use Drugs, Vancouver, Canada. *Health Education & Behavior*. March 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1090198121999303>

**PART 2:** Moallem, S., Choi, J., Milloy, MJ., DeBeck K., Kerr T., Hayashi K. A drug-related Good Samaritan Law and calling emergency medical services for drug overdoses in a Canadian setting. *Harm Reduct J* 18, 91 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12954-021-00537-w>