

# LOW AWARENESS OF RISK MITIGATION PRESCRIBING AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE UNREGULATED DRUGS IN VANCOUVER, CANADA, JULY-NOVEMBER 2020\*

## WHAT WAS OUR STUDY ABOUT?

The risk mitigation prescribing (RMP) guidelines were released in British Columbia, Canada in March 2020. The study examined the level of awareness of RMP among people who use unregulated drugs (PWUD) in Vancouver, British Columbia.

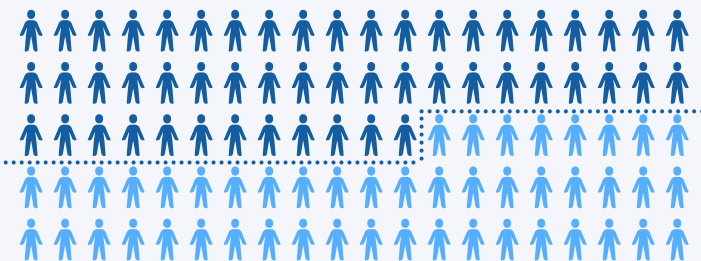
### BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

Average age	45
Women, transgender, gender minorities, etc.	43%
Black, Indigenous, people of colour (BIPOC)	44%
Below high school education	52%
Downtown Eastside residence	49%

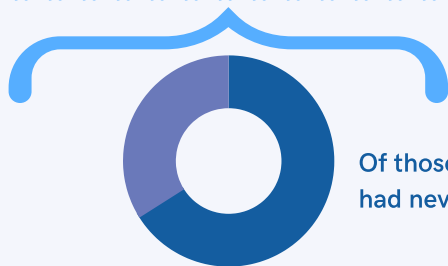
### WHAT DID WE DO?

Between July and November 2020, phone interviews were conducted with 633 PWUD.

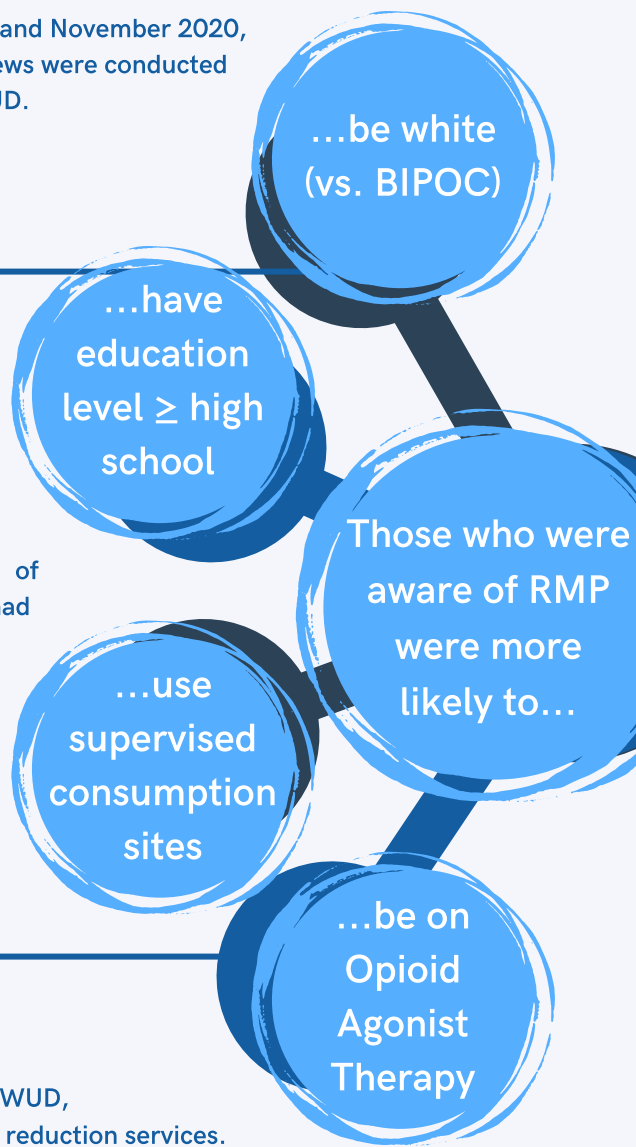
## WHAT DID WE FIND?



Only **48%** of respondents had heard of RMP.



Of those respondents, **66%** had never tried to access RMP.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

There is an urgent need to increase the awareness of RMP among PWUD, particularly those who are not connected with key health and harm reduction services.

As the safer supply initiatives have continued to evolve since, further efforts are needed to improve perceived accessibility and knowledge of eligibility criteria.

\*Moshkforoush, M., DeBeck, K., Brar, R., Fairbairn, N., Cui, Z., Milloy, M. J., Buxton, J., Oldenburger, T., McLellan, W., Kendall, P., Sedgemore, K., Wilson, D., Kerr, T., & Hayashi, K. (2022). Low awareness of risk mitigation prescribing in response to dual crises of COVID-19 and overdose deaths among people who use unregulated drugs in Vancouver, Canada. *Harm reduction journal*, 19(1), 50. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12954-022-00632-6>

