

CHARACTERIZING THE INCREASING CRYSTAL METHAMPHETAMINE USE IN VANCOUVER, CANADA, 2006-2017: A GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS

What was our study about?

The study examined potential impacts of gender on the trends, risk factors and health implications of crystal methamphetamine use among people who inject drugs (PWID) with high rates of polysubstance use.

What did we do?

Between 2006 and 2017, we interviewed 1,984 PWID, including 694 women, in Vancouver, Canada.

What we found?

Proportions of PWID reporting crystal methamphetamine use within the past 6 months rose from **19%** in 2006 to **36%** in 2017, with no significant differences between genders.

Those who used crystal methamphetamine were more likely to report a range of drug-related harms, including non-fatal overdose, in both genders, while increased reports of sexual violence were observed among women only.

What's next?

There is an urgent need for gender-inclusive health services planning and research for PWID who use crystal methamphetamine.

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A significant rise in crystal methamphetamine use is linked to increased overdoses among both men and women who inject drugs in Vancouver.

Bach, P., Hayashi, K., Milloy, M. J., Nosova, E., Kerr, T., Wood, E., & Fairbairn, N. (2020). Characterising the increasing prevalence of crystal methamphetamine use in Vancouver, Canada, from 2006-2017: A gender-based analysis. *Drug and alcohol review*, 39(7), 932-940. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32666650/>

