

**Understanding substance use patterns, preferences and needs:
Informing safe supply and safer use services
Project Update**

Project progress

**SEPTEMBER
2021**

Funding received, formation of research team and advisory groups

Received funding from Ministry of Health until March 31, 2022

Project design and meeting with internal research team

- Discussed project goals/research questions
- Discussed study design
- Discussed roles in the project going forward
- Discussed forming a peer advisory group and having representatives from this group join larger advisory

**OCTOBER
2021**

Developed study materials, submitted ethics proposal, input from advisory groups

Introductory peer advisory meetings

- Discussed purpose of study
- Discussed background and scope of study
- Discussed representativeness of peer advisory group and identified missing voices

Introductory larger advisory meeting with researchers, subject experts

- Discussed any concerns about study design and data collection
- Discussed synergies with other projects

Input from peer advisory and other interested advisory members on study questions

- Went over interview and focus group guides and received input on study questions

**NOVEMBER
2021**

Ethics approval, training of peer research assistants, data collection started

Ethics approval received November 1, 2021

- Delays due to COVID-19 research protocols and constraints

Input from peer advisory and other interested advisory members on study questions (continued)

- Went over interview and focus group guides and received input on study questions

Trained peer advisory members interested in being involved as peer research assistants to conduct interviews

- Supported peer research assistants to get Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2) certification
- Held multiple training and practice sessions about how to facilitate interviews/focus groups
- Interview materials sent to peer research assistants

Data collection began

- Question guide piloted

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 interviews conducted
DECEMBER 2021	<p>Finished training peer research assistant, data collection in progress</p> <p>Trained peer advisory members interested in being involved as peer research assistants to conduct interviews (continued)</p> <p>Data collection ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 interviews conducted • Conducted 1 focus group at VANDU
JANUARY 2022	<p>Data collection in progress, research team members met to discuss progress, analysis of relevant Harm Reduction Client Survey questions started</p> <p>Data collection ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 interviews conducted • Conducted 1 focus group at CSUN • Conducted additional focus group in Vancouver • Research team members met to discuss preliminary data and review question guides and recruitment strategy accordingly <p>Planned and began quantitative analysis of Harm Reduction Client Survey questions relevant to the project</p>
FEBRUARY 2022	<p>Data collection in progress</p> <p>Data collection ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 interviews conducted • 3 focus groups conducted (1 at ANKORS Cranbrook, 1 at ANKORS Nelson, 1 at NANDU Nanaimo)
MARCH 2022	<p>Quantitative data analysis in progress, qualitative data analysis started</p> <p>Quantitative data analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis started to examine Harm Reduction Client Survey participants' substance and mode of use preferences for safe supply <p>Qualitative data analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis team developed, revised and tested coding framework • Input from peer advisory on coding framework received and incorporated • Coding of all interviews and focus groups started
APRIL 2022	<p>Knowledge translation underway for quantitative component, qualitative data analysis in progress</p> <p>Quantitative data knowledge translation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research article underway <p>Qualitative data analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coding of all interviews and focus groups in progress

MAY 2022 | **Knowledge translation underway for quantitative component, qualitative data analysis in progress and preliminary findings shared**

Quantitative data knowledge translation

- Research article underway

Qualitative data analysis

- Coding of all interviews and focus groups wrapped up
- Thematic analysis conducted

Qualitative data knowledge translation

- Presentation of qualitative data, in collaboration with Professionals for the Ethical Engagement of Peers, as part of a panel on benzodiazepine dependency at the BC Centre for Substance Use 2022 Conference

JUNE 2022 | **Knowledge translation underway for quantitative and qualitative components**

Quantitative data knowledge translation

- Research article underway

Qualitative data analysis

- Analysis completed
- Feedback on thematic categories received and incorporated from larger analysis team and peer advisory

Qualitative data knowledge translation

- Presentation of quantitative and qualitative data around opioid preference for safe supply at Canadian Public Health Association 2022 Conference
- Plain language summary underway
- Research article underway