

UNDERSTANDING POLICE ENCOUNTERS

AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS IN TORONTO

This study aimed to explore experiences of police contact & violence among people who use drugs in Toronto.

We used survey data collected between 2019 to 2023 from 418 survey participants in our cohort study.



WHAT DID WE SEE...

- **Over half** of the participants reported some form of police contact in the last 6 months.
- Of these participants, one third experienced **violent encounters**.
- Harmful police practices were **not experienced equally** across groups.

Participants who were more likely to experience police violence were **Indigenous**, belonged to a **sexual minority group**, and engaged in **drug or alcohol treatment**.

These unequal experiences of police violence highlight **systemic racism & discrimination** within law enforcement practices.

[Understanding Police Encounters among People Who Use Drugs in Toronto](#)

This work could not have been done without our partners at Toronto Indigenous Harm Reduction.