DEATH AMONG YOUNG

I N D I G E N O U S PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

Question

What are the predictors and rates of mortality among young Indigenous people who use drugs in BC?



Background

Indigenous leaders are concerned that their young people

ARE DYING PREMATURELY.

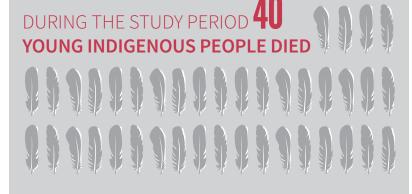
Of greatest concern are those:

- in the **CHILD WELFARE** system
- entrenched in **SUBSTANCE USE**
- living with HIV or HEPATITIS C

Study

- Governed by the Cedar Project Partnership, an independent body of Indigenous Elders, leaders and experts.
- Data collected every 6 months from 2003 to 2014 in Vancouver and Prince George, BC.

Results



YOUNG INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WHO USED DRUGS:

MORE LIKELY
TO DIE
than all
Canadians

MORE LIKELY
TO DIE
than other
Indigenous
people

Young Indigenous women

MOST **AFFECTED**:



Those using drugs by injection

LEADING CAUSES

OF DEATH:

2 Illness3 Suicide

Overdose

- 1. The high rate of death among young Indigenous people who use drugs reflects complex intersections of history
 - Indigenous people who use drugs reflects complex intersections of historic and present-day injustices, substance use

and barriers to care.

2. The period immediately after a nonfatal overdose may be a critical time for intervention.

3. There is a pressing need for traumainformed and culturally safe care.

