

DEATH AMONG YOUNG INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

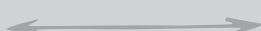
Question

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

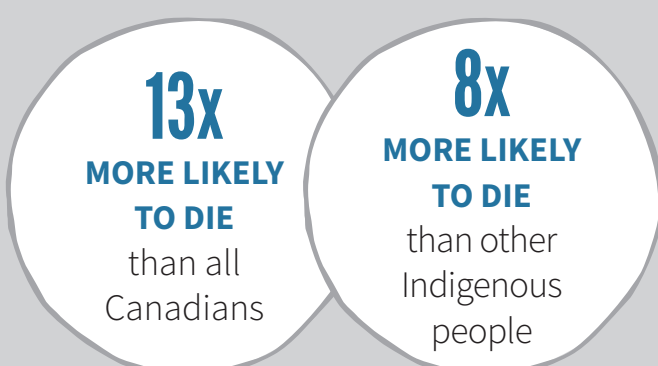
- Governed by the Cedar Project Partnership, an independent body of Indigenous Elders, leaders and experts.
- Data collected every 6 months from 2003 to 2014 in Vancouver and Prince George, BC.

Results

DURING THE STUDY PERIOD **40** **YOUNG INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DIED**



YOUNG INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WHO USED DRUGS:



MOST AFFECTED:



Young Indigenous women



Those using drugs by injection

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH:



- 1 > Overdose
- 2 > Illness
- 3 > Suicide

Interpretation

1. The high rate of death among young 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 trauma-informed and culturally safe care.