



Findings from Kamloops

GetCheckedOnline (GCO) is a common place where people in Kamloops get tested for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). 40% of people we surveyed knew about GCO.



GCO is one of the most common places to test

- 16% of people had never had an STI test (vs. 15-29% in other regions surveyed).
- Among people who had an STI test, most common places to get tested were:
 - A doctor or nurse practitioner's office (35%),
 - An STI or sexual health clinic (15%),
 - A walk-in clinic (14%), and,
 - GCO (10%).

Almost half of people were aware of GCO

- 43% of people knew about GCO (vs. 42% in Nelson and Victoria, respectively; GCO was implemented in these three communities in the same year)
- Among those aware of GCO:
 - 57% had used it,
 - 67% had recommended it to others.
- Most people heard of GCO through social media, word of mouth (from someone at a community organization, a healthcare provider or a friend) and ads on a website or phone app,
- Among those who did not know about GCO, 54% were very likely or likely to use it in the future.

Almost everyone saw a benefit of using GCO

- 97% people saw at least one benefit of using GCO. The most common benefits were:
 - Testing without waiting for an appointment,
 - Getting test results online,
 - Time saving,
 - Easier to go to a lab than a clinic, and,
 - It's more private.
- Most commonly reported barriers to provider-based STI testing in Kamloops were barriers GCO can help overcome, which included:
 - Too long waiting times,
 - The need to book an appointment,
 - Not knowing where to access testing,
 - Inconvenient clinic hours, and,
 - Concerns about privacy.

STI testing services in Kamloops

Kamloops has several specialized, low-barrier services for STI testing, e.g., Street Nurse Outreach, Kamloops Youth Clinic, and GCO. Currently, there are two GCO-participating LifeLabs locations in Kamloops, which see over 120 STI testing events each month.

GetCheckedOnline

GetCheckedOnline (GCO) is an online STI testing service available in select BC communities. GCO allows people to get tested for STIs without seeing a health care provider. To get tested, people create an account on the GCO website, generate a lab requisition form without seeing a healthcare provider, and bring a printed or electronic copy to a participating lab location to provide their specimens.

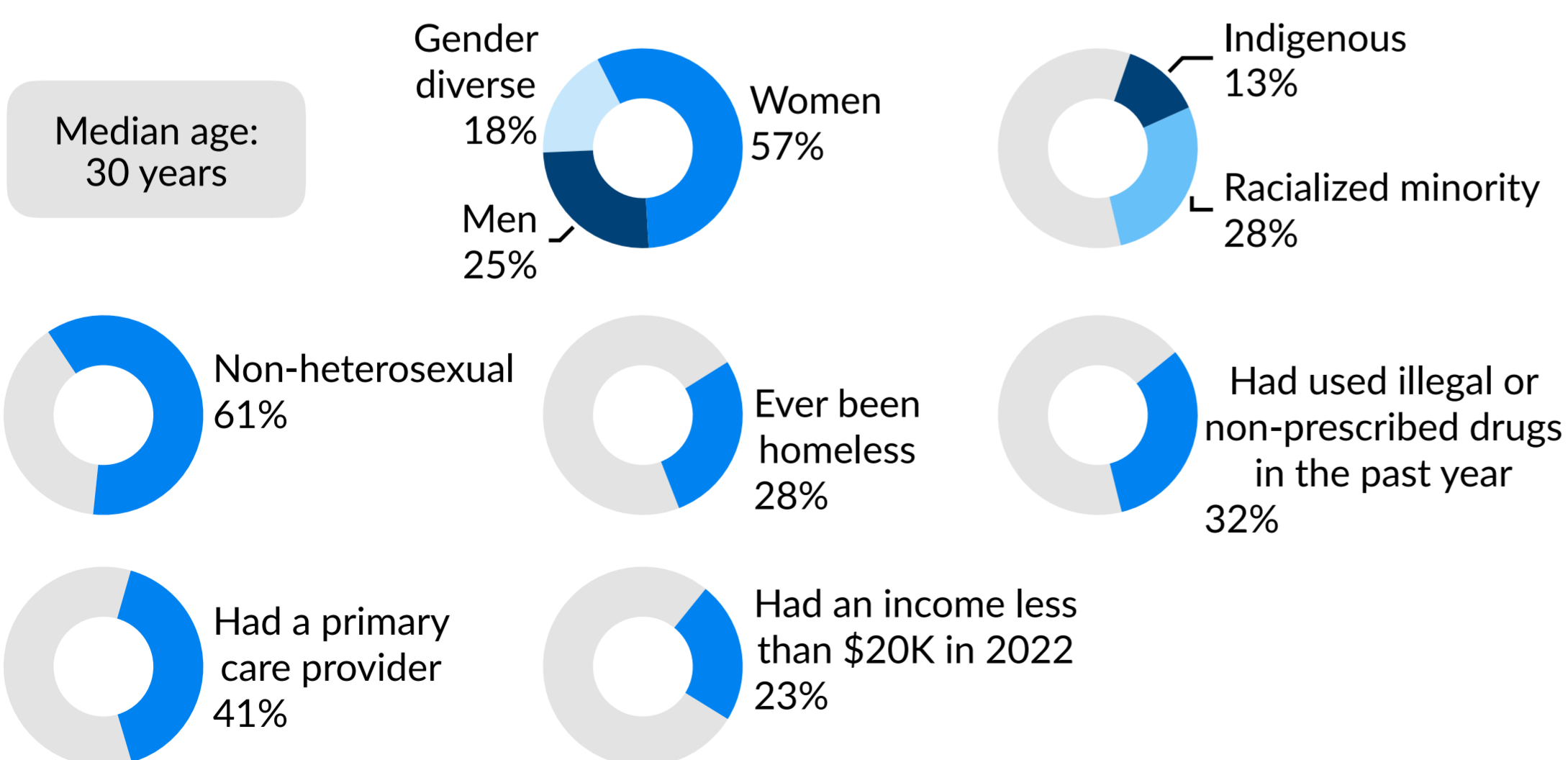
Experiences with testing

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and Health Authority partners conducted the Community STI Testing Survey in June-September 2022 to understand local communities' experience with STI testing services including GCO. The survey was open to anyone who fit the inclusion criteria and our in-person recruitment focused on groups facing more barriers to STI testing. We recruited a total of 1658 participants in-person and online in 5 communities across BC where GCO is available (Victoria, Maple Ridge, Kamloops, Kimberley, and Nelson).

335 people surveyed in Kamloops

In Kamloops we recruited 233 survey participants through a survey booth at local events and venues (Pride events, markets, colleges), community champions sharing the survey link, and social media posts.

About the survey participants in Kamloops (total: 335)



Only people aged 16 years or older were eligible for the survey.

Census 2021 data for Kamloops:

- Median age was 42.8 years,
- 11% identified as Indigenous,
- 10% identified as a visible minority,
- 51% were women+, and 49% were men+,
- 8% had an income ≤ \$20K in 2020.

