



Findings from Kimberley



About 30% of people were aware of GetCheckedOnline (GCO), and among those aware, over 50% were using it. Promoting GCO can help improve access to sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing in Kimberley.

Many people experienced barriers to provider-based testing.

- 19% of people had never had an STI test (vs. 15-19% in other regions surveyed).
- Of those who had an STI test:
 - 43% usually tested at a doctor or nurse practitioner's office,
 - 16% did not have a usual place for testing,
 - 4% usually tested through a walk-in clinic, and,
 - 5% usually tested through a hospital emergency room.
- 65% experienced barriers to provider-based STI testing.

The most common barriers were:

- Too long waiting times,
- The need to book an appointment,
- Concerns about privacy,
- Inconvenient clinic hours, and,
- Not knowing where to access testing.

Among the three Interior Health communities surveyed, awareness of GCO in Kimberley was lowest

- 34% of people surveyed in Kimberley knew about GCO (vs. 42-43% in Nelson and Kamloops).
- Among those aware of GCO:
 - 48% had used it, and,
 - 61% had recommended it to others.
- Most people heard of GCO through social media and word of mouth (e.g., from someone at a community organization, a healthcare provider or a friend)
- Among those who did not know about GCO, 44% were very likely or likely to use it in the future.

GCO can help to overcome barriers to provider-based testing

- 92% of people surveyed in Maple Ridge saw at least one benefit of using GCO over provider-based testing. The most common benefits were:
 - Testing without waiting for an appointment
 - Getting test results online
 - Saving time
 - It's more private
 - Easier to go to a lab than a clinic
- 75% saw at least one drawback of using GCO over provider-based testing. The most common drawbacks were:
 - Not being able to speak to a doctor or nurse
 - Worrying about the privacy of online information
 - Not knowing how it works

STI testing services in Kimberley

Other than GCO, the closest specialized, low-barrier STI testing services are in Cranbrook (e.g., Mobile - Cranbrook Health Outreach, Options for Sexual Health Clinic). Currently, there is one GCO-participating LifeLabs location in Kimberley, which has seen over 110 STI testing events in the past year.

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.

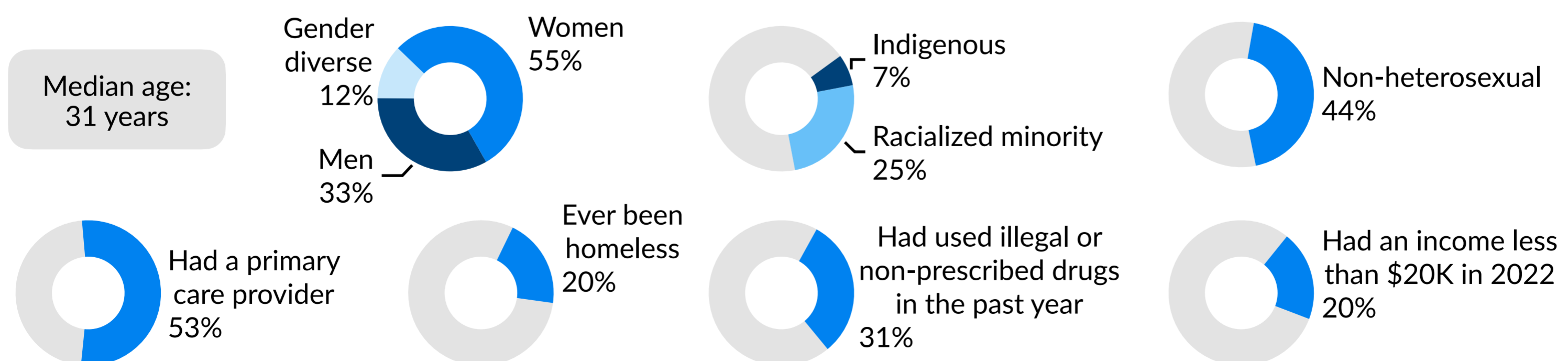
Experiences with testing

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).

224 people surveyed in Kimberley

In Kimberley we recruited 224 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 Maple Ridge (total: 224)



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

Census 2021 data for Kimberley:

- Median age was 45.2 years,
- 6% identified as Indigenous,
- 3% identified as a visible minority,
- 51% were women+, and 49% were men+,
- 7% had an income ≤ \$20K in 2020.

