



Findings from Maple Ridge



Only 17% of people were aware of GetCheckedOnline (GCO), but among those aware, over 50% were using it. Promoting GCO can help improve access to sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing in Maple Ridge.

Many people experienced barriers to provider-based testing.

- 29% of people had never had an STI test (vs. 15-19% in other regions surveyed).
- Of those who had an STI test:
 - 44% usually tested at a doctor or nurse practitioner's office,
 - 10% did not have a usual place for testing,
 - 16% usually tested through a walk-in clinic, and,
 - 3% usually tested through a hospital emergency room.
- 60% experienced barriers to provider-based STI testing.

The most common barriers were:

- The need to book an appointment,
- Too long waiting times, and,
- Not knowing where to access testing

Awareness of GCO was low but over 50% those aware were using it

- 17% of people surveyed in Maple Ridge knew about GCO (vs. 34-43% in other regions)
- Among those aware of GCO
 - 48% had used it
 - 58% had recommended it to others
- Most people heard of GCO through social media, traditional news media (TV or newspaper) and word of mouth (e.g., from friends or a health care provider, or someone at a community organization)
- Among those who did not know about GCO, 48% 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 Kimberley saw at least one benefit of using GCO over provider-based testing. The most common benefits were:
 - Getting test results online,
 - Testing without waiting for an appointment,
 - It's more private,
 - Saving time, and,
 - Easier to go to a lab than a clinic.
- 74% 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, and,
 - Finding it hard to get to a lab.

STI testing services in Maple Ridge

Maple Ridge has several specialized, low-barrier services for STI testing, including Options for Sexual Health Clinic, Foundry Ridge Meadows Youth Clinic, and GCO. Currently, there is one GCO-participating LifeLabs location in Maple Ridge, which sees over 80 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.

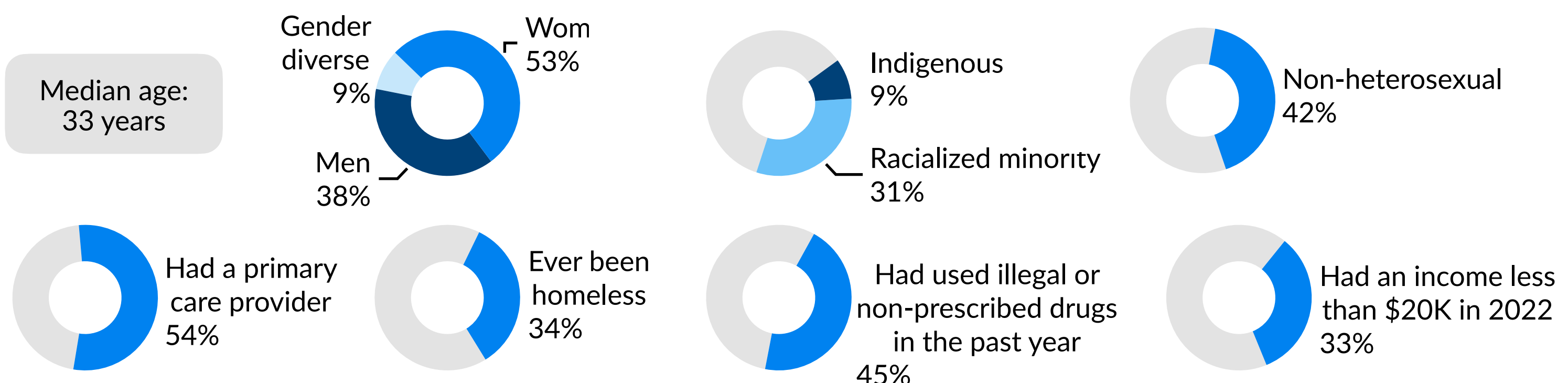
Experiences with testing

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).

364 people surveyed in Maple Ridge

In Maple Ridge we recruited 364 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: 364)



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

Census 2021 data for Maple Ridge:

- Median age was 41.2 years,
- 5% identified as Indigenous,
- 22% identified as a visible minority,
- 51% were women+, and 49% were men+,
- 9% had an income ≤ \$20K in 2020.