



Findings from Victoria

GetCheckedOnline (GCO) is a common place where people in Victoria 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

- 15% had never had an STI test (vs. 16-29% in other regions surveyed).
- Among those who had an STI test, most common places to get tested were:
 - An STI or sexual health clinic (31%),
 - A doctor or nurse practitioner's office (24%),
 - GCO (13%), and,
 - A walk-in clinic (11%).

Almost half of people were aware of GCO

- 42% of people knew about GCO (vs. 43% and 42% in Kamloops and Nelson, respectively; GCO was implemented in all three communities in 2016)
- Among those aware of GCO:
 - 62% had used it, and,
 - 66% had recommended it to others.
- Most people heard of GCO through social media, word of mouth (e.g., from someone at a community organization, a healthcare provider or a friend) and ads on a bus or bus shelter,
- Among those who did not know about GCO, 56% were very likely or likely to use it in the future.

Almost everyone saw a benefit of using GCO

- 95% saw at least one benefit of using GCO. The most common benefits were:
 - Testing without waiting for an appointment,
 - Getting test results online,
 - Saving time, and
 - Finding it easier to go to a lab than a clinic.
- Most commonly reported barriers to provider-based STI testing in Victoria were barriers GCO can help overcome, which included:
 - Too long waiting times (30% of those experiencing barriers),
 - The need to book an appointment (24%),
 - Inconvenient clinic hours (20%),
 - Not knowing where to access testing (17%).

STI testing services in Victoria

Victoria has several specialized, low-barrier services for STI testing (e.g., Victoria Health Unit – STI Clinic, Victoria Street Nurse Program, and GCO). Currently, there are four GCO-participating LifeLabs locations in Greater Victoria, which see over 400 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.

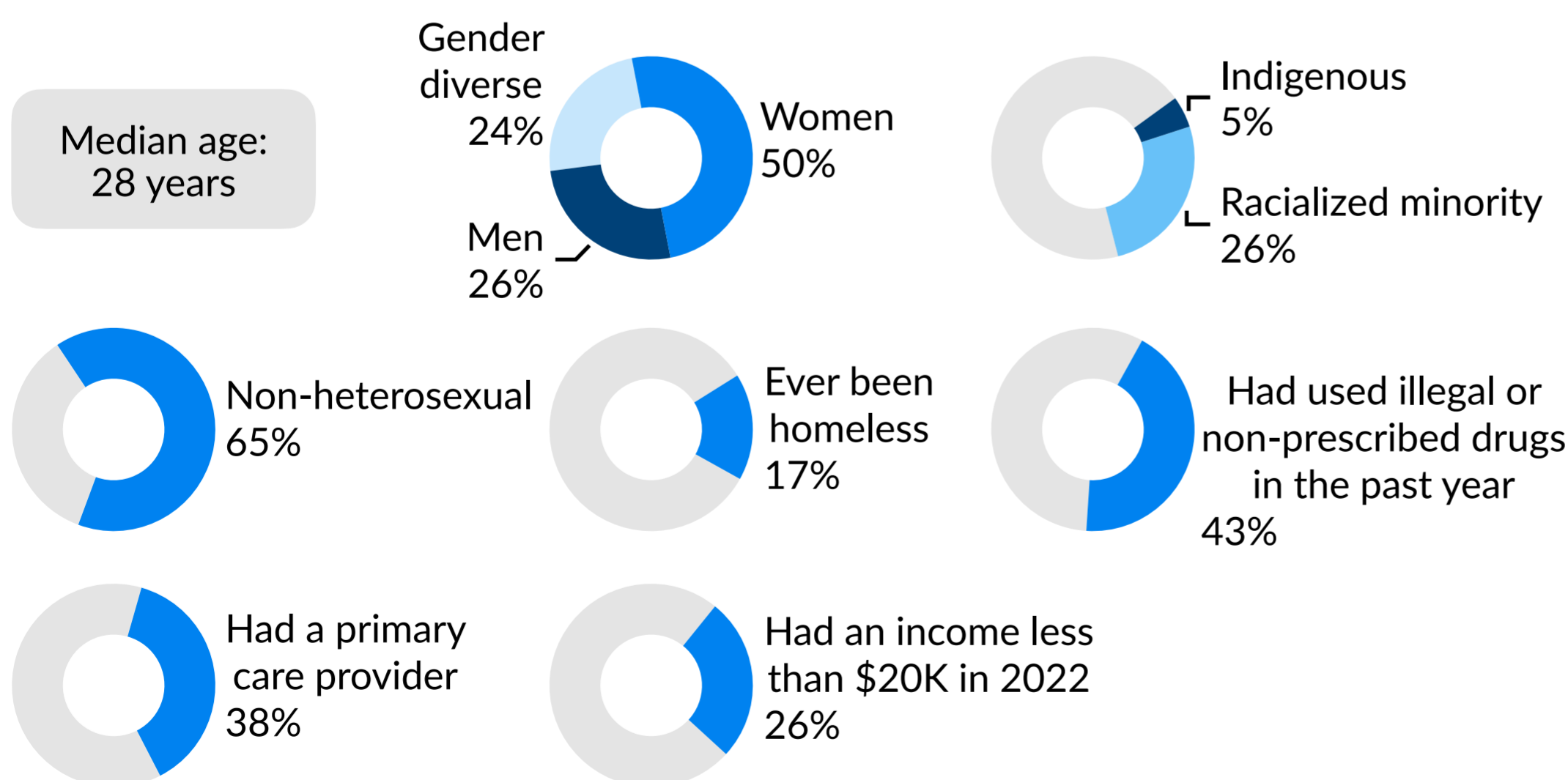
Experiences with testing

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).

629 people surveyed in Victoria

In Victoria we recruited 629 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 Victoria (total: 629)



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

Census 2021 data for Victoria Metropolitan area:

- Median age was 44.8 years,
- 5% identified as Indigenous, and 16% identified as a visible minority,
- 52% were women+, and 48% were men+,
- 10% had an income ≤ \$20K in 2020.