Introduction

- Fentanyl use has been considered a driving force in the current opioid overdose crisis.
- Approximately 79% (849 out of 1068) of illicit drug toxicity deaths in BC in 2020 have fentanyl detected (British Columbia, Fentanyl-Detected Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths, Coroners Report, 2020).
- Individuals with concurrent disorders are vulnerable to overdose (concurrent disorders = mental disorders + substance use disorders).

Research Objective: Understand the attitudes towards fentanyl use among Burnaby Center for Mental Health and Addiction (BCMHA) client population.

Methods

- Cross-sectional survey at BCMHA.
- Split demographic into three subgroups: opioid with fentanyl use, opioid without fentanyl use, and non-opioid users.
- Sample size: N = 211.

Tools:
- Maudsley Addiction Profile (MAP) modified to include intentional fentanyl use.
- Medical history and diagnoses from chart review.
- Overdose questionnaire.
- Service Utilization.
- Demographic information.

Results

- Population of Burnaby Centre for Mental Health and Addiction (N = 211).
- Significant demographic difference between fentanyl users (with or without fentanyl).
- We see a higher frequency of substance use and higher proportion of overdose among fentanyl users.

Fentanyl Use Questionnaire

- I prefer the feeling of using fentanyl.
- I buy and use pure fentanyl.

Limitations

- Our results supported the idea that people seek out fentanyl purposefully.
- Their decision is also impacted by the price of drugs.
- There's no difference in attitudes toward safety of fentanyl amongst the three; therefore fentanyl users are not more likely to believe that it's safer or worry less about its use.
- Exposure to fentanyl was previously assumed to unintentional; this is not the case, our data supports differential liking towards fentanyl.
- Lack of difference in safety perception; while it's still important for users to understand risks, education around safety is likely to have limited impact on fentanyl use.

Conclusion

- Exposure to fentanyl was previously assumed to unintentional; this is not the case, our data supports differential liking towards fentanyl.
- Lack of difference in safety perception; while it's still important for users to understand risks, education around safety is likely to have limited impact on fentanyl use.