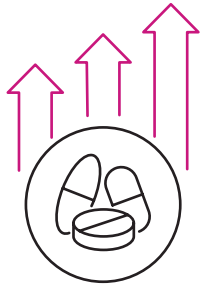


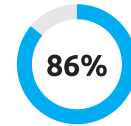
Summary of results

2023 KFL&A community consultation on decriminalization

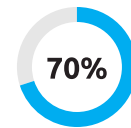


There has been an alarming increase in opioid-related deaths in KFL&A since 2015.

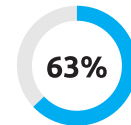
The KFL&A Community Drug Strategy Advisory Committee is looking at ways to reduce the harms caused by substance use in our community. Recognizing the harmful impacts of criminalizing drug use, the Committee began exploring alternatives to this approach. In 2023, the Committee conducted a community consultation to hear the community's opinions on the idea of decriminalizing drug possession for personal use.



86% concerned about the drug poisoning crisis



70% agreed drug possession laws should change to support people who use substances



63% supported decriminalization



1,775 online survey responses



100 focus group participants with lived and living experience in substance use

There is a cautiously optimistic attitude towards decriminalization, recognizing both its benefits and concerns.



Benefits: reduced stigma, safer drug use, better access to treatment



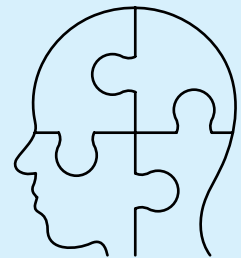
Concerns: community safety, increased drug use, worsening the drug poisoning crisis

The path forward includes:

a comprehensive public health strategy

expert guidance

involvement of people who use substances



Regardless of stance on decriminalization, there is a universal agreement on the need for improved mental health and addiction services.

Next steps:



in-depth discussions with key sectors



assessing health and social service capacity



learning from other regions with decriminalization policies

Read the full report at kfladrugstrategy.ca/decrim-consult

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