

Substance Use and Addictions Prevention (SUAP) Survey Executive Summary

People with lived or living experience
January to December 2021



Total Responses = 149

Self Reported Demographics/Respondent Breakdown



Gender: Female (54%) & Male (43%)

Race/Ethnicity: Caucasian (white) (92%)

Income Source: Social Assistance (54%), Employment (26%), or Other Social Benefits (11%)

Top Three Reported Substances Used



- 1) Cocaine
- 2) Alcohol
- 3) Methamphetamines

Top Three Reported Methods Used:

- 1) Smoking/Vaping
- 2) Orally
- 3) Injection

Most Frequently Reported Services Accessed in Leeds, Grenville & Lanark



Services listed in decreasing order of response frequency

- Withdrawal Management Services
- Hospitals
- Mental Health Services
- Addiction Services
- Social Services

Can you tell us how those experiences went?



Many reported positive experiences accessing services and expressed gratitude

Some reported negative experiences, with hospital systems interactions most frequently cited.

Some had positive experiences but unsatisfying outcomes (i.e. going on long wait-list)

Did you encounter any barriers or problems when trying to access those services?



Most reported no barriers to accessing services

Those that experienced barriers reported:

- Challenges with hospital service and/or interactions
- Hours of operation too limited
- Wait times
- Familiarity with Police Services

Would you try to access these services again?



The response was overwhelmingly yes

In particular, many expressed willingness to access withdrawal management services

What was it that made it a positive experience?



- A non-judgemental approach
- Making an effort to make them comfortable
- The provision of supplies and medical help when needed
- Having a connection/rapport
- Friendliness
- Understanding
- Empathy

If there's anything you could change surrounding the experiences you've had accessing addictions and mental health services in LGL what would it be?



- More services in general - no specifics provided
- More mental health supports and/or access to consistent service providers
- Quicker mental health access
- More addictions related services
- Housing and income supports
- Less judgemental hospital services
- Increase use of a harm reduction approach and less judgement and/or bias
- Extended hours of operation

Recommendations: The survey results will be reviewed and taken into consideration for planning Phase 2 of the SUAP grant project that will be exploring the experiences of both front-line workers and the organizations providing services.

Respectfully submitted by, Julie Bolton, RN, BNSc., Foundational Standard Coordinator

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