

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SUBSTANCE USE?

Here are some education and training resources if you or someone you know needs help.

The BC Centre on Substance Use

The [BC Centre on Substance Use \(BCCSU\)](#) is a provincially-networked organization that seeks to improve the integration of best practices across the continuum of substance use care in BC through its three core functions: research and evaluation, education and training, and clinical care guidance. The BCCSU creates evidence-based guidelines, practice support tools, and a suite of education and training resources for health care providers and other individuals who provide care and support to people who use substances.



Education and Training Resources from the BCCSU

Addiction Practice Pod

- Consider the [Addiction Practice Pod](#) if you are interested in a practical, easily accessible podcast that focuses on substance use care for health care providers in BC.
- **Description:** A podcast that offers practical tips and guidance to health care providers who are seeking to improve their skills in addiction care.
- **Intended Audience:** Available to anyone. Primarily intended for clinicians aiming to improve their care for those with substance use challenges



Addiction Care and Treatment Online Certificate (ACTOC)

- Consider [ACTOC](#) if you are interested in learning about providing care—including screening, treatment selection, and care planning—to patients with various substance use disorders.
- **Description:** A free, interactive, online certificate course—consisting of 21 modules—that covers various substance use disorders, including alcohol, tobacco, stimulants, cannabis, and opioids.
- **Intended audience:** Targeted towards all health care professionals involved in the care of individuals with substance use disorders. Anyone can register.
- **Note:** The Substance Use and Addiction Nursing Certificate (SUANC) is embedded within ACTOC and consists of 8 modules. This certificate is streamlined and intended for nurses.

Provincial Opioid Agonist Treatment Support Program (POATSP)

- Consider [POATSP](#) if you are interested in targeted learning about opioid agonist treatment.
- **Description:** A comprehensive, free, online training program that provides in-depth education on prescribing a variety of oral and injectable medications for opioid use disorder; required for those interested in prescribing opioid agonist treatment.
- **Intended audience:** While the course content is geared towards prescribers, anyone can register, and all health care providers may benefit from the online education modules.

The BC ECHO on Substance Use

- Consider [ECHO](#) if you are interested in joining a community of practice to build your capacity to care for people who use substances.
- **Description:** Through virtual sessions, podcasts, and newsletters, primary care providers and interdisciplinary addiction experts are brought together in a virtual network. Sessions include a presentation by addiction medicine experts, followed by a case presentation and discussion.
- **Intended audience:** Primary care providers, allied health care providers, and other direct care workers.

Interdisciplinary Addiction Medicine Clinical and Research Fellowships

- **Consider a [fellowship](#)** if you are interested in advanced study in substance use care following completion of your education.
- **Description:** This program provides specialty training in inpatient and outpatient management of substance use disorders and related harms, and is currently designed for physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, social workers, and clinician-scientists. The program prepares fellows to work as experts in the field of addiction medicine and substance use care and take leadership roles in clinical, academic, and/or research settings.
- **Intended audience:** Physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, social workers, and clinician-scientists interested in developing their skills and expertise in the field of addiction.

Need help for substance use, substance use care, or to support a client who uses substances? Consider these resources:

With the exception of the 24/7 Addiction Medicine Clinician Support Line, the support lines listed below are not operated by the BCCSU.



Resources For Clinicians

24/7 Addiction Medicine Clinician Support Line

- **Description:** This [real-time phone consultation service](#) (778-945-7619) connects health care providers to an addiction medicine specialist.
- **Available to:** Physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, and midwives in BC, as well as substance use support staff calling from Indigenous communities with BC.
- **Hours of Operation:** 24/7 service.

Rapid Access to Consultative Expertise (RACE)app+

- **Description:** The RACEapp+ ([download link](#)) allows primary care providers and specialists to rapidly connect with and receive treatment advice from a specialist.
- **Available to:** Physicians, nurse practitioners, medical residents, and midwives.
- **Hours of Operation:** Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays), 8.00am–5.00pm.

Rapid Access Addiction Clinic (RAAC)

- **Description:** Provide low-barrier care to patients with concerns related to substance use. These clinics connect patients seeking treatment for substance use disorders with evidence-based treatments.
- **Intended for:** Primarily for healthcare providers who can provide referrals. They also accept self-referrals for the management of opioid, alcohol, benzodiazepine, nicotine, and stimulant use disorders.
- **Hours of Operation:** Vary based on location: [Vancouver](#), [Fraser Health Region](#), [Victoria](#).

Resources For People Interested in Support Related to Their Substance Use

2-1-1

- **Description:** [2-1-1](#) is a free provincial health information and referral phone line available in British Columbia. By calling 2-1-1, individuals can speak to a community resource navigator who can provide information about and referrals to community and government programs, such as the Alcohol and Drug Information and Referral line.
- **Available to:** All BC residents, intended for those in need of information related to substance use.
- **Hours of Operation:** 24/7 service.

Alcohol & Drug Information Referral Service (ADIRS)

- **Description:** The [ADIRS](#) is a phone line (1-800-663-1441 OR 604-660-9382) that provides confidential information and referrals for support and/or treatment to individuals with substance use issues.
- **Available to:** All residents of British Columbia in need of related support.
- **Hours of Operation:** 24/7 service.

Drug Checking Services

- **Description:** [Drug checking services](#) are offered by several of the health authorities. They provide free and anonymous services to inform individuals about whether their drugs are contaminated.
- **Available to:** Anyone who can travel to locations in Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, Fraser Health Authority, or Interior Health Authority.
- **Hours of Operation:** Varies.

Rapid Access Addiction Clinic (RAAC)

- **Description:** see above

Want to learn more about best practices in clinical guidance?

The BCCSU's clinical guidance materials are comprehensive reference documents that provide care professionals with practical recommendations and best practices for the management of substance use disorders.

Available clinical guidance:

- [Opioid use disorder](#)
- [Alcohol use disorder](#)
- [Stimulant use disorder](#)
- [COVID-19 and substance use risk mitigation](#)



Looking for extra reading and resources?

History of Drug Policy in Canada

- This [webpage](#) outlines the history of Canadian drug policy and highlights important decisions throughout history that have shaped the drug policy and substance use landscape today.

Socioeconomic Determinants of Health

- This [brief](#) provides an introduction to socioeconomic determinants of health that are relevant to substance use and mental illness.

Crackdown Podcast

- The [podcast](#) is run by people who use—or used to use—drugs. It covers various subjects about substance use (including drug policy), highlighting the experiences and expertise of people who use drugs.

Toward the Heart

- This [webpage](#) provides an extensive list of resources targeted towards overdose prevention and harm reduction, and includes reports, best practice guidelines, toolkits, pamphlets, etc.

In Plain Sight Report

- This report ([summary report](#) and [full report](#)) outlines the pervasiveness of anti-Indigenous racism within the health care system in BC. Recommendations for addressing racism within health care are provided.

Red Woman Rising

- This [report](#) emphasizes how the violence against Indigenous women and girls—including physical violence, poverty, lack of affordable housing, the child welfare system, etc.—perpetuates mental illness, substance use, and poverty. Recommendations for eliminating such violence are provided.



APPENDIX

BC Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU): <https://www.bccsu.ca/>

Addiction Practice Pod: <https://bcechoonsubstanceuse.ca/podcast/>

Addiction Care and Treatment Online Certificate (ACTOC): <https://www.bccsu.ca/about-the-addiction-care-and-treatment-online-certificate/>

Provincial Opioid Agonist Treatment Support Program (POATSP): <https://www.bccsu.ca/provincial-opioid-addiction-treatment-support-program/>

The BC ECHO on Substance Use: <https://bcechoonsubstanceuse.ca/>

Interdisciplinary Addiction Medicine Clinical and Research Fellowships: <https://www.bccsu.ca/addiction-medicine-clinical-research-fellowship-overview/>

24/7 Addiction Medicine Clinician Support Line: <https://www.bccsu.ca/24-7/>

Rapid Access to Consultative Expertise (RACE) app+: <http://www.raceconnect.ca/race-app/>

Rapid Access Addiction Clinic (RAAC):

1. Vancouver: <https://www.providencehealthcare.org/rapid-access-addiction-clinic-raac>
2. Fraser Health Region: <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/Service-Directory/Services/mental-health-and-substance-use/rapid-access-to-addiction-care-clinic#.Yy4iWezML0o>
3. Victoria: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/our-services/mental-health-substance-use-services/rapid-access-addiction-clinic>

211: <https://bc211.ca/>

Alcohol & Drug Information Referral Service (ADIRS): <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/mental-health-substance-use/resources/alcohol-drug-information-referral-service>

Drug Checking Services: <https://towardtheheart.com/update/drug-checking-services-available>

BCCSU Clinical Guidance

1. Opioid use disorder: <https://www.bccsu.ca/opioid-use-disorder/>
2. Alcohol use disorder: <https://www.bccsu.ca/alcohol-use-disorder/>
3. Stimulant use disorder: <https://www.bccsu.ca/stimulant-use-disorder/>
4. COVID-19 and substance use risk mitigation: <https://www.bccsu.ca/covid-19/>

History of Drug Policy in Canada: <https://drugpolicy.ca/about/history/>

Socioeconomic determinants of health – brief: <https://www.ccsa.ca/sites/default/files/2019-04/CCSA-Systems-Approach-Socioeconomic-Determinants-2014-en.pdf>

Crackdown podcast: <https://www.crackdownpod.com/episodes>

Toward the Heart Resource Page: <https://towardtheheart.com/a-z-resource-page>

In Plain Sight Report

1. Summary: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/613/2020/11/In-Plain-Sight-Summary-Report.pdf>
2. Full report: https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/613/2021/02/In-Plain-Sight-Data-Report_Dec2020.pdf1_.pdf

Red Woman Rising Report: <https://dewc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/MMIW-Report-Final-March-10-WEB.pdf>