

PROUD

OUT LOUD!

Volume 6: June 2014 Version 2 UPDATED July 31, 2014

The Law & Criminalization

PROUD OUT LOUD is a newsletter produced to communicate research findings from the PROUD Study, as well as relevant information for our community members and partner organizations. This current issue covers data related to the law and the criminalization of drug use. The data in this issue is based on 858 people who inject drugs and/or smoke crack recruited in Ottawa during 2013.

37%(320) of PROUD participants had spent at least one night in prison, jail or detention centre in the past year (not including the drunk tank)

31%(264) of PROUD participants report ever having been sentenced to Provincial prison (less than 2 years)

8%(69) of PROUD participants report ever having been sentenced to Federal prison (2 years or more)

Of the 320 participants who had spent at least one night in prison, jail or detention centre in the past year, 170 (53%) had used drugs in prison.

Of the 170 people who had consumed drugs in jail, prison or detention center in the past year, 42 (24%) had shared drug using equipment.

Improving access to harm reduction services and supports in detention settings needs to be an ongoing priority for health advocates.

Only half (49%) of all participants said they would be comfortable calling the cops if needed

#supportdontpunish

Out of 292 people who were living in a shelter at the time of their interview, 72% (211) had been stopped and/or searched by police without arrest in the past 12 months

61% (525) of 858 PROUD participants had been stopped and/or searched by the police without arrest in the previous 12 months

Among these 525:

44%(233) reported harassment

33%(174) reported paraphernalia smashed

28%(147) experienced physical abuse

18%(97) were redzoned while stopped without arrest

What does 'redzoned' mean?

'Redzoned' means being given an order by police, judges, security and/or other enforcement agents that bars you from being within a specific geographical area for an amount of time.

#SUPPORTDONTPUNISH

Support Don't Punish is an international campaign that is aimed at changing harmful policies that prevent people from accessing appropriate care and raising awareness of the harms being caused by the criminalization of drug users.

This year, over 80 cities around the world took part in the Global Day of Action, in order to protest harsh drug laws that result in abuse, stigmatization, and even death of people who use drugs. In Ottawa supporters will be postering around the city to promote discussion on the various ways we can fix our broken drug policy.

Out of 858 PROUD participants, 35% (301) had ever been **redzoned** by the police

Out of the 301 who had been redzoned:

43% (130) reported that being redzoned had kept them from accessing food support services

41% (123) reported that being redzoned had kept them from accessing a shelter or housing

35% (105) reported that being redzoned had kept them from accessing harm reduction services

34% (101) reported that being redzoned had kept them from accessing health care

Special thanks to our:

Community Advisory Committee Kelly F., Chris D., Rick S., Tyler P., Hana D., Alana M., Tarah H., Caleb C., Sean L., Christine L., June S., Gilles D., Fred C., Sharp D.

PROUD participants for supporting our project and sharing their stories

Community Partners: DUAL, OASIS, Ottawa Inner City Health, ACO, Shepherds of Good Hope. Thank you to Ottawa Public Health for their support with Point-of-Care HIV testing.

Funding received from: CIHR, OHTN, SRC, The Ottawa Hospital Department of Medicine and Infectious Diseases.

CONTACT US! 216 Murray St, Ottawa
Tel: 1-855-212-0869 www.theproudproject.com