

A man with a shaved head and a serious expression stands in a narrow, graffiti-covered alleyway. He is wearing a black t-shirt and black pants, with his hands clasped in front of him. The alley is flanked by brick buildings, one of which has a red door. A yellow street sign is visible on the left. The overall atmosphere is gritty and somber.

OVERCOMING

Guy Felicella



What society thinks drug use typically looks like



A more accurate picture of what drug use often looks like



Comparison to Other Common Causes of Unnatural Deaths from 2011 to 2021:

Figure 2: Major Causes of Unnatural Deaths in BC



DO YOU KNOW?

Addiction Doesn't Discriminate.

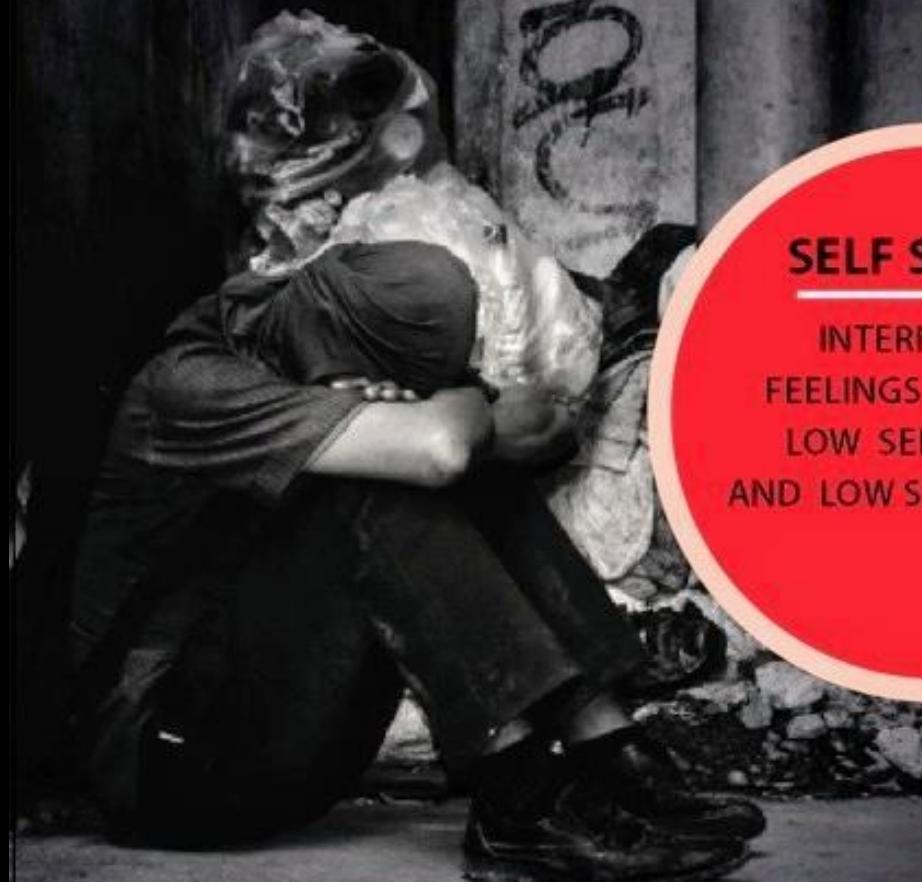
Construction workers have the highest rate of overdose of any group of employed people.

They represent 1/3 of deaths among all employed people in Ontario and 1/5 total deaths in British Columbia.



TYPES OF STIGMA

Stigma manifests in three primary forms



SELF STIGMA

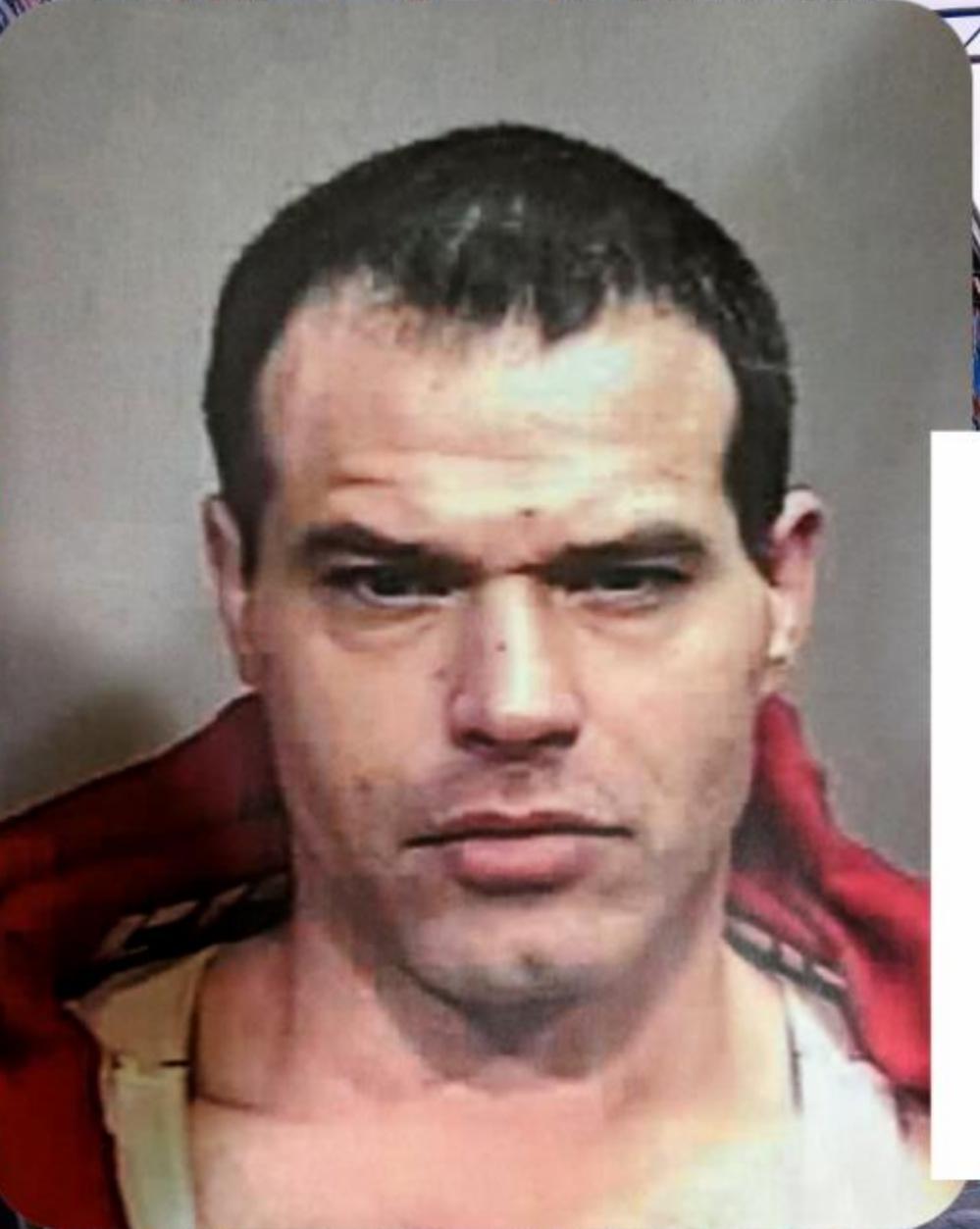
INTERNALIZED
FEELINGS OF SHAME,
LOW SELF ESTEEM
AND LOW SELF-EFFICACY

SOCIAL / PUBLIC STIGMA

STEREOTYPES,
PREJUDICES AND
DISCRIMINATION
ENDORSED BY
GENERAL POPULATION

STRUCTURAL STIGMA

PREJUDICE AND
DISCRIMINATION BY
POLICIES, LAWS
AND INSTITUTIONS



WHAT IF I
TOLD YOU
THAT THE
PAIN DIDN'T
START HERE



IT STARTED HERE.



I started using drugs at age 12.





I spent over
TWO DECADES
living in a two
block radius.

THE HUSTLE

I spent 24/7 in the relentless, never ending hustle of buying, selling and using drugs.



**"HOPELESS"
"GARBAGE"
"NOT CAPABLE
OF CHANGE."**



FEBRUARY 18, 2013
BOOTH FIVE





Understanding
the underlying
trauma, shame
and pain.

HARM REDUCTION AND RECOVERY

WORKING TOGETHER IN MY LIFE



I wouldn't be alive today without harm reduction, and I wouldn't have the life I have today without recovery.

If harm reduction
didn't exist, then I
wouldn't exist, and my
three beautiful
children wouldn't exist.



HUMAN CONNECTION
CHANGES DIRECTION.



WWW.GUYFELICELLA.COM

EVA HAHN AKA. GMA



The one who never gave up.

CHRISTMAS MORNING

THE HUG THAT CHANGED ME



FROM VPD'S
MOST
WANTED TO
VANCOUVER
MAGAZINE
POWER 50



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