



BC BDAR

BC Bad Date & Aggressor Reporting Project

PROGRESS REPORT

May 2024

BC BDAR PROJECT TIMELINE



WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

1 Internal Capacity Building

This includes hiring staff and starting Advisory Groups to help guide the project through to completion. We also began project planning, communications, and building and strengthening partnerships with sex workers and sex work support organizations across BC.

3 Research & Preliminary Analysis

Once consultations were complete, we organized and processed the feedback from 400 sex workers and 22 organizations who conduct bad date reporting. Because we had over 7500 lines of data, we selected a demographically representative sample of the data to create the preliminary research findings included in this Progress Report.

2 Consultations

We designed and conducted consultations with 400 sex workers across BC. The purpose of the BDAR Consultations was to learn from sex workers and those informally trading sex from across BC about experiences with various types of violence and bad date reporting, ideas for improving BDAR, and opinions on key issues relating to BDAR.

4 Sustainability and Advocacy

Funding for the duration of the project was secured, and we built relationships with funders and tech partners. We also educated organizations from other sectors such as Violence Prevention and government officials on the importance of a province-wide bad date reporting system.



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PRELIMINARY RESEARCH FINDINGS

Over 400 sex workers from across the province participated in our community consultations, which resulted in over 7500 lines of rich qualitative data. We also spoke with 22 organizations worldwide involved in bad date reporting. We're still working through all the data, but so far, common themes include;

A desire for impactful results from reporting

Many workers expressed frustration that reporting bad dates doesn't create more meaningful results in their lives. These workers highlighted a desire for bad date reporting to improve their working conditions and stop perpetrators from hurting others.

Negative experiences with police

Of the negative reporting experiences shared, the overwhelming majority of them were with police. Very few positive experiences with police were shared.

Over a quarter of participants were not comfortable sharing reports with police under any circumstances.

More private vs easier to access

Striking the right balance between a system that is private and a system that is accessible to those who need it was a major theme from both sex workers and organizations. Each organization approaches this issue differently.

Threshold of reportable incidents

Many workers expressed feelings that not all negative incidents are worth reporting. Generally, the threshold of what was considered reportable was higher the more marginalization the worker faces.

Informed decision making

Many organizations and participants warned against using the term "black list" or suggesting that they shouldn't see clients who've been reported. Instead, they emphasized that reporting is a tool to make informed decisions about the clients they see.

Hiring peers

Sex workers and organizations both strongly emphasized the importance of hiring sex workers and putting sex workers in places of leadership.



WHAT WE HEARD:

HOW TO IMPROVE BAD DATE REPORTING

400 Sex Workers in BC said they'd like to see the following:

- Better awareness of bad date reporting options among all sectors of sex work
- Increased privacy
- Easier access for all sex workers
- A unified platform for all workers to use
- Many different options of how to interact with the system (in person, a phone hotline, online etc).

NEXT STEPS

- **System design and development** - In the coming months, we will be working with community and tech partners to build our new system based on what we've heard from community consultations. We intend to design and build the system collaboratively, using feedback from community members throughout the design and development process. Stay tuned for ways to get involved!
- **Full research report** - Once system design and development is underway, we'll be coming back to our research to work through the remaining data and publish a thorough full-length report to share.
- **Planning for the future** - Before the launch of the system we will implement a plan to ensure this important system lives on with the resources required.