# Vancouver Island
# Drug Checking Project
## Preliminary Results for December 2020

## Number of samples tested from 1 - 31 December 2020: 151

⇒ **We asked people what drug they were bringing to be tested.**

| Expected substance | n |
|---|---|
| Opioid Down: Fentanyl and/or Heroin | 58 |
| Stimulant: Cocaine HCl or Base, Methamphetamine | 40 |
| Psychedelic | 16 |
| Dissociative | 12 |
| Benzodiazepine | 8 |
| Other Opioid (pharmaceutical opioid, carfentanil) | 3 |
| Other Stimulant (Amphetamine) | 1 |
| Unknown/Missing | 13 |

⇒ **We tested each sample to determine what components were present. This included checking if the expected active was found, and any other notable components that may result in unexpected effects.**

| (-,-) no expected active, no other notable component | (-,+) no expected active, other notable component |
|---|---|
| (+,-) expected active, no other notable component | (+,+) expected active, other notable component |

| Expected substance | | Notable components detected* | n |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Opioid Down** | | | **58** |
| | *(-,+)* | *No expected active, other notable component* | *1* |
| | | MDMA | 1 |
| | *(+,-)* | *Expected active, no other notable component* | *24* |
| | | Fentanyl or analogue | 23 |
| | | Heroin | 2 |

*Data are preliminary. There were missing data for some samples. Instruments may not be able to detect all ingredients and certainty of interpretations may vary. Multiple substances may be present in one sample and substances may be present in trace concentrations. Expected substances were grouped so there may not be precise agreement between expected and detected active. *Notable components: Includes all expected actives as well as unexpected components of note, such as those with the potential for unexpected effects or that impact the effectiveness of naloxone.*

| Expected substance | | Notable components detected* | n |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Opioid Down (cont.)* | **(+,+)** | ***Expected active, other notable component*** | **33** |
| | | Fentanyl or analogue | 32 |
| | | Etizolam[1] | 24 |
| | | Benzodiazepine (undifferentiated)[1] | 8 |
| | | Heroin | 4 |
| | | Carfentanil | 2 |
| | | Cocaine Base | 2 |
| | | Cocaine HCl | 2 |
| | | 6-Acetylmorphine | 1 |
| | | Methamphetamine | 1 |
| **Cocaine HCl or Base** | | | **29** |
| | **(+,-)** | ***Expected active, no other notable component*** | **28** |
| | | Cocaine HCl | 27 |
| | | Cocaine Base | 1 |
| | **(+,+)** | ***Expected active, other notable component*** | **1** |
| | | Cocaine Base | 1 |
| | | Fentanyl or analogue | 1 |
| **Methamphetamine** | | | **11** |
| | **(-.-)** | ***No expected active, no other notable component[2]*** | **1** |
| | **(+,-)** | ***Expected active, no other notable component*** | **8** |
| | | Methamphetamine | 8 |
| | **(+,+)** | ***Expected active, other notable component*** | **2** |
| | | Fentanyl or analogue | 2 |
| | | Methamphetamine | 2 |

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| Expected substance | | Notable components detected* | n |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Psychedelic** | | | **16** |
| | (-,-) | *No expected active, no other notable component[2]* | *1* |
| | (-,+) | *No expected active, other notable component* | *2* |
| | | MDMA[3] | 1 |
| | | MDA[4] | 1 |
| | | Ketamine | 1 |
| | (+,-) | *Expected active, no other notable component* | *13* |
| | | MDMA | 11 |
| | | MDA | 2 |
| | | LSD | 1 |
| **Dissociative** | | | **12** |
| | (-,+) | *No expected active, other notable component* | *1* |
| | | Methamphetamine | 1 |
| | (+,-) | *Expected active, no other notable component* | *11* |
| | | Ketamine | 11 |
| **Benzodiazepine** | | | **8** |
| | (+,-) | *Expected active, no other notable component* | *8* |
| | | Flualprazolam | 4 |
| | | Benzodiazepine (undifferentiated) | 2 |
| | | Alprazolam | 1 |
| | | Etizolam | 1 |
| **Other Opioid** | | | **3** |
| | (-,-) | *No expected active, no other notable component[2]* | *2* |
| | (-,+) | *No expected active, other notable component[5]* | *1* |
| | | Fentanyl or analogue | 1 |
| | | Heroin | 1 |

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| Expected substance | | Notable components detected* | n |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Other Stimulant** | | | **1** |
| | *(-,+)* | *No expected active, other notable component* | *1* |
| | | Methamphetamine | 1 |
| **Unknown/Missing[6]** | | | **13** |
| | | Fentanyl or analogue | 5 |
| | | Benzodiazepine (undifferentiated) | 1 |
| | | Cephalexin | 1 |
| | | Cocaine Base | 1 |
| | | Cocaine HCl | 1 |
| | | Dimenhydrinate | 1 |
| | | Doxycycline | 1 |
| | | Etizolam | 1 |
| | | Heroin | 1 |
| | | Phenacetin | 1 |

*Data are preliminary. There were missing data for some samples. Instruments may not be able to detect all ingredients and certainty of interpretations may vary. Multiple substances may be present in one sample and substances may be present in trace concentrations. [1]Expected substances were grouped so there may not be precise agreement between expected and detected active. *Notable components: Includes all expected actives as well as unexpected components of note, such as those with the potential for unexpected effects or that impact the effectiveness of naloxone. [6]All notable components detected for these categories reported together.*

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**\*Notable components:** Includes all expected actives as well as unexpected components of note, such as those with the potential for unexpected effects or that impact the effectiveness of naloxone.

The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project is based out of the University of Victoria and operates community-wide drug checking services within Victoria, BC. We are continuing to offer drug checking services in response to the dual public health emergencies, and exploring new ways to better reach those who may benefit from this service. We have now partnered with Vancouver Island University to improve detection and reporting. See our website for our blog and reports with additional analyses.

*Our project respectfully acknowledges that we work as visitors on the traditional territory of the Lkwungen (Songhees), Wyomilth (Esquimalt), and WSÁNEĆ (Saanich) peoples of the Coast Salish Nation. We also acknowledge the inextricable links between research, colonization and racism against Indigenous peoples, which continue to this day. Ending the violence faced by people who use substances and the overdose crisis cannot be achieved without facing the legacy through which we have come to be in this territory.*

## For more information please visit: substance.uvic.ca

## We gratefully acknowledge our partners and funders on this project

### Our Partners

Agilent Technologies

AVI Health and Community Services

BC Ministry of Health

BC Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

BC Support Vancouver Island Centre

Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research

Compute Canada

IBM Canada

Island Health Authority

Lantern Services

PerkinElmer Inc

ProSpect Scientific

SOLID Outreach

STS Pharmacy

University of Victoria

Vancouver Island University

Westgrid

### Our Funders

Health Canada Substance Use and Addictions Program

Vancouver Foundation

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Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

Canadian Institutes of Health Research