

# Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project

Preliminary Results for November 2020

## Number of samples tested from 1 - 30 November 2020: 99

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

Expected substance	n
Opioid Down: Fentanyl and/or Heroin	45
Stimulant: Cocaine HCl or Base, Methamphetamine	19
Psychedelic	8
Dissociative	4
Benzodiazepine	3
Other Depressant	1
Other Opioid (pharmaceutical opioid)	1
Other Stimulant (3-MMC HCl)	1
Other (THC distillate)	1
Unknown/Missing	16

⇒ 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		45
	(-,-) <b>No expected active, no other notable component<sup>1</sup></b>	1
	(+,-) <b>Expected active, no other notable component</b>	35
	Fentanyl or analogue	30
	Heroin	15

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. \*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. <sup>1</sup>May be due to limitations of technology to detect certain substances.

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Expected substance		Notable components detected*	n
<i>Opioid Down (cont.)</i>	(+,+)	<b><i>Expected active, other notable component</i></b>	<b>9</b>
		Fentanyl or analogue	9
		Etizolam	9
		Heroin	1
<b>Cocaine HCl or Base</b>			<b>11</b>
	(+,-)	<b><i>Expected active, no other notable component</i></b>	<b>9</b>
		Cocaine HCl	9
	(+,+)	<b><i>Expected active, other notable component</i></b>	<b>2</b>
		Cocaine HCl	2
		Phenacetin	2
		Gabapentin	1
<b>Methamphetamine</b>			<b>8</b>
	(-,+)	<b><i>No expected active, other notable component</i></b>	<b>2</b>
		Fentanyl or analogue	2
	(+,-)	<b><i>Expected active, no other notable component</i></b>	<b>6</b>
		Methamphetamine	6
<b>Psychedelic</b>			<b>8</b>
	(-,+)	<b><i>No expected active, other notable component</i></b>	<b>1</b>
		Cocaine HCl	1
		Ketamine	1
	(+,-)	<b><i>Expected active, no other notable component</i></b>	<b>7</b>
		MDMA	5
		MDA	3
		DMT	1

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Expected substance	Notable components detected*	n
<b>Dissociative</b>		<b>4</b>
	(+,-) <i>Expected active, no other notable component</i>	<b>4</b>
	Ketamine	4
<b>Benzodiazepine</b>		<b>3</b>
	(-,-) <i>No expected active, no other notable component<sup>1</sup></i>	<b>1</b>
	(+,-) <i>Expected active, no other notable component</i>	<b>2</b>
	Etizolam	1
	Flubromazolam	1
<b>Other Depressant</b>		<b>1</b>
	(+,-) <i>Expected active, no other notable component</i>	<b>1</b>
	GHB	1
<b>Other Opioid</b>		<b>1</b>
	(-,-) <i>No expected active, no other notable component<sup>1</sup></i>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other Stimulant</b>		<b>1</b>
	(+,-) <i>Expected active, no other notable component</i>	<b>1</b>
	3-MMC HCl	1
<b>Other/Unknown/ Missing<sup>2</sup></b>		<b>17</b>
	Fentanyl or analogue	5
	Cocaine HCl	2
	Etizolam	2
	Cannabidiol	1
	Methamphetamine	1

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### Preliminary Results for November 2020

**\*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 are currently in the process of developing techniques to quantify the concentration of fentanyl within a sample. 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](https://substance.uvic.ca)

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

#### Our Partners

Agilent Technologies	Compute Canada	SOLID Outreach
AVI Health and Community Services	IBM Canada	STS Pharmacy
BC Ministry of Health	Island Health Authority	University of Victoria
BC Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions	Lantern Services	Vancouver Island University
BC Support Vancouver Island Centre	PerkinElmer Inc	Westgrid
Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research	ProSpect Scientific	

#### Our Funders

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