

Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project

Preliminary Results for October 2020

Number of samples tested from 1 - 31 October 2020: 138

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

Expected substance	n
Opioid Down: Fentanyl and/or Heroin	47
Stimulant: Cocaine HCl or Base, Methamphetamine	32
Dissociative	14
Benzodiazepine	7
Other Opioid (pharmaceutical opioid)	6
Psychedelic	5
Polysubstance	1
Unknown/Missing	26

⇒ 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		47
	(-,-) <i>No expected active, no other notable component</i> ¹	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. *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. ¹May be due to limitations of technology to detect certain substances.

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Preliminary Results for October 2020

Expected substance		Notable components detected*	n
Opioid Down (cont.)	(-,+)	No expected active, other notable component	2
		4-ANPP ²	1
		Methamphetamine	1
		Phenacetin	1
	(+,-)	Expected active, no other notable component	30
		Fentanyl or analogue	28
		Heroin	2
	(+,+)	Expected active, other notable component	14
		Fentanyl or analogue	13
		Etizolam	6
		Benzodiazepine (undifferentiated)	5
		Heroin	3
		Morphine	2
		Acetylcodeine	1
		Dextromethorphan	1
		Methamphetamine	1
		Xylazine	1
Cocaine HCl or Base			26
	(-,-)	No expected active, no other notable component¹	1
	(+,-)	Expected active, no other notable component	24
		Cocaine HCl	23
		Cocaine Base	1

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Expected substance		Notable components detected*	n
Cocaine HCl or Base (cont.)	(+,+)	<i>Expected active, other notable component</i>	1
		Cocaine HCl	1
		Phenacetin	1
Methamphetamine			6
	(-,+)	<i>No expected active, other notable component</i>	1
	(+,-)	<i>Expected active, no other notable component</i>	5
		Methamphetamine	5
Dissociative			14
	(+,-)	<i>Expected active, no other notable component</i>	13
		Ketamine	13
	(+,+)	<i>Expected active, other notable component</i>	1
		Ketamine	1
		Fentanyl or analogue	1
Benzodiazepine			7
	(-,-)	<i>No expected active, no other notable component¹</i>	3
	(+,-)	<i>Expected active, no other notable component</i>	4
		Etizolam	2
		Alprazolam	1
		Flualprazolam	1
Other Opioid			6
	(-,-)	<i>No expected active, no other notable component¹</i>	4
	(+,-)	<i>Expected active, no other notable component</i>	2
		Hydromorphone	1
		Oxycodone	1

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Expected substance	Notable components detected*	n
Psychedelic		5
	(+,-) <i>Expected active, no other notable component</i>	5
	MDMA	3
	DMT	1
	MDA	1
Polysubstance ^{3,4}		1
	Cocaine HCl	1
	Ketamine	1
Unknown/Missing ³		26
	MDMA	11
	Fentanyl or analogue	6
	Ketamine	4
	Cocaine HCl	3
	Cocaine Base	1
	Hydromorphone	1
	Dextromethorphan	1
	Phenacetin	2
	THCA-A	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. *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. ¹May be due to limitations of technology to detect certain substances. ³All notable components detected for these categories reported together. ⁴Expected to be Cocaine and Ketamine.

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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. Annual and Quarterly Reports with additional analyses available on our website.

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

Our Funders

Health Canada Substance Use and Addictions Program	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
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