

Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project

Preliminary Results for September 2020

Number of samples tested from 1 - 30 September 2020: 152

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

| Expected substance | n |
|---|----|
| Opioid Down: Fentanyl and/or Heroin | 51 |
| Stimulant: Cocaine HCl or Base, Methamphetamine | 37 |
| Psychedelic | 13 |
| Other Opioid (pharmaceutical opioid) | 12 |
| Dissociative | 8 |
| Benzodiazepine | 7 |
| Other | 2 |
| Other Depressant | 1 |
| Unknown/Missing | 21 |

⇒ 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 | | 51 |
| | (-, -) <i>No expected active, no other notable component</i> | 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.*

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| Expected substance | | Notable components detected* | n |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---|-----------|
| Opioid Down (cont.) | (+,-) | Expected active, no other notable component | 42 |
| | | Fentanyl or analogue | 42 |
| | | Heroin | 2 |
| | (+,+) | Expected active, other notable component | 8 |
| | | Fentanyl or analogue | 8 |
| Etizolam | | 4 | |
| Benzodiazepine (undifferentiated) | | 3 | |
| | | Methamphetamine | 1 |
| Cocaine HCl or Base | | | 26 |
| | (-,-) | No expected active, no other notable component | 1 |
| | (-,+) | No expected active, other notable component | 1 |
| | | MDA | 1 |
| | (+,-) | Expected active, no other notable component | 19 |
| | | Cocaine HCl | 18 |
| | | Cocaine Base | 1 |
| | (+,+) | Expected active, other notable component | 5 |
| | | Cocaine HCl | 4 |
| | | Cocaine Base | 1 |
| | | Benzocaine | 1 |
| | | Fentanyl or analogue | 1 |
| | | Methamphetamine | 1 |
| | | Phenacetin | 1 |
| | | Procaine | 1 |

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| Expected substance | Notable components detected* | n |
|------------------------|---|-----------|
| Methamphetamine | | 11 |
| (+,-) | <i>Expected active, no other notable component</i> | 11 |
| | Methamphetamine | 11 |
| Psychedelic | | 13 |
| (-,-) | <i>No expected active, no other notable component</i> | 1 |
| (+,-) | <i>Expected active, no other notable component</i> | 12 |
| | MDMA | 9 |
| | LSD | 2 |
| | MDA | 1 |
| Other Opioid | | 12 |
| (-,-) | <i>No expected active, no other notable component</i> | 1 |
| (+,-) | <i>Expected active, no other notable component</i> | 11 |
| | Hydromorphone | 6 |
| | Oxycodone | 4 |
| | Morphine | 1 |
| Dissociative | | 8 |
| (+,-) | <i>Expected active, no other notable component</i> | 7 |
| | Ketamine | 7 |
| (+,+) | <i>Expected active, other notable component</i> | 1 |
| | Ketamine | 1 |
| | Procaine | 1 |
| Benzodiazepine | | 7 |
| (-,-) | <i>No expected active, no other notable component</i> | 3 |

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.

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| Expected substance | | Notable components detected* | n |
|---|--------|--|-----------|
| Benzodiazepine (cont.) | (+, -) | Expected active, no other notable component | 3 |
| | | Etizolam | 2 |
| | | Flualprazolam | 1 |
| | (+, +) | Expected active, other notable component | 1 |
| | | Benzodiazepine (undifferentiated) | 1 |
| | | Fentanyl or analogue | 1 |
| Other Depressant | | | 1 |
| | (+, -) | Expected active, no other notable component | 1 |
| | | GHB | 1 |
| Other/Unknown/ Missing¹ | | | 23 |
| | | Fentanyl or analogue | 9 |
| | | Heroin | 2 |
| | | Benzodiazepine (undifferentiated) | 1 |
| | | Cannabis | 1 |
| | | Cocaine Base | 1 |
| | | Cocaine HCl | 1 |
| | | Etizolam | 1 |
| | | Hydromorphone | 1 |
| | | MDA | 1 |
| | | MDMA | 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. ¹All notable components detected for these categories reported together. *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.

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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 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 |
| Vancouver Foundation | Canadian Institutes of Health Research |
| Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research | |