**What is third-party drug checking?**

It's when someone accesses drug checking on the behalf of someone else, or for themselves and for others.

**Why are we talking about it?**

Because it can increase service accessibility and reduce risks within a larger group beyond individual level interactions.

This study looked at the frequency of third party access and explored the reach of this practice in extending drug checking beyond individual benefits.

**METHODS**

Data was collected from a drug checking service in Victoria, Canada between November 2018 and June 2021. Those accessing service were asked: "Who are you doing this drug check for?" with options of: for self, to sell, for others.

**RESULTS**

Of 1991 service users, **1653** answered who the drug check was for.

Of those answers, **just over half** (52%) of participants were checking drugs for reasons other than just self.

When checking for others (763):

- **52%** identified it was for friends
- **30%** for outreach clients
- **16%** for family including children, parents, and partners

We also engaged with those checking for the purpose of selling or within the supply chain, representing **12%** of overall service users.

- Third party drug checking is a **common approach** for engaging with drug checking
- Third party drug checking is a **relational process**
- Drug checking services and policymakers should **better facilitate access** to third party drug checking
- Drug checking services **should not be assumed** to be a service limited to people who use drug checking pre-consumption