



Results from samples checked by Toronto's drug checking service

August 1 – 14, 2020

[Toronto's drug checking service](#) offers people who use drugs timely and detailed information on the contents of their drugs using the most sophisticated lab-based technologies.

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Checked samples by sample type

Between August 1 – 14, 2020, 101 samples were checked: 62% (63) were substances and 38% (38) were used paraphernalia.

Checked samples by expected drug

When a sample is submitted to be checked, the drug that sample is expected to contain is recorded. Of the 101 samples checked between August 1 – 14, 2020:

- 47 were expected to be fentanyl
- 12 were expected to be cocaine
- 9 were expected to be ketamine
- 7 were expected to be benzodiazepine
- 5 were expected to be MDMA
- 5 were expected to be methamphetamine
- 13 were expected to be other drugs, including: 2C-B, amphetamine, crack cocaine, GHB, heroin, O-DSMT, and tadalafil
- 1 was expected to be a polysubstance
- 2 did not have a stated expected drug

Expected fentanyl samples

Of the 101 samples checked between August 1 – 14, 2020, 47% (47) were expected to be fentanyl (32% were substances and 68% were used paraphernalia).

Presence of fentanyl in expected fentanyl samples (47)

- 2% (1) contained only fentanyl
- 98% (46) contained fentanyl and other drugs

Expected fentanyl samples containing fentanyl and other drugs (46)

Of the 47 samples expected to be fentanyl, 98% (46) **contained fentanyl and other drugs**. Other drugs found included:

- 91% (42) contained caffeine
- 83% (38) contained despropionyl fentanyl (4-ANPP)*
- 59% (27) contained norfentanyl*
- 48% (22) contained one or more benzodiazepine or benzodiazepine-related drug*:
 - 48% (22) contained etizolam*
 - 7% (3) contained flualprazolam*
 - 4% (2) contained flubromazolam*
 - 2% (1) contained alprazolam (Xanax)*
- 43% (20) contained cocaine
- 39% (18) contained acetyl fentanyl*
- 26% (12) contained methamphetamine
- 24% (11) contained fentanyl (hydroxy)*
- 24% (11) contained heroin
- 24% (11) contained mepivacaine
- 22% (10) contained 6-MAM (heroin-related)
- 9% (4) contained levamisole*
- 2% (1) contained 3-methyl fentanyl*
- 2% (1) contained furanyl UF-17 (opioid-related)*

Other expected drug samples containing unexpected noteworthy drugs

Of the remaining 54 samples checked between August 1 – 14, 2020, meaning samples that were not expected to be fentanyl, 19% (10) contained one or more unexpected noteworthy drug. Unexpected noteworthy drugs found included:

Expected cocaine samples (12):

- 8% (1) contained fentanyl*
- 8% (1) contained levamisole*
- 8% (1) contained phenacetin*

Expected benzodiazepine samples (7):

- 29% (2) contained fentanyl*
- 14% (1) contained despropionyl fentanyl (4-ANPP)*

Expected heroin samples (3):

- 67% (2) contained fentanyl*

- 33% (1) contained despropionyl fentanyl (4-ANPP)*
- 33% (1) contained levamisole*

Expected O-DSMT samples (1):

- 100% (1) despropionyl fentanyl (4-ANPP)*
- 100% (1) contained fentanyl*
- 100% (1) contained fentanyl (hydroxy)*
- 100% (1) contained norfentanyl*

Samples that did not have a stated expected drug (2):

- 50% (1) contained one or more benzodiazepine or benzodiazepine-related drug*
- 50% (1) contained fentanyl*

***Unexpected noteworthy drug:** “Noteworthy drugs” are drugs that are highly potent, linked to overdose or other adverse effects, or may not be desired by some clients. Noteworthy drugs are called out when they are unexpectedly found in checked samples.

The [Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation](#) is coordinating [Toronto's drug checking service](#). Located within St. Michael's Hospital's MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions in Toronto, Canada, the Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation strives to improve community health and safety by conducting research and outreach on best practices in drug policy.

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