



Results from samples checked by Toronto's drug checking service

April 25 – May 8, 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 April 25 – May 8, 2020, 30 samples were checked: 37% (11) were substances and 63% (19) 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 30 samples checked between April 25 – May 8, 2020:

- 19 were expected to be fentanyl
- 2 were expected to be methamphetamine
- 3 were expected to be other drugs, including: cocaine, crack cocaine, and ketamine
- 6 did not have a stated expected drug

Expected fentanyl samples

Of the 30 samples checked between April 25 – May 8, 2020, 63% (19) were expected to be fentanyl (16% were substances and 84% were used paraphernalia).

Presence of fentanyl in expected fentanyl samples (19):

- 11% (2) contained no fentanyl
- 89% (17) contained fentanyl and other drugs

Expected fentanyl samples containing fentanyl and other drugs (17)

Of the 19 samples expected to be fentanyl, 89% (17) **contained fentanyl and other drugs**. Other drugs found included:

- 100% (17) contained caffeine
- 59% (10) contained despropionyl fentanyl (4-ANPP)*

- 41% (7) contained one or more benzodiazepine or benzodiazepine-related drug*:
 - 41% (7) contained etizolam*
 - 12% (2) contained flualprazolam*
 - 6% (1) contained alprazolam (Xanax)*
- 6% (1) contained n-methyl norfentanyl*
- 6% (1) contained norfentanyl*

Other expected drug samples containing unexpected noteworthy drugs

Of the remaining 11 samples checked between April 25 – May 8, 2020, meaning samples that were not expected to be fentanyl, 27% (3) contained one or more unexpected noteworthy drug. Unexpected noteworthy drugs found included:

- 33% (2) of samples that **did not have a stated expected** drug contained phenacetin*
- 17% (1) of samples that **did not have a stated expected** drug contained despropionyl fentanyl (4-ANPP)*
- 17% (1) of samples that **did not have a stated expected drug** contained fentanyl*
- 17% (1) of samples that **did not have a stated expected drug** contained levamisole*

***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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