Results from samples checked by Toronto's drug checking service
January 2 – 15, 2021

Key findings

- 78 samples were checked: 63% were substances[1] and 37% were used paraphernalia[2]
- 58% of the samples checked were expected[3] to be fentanyl
- 69% of expected[3] fentanyl samples checked contained one or more benzodiazepine or benzodiazepine-related drug
- 20% of expected[3] fentanyl samples checked contained **xylazine** (a tranquilizer used by veterinarians)
- 28% of expected[3] fentanyl substances checked[4] did not contain fentanyl

Expected fentanyl substances

- 72% (13) of expected[3] fentanyl substances checked[4] **contained fentanyl and other drugs**, including:
  - 77% (10) contained caffeine
  - 62% (8) contained despropionyl fentanyl (4-ANPP) **(!)**
  - 62% (8) contained etizolam (benzodiazepine-related) **(!)**
  - 23% (3) contained norfentanyl **(!)**
  - 23% (3) contained phenacetin **(!)**
  - 15% (2) contained xylazine **(!)**
  - 8% (1) contained acetyl fentanyl **(!)**
  - 8% (1) contained benzyl fentanyl **(!)**
  - 8% (1) contained furanyl UF-17 (opioid-related) **(!)**

Unexpected noteworthy drugs found in other expected substances

- 26% (8) of the remaining substances checked,[4] meaning substances that weren't expected[3] to be fentanyl, **contained one or more unexpected noteworthy drug**, including:
  - 43% (3) of **expected cocaine** substances contained one or more benzodiazepine or benzodiazepine-related drug **(!)**
  - 14% (1) of **expected cocaine** substances contained levamisole **(!)**
  - 17% (1) of **expected MDMA** substances contained one or more benzodiazepine or benzodiazepine-related drug **(!)**

- 100% (2) of **expected heroin** substances contained fentanyl **(!)**
- 100% (1) of **expected carfentanil** substances contained despropionyl fentanyl (4-ANPP) **(!)**
- 100% (1) of **expected carfentanil** substances contained fentanyl **(!)**

Notes

1 | Substances: Two types of samples are accepted by Toronto's drug checking service: substances and used paraphernalia. Substances could be a small amount of powder, a crushed bit of a pill, blotter, or a small amount of liquid.

2 | Used paraphernalia: Two types of samples are accepted by Toronto's drug checking service: substances and used paraphernalia. Used paraphernalia could be a used cooker or filter, or leftover liquid from a syringe.

3 | Expected (drug): When a sample is submitted to be checked, the drug that sample is expected to contain is recorded. We call it the "expected drug". Knowing the expected drug helps us tailor our harm reduction advice. It also helps us understand contamination to drugs rather than combinations of drugs (e.g., fentanyl was found in a cocaine sample rather than fentanyl and cocaine were found together).

4 | Reason for reporting only substance samples: While Toronto's drug checking service checks both substances and used paraphernalia, we're sharing findings from substances only. Paraphernalia, like cookers, are often re-used. The mass spectrometry technologies used for this drug checking service are so sensitive that very trace amounts of drugs may be found. This means that when paraphernalia is re-used, drugs from past use may present in the results for the sample that is being checked. This can interfere with up-to-date drug supply monitoring, so we've excluded used paraphernalia from this report.

(!) | Unexpected noteworthy drug: "Noteworthy drugs" are drugs that that (i) are linked to overdose or other adverse effects, (ii) are highly potent or related to highly potent drugs, or (iii) may not be desired by some clients. Noteworthy drugs are flagged when they are unexpectedly found in checked samples.

[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. Interact with our drug checking data [online](#) – it's updated every other week. [Sign up](#) to receive reports, alerts, and other information on Toronto's unregulated drug supply.

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