



Results from Samples Checked by Toronto's Drug Checking Service

April 1 – June 15, 2020

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

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Checked Samples by Sample Type

Between April 1 – June 15, 2020, 144 samples were checked: 49% (70) were substances and 51% (74) were post-use paraphernalia.

Checked Samples by Expected Drug

When a client submits a sample to be checked, they indicate which drug they expect that sample to contain. Of the 144 samples checked between April 1 – June 15, 2020:

- 66 were expected to be fentanyl
- 15 were expected to be methamphetamine
- 14 were expected to be cocaine
- 8 were expected to be crack
- 6 were expected to be ketamine
- 3 were expected to be heroin
- 9 were expected to be other drugs, including: clomiphene citrate, etizolam, MDMA, phenidate, oxymetholone, tamoxifen citrate, testosterone, alprazolam (Xanax)
- 2 were expected to be a polysubstance
- 21 did not have a stated expected drug

Expected Fentanyl Samples

Of the 144 samples checked between April 1 – June 15, 2020, 46% (66) were expected to be fentanyl (24% were substances and 76% were post-use paraphernalia).

Presence of fentanyl in expected fentanyl samples (66)

- 9% (6) contained no fentanyl
- 91% (60) contained fentanyl and other drugs

Expected fentanyl samples containing fentanyl and other drugs (60)

Of the 66 samples expected to be fentanyl, 91% (60) **contained fentanyl and other drugs**. Other drugs found included:

- 95% (57) contained caffeine
- 37% (22) contained despropionyl fentanyl (4-ANPP)*
- 37% (22) contained one or more benzodiazepine or benzodiazepine-related drug*:
 - 37% (22) contained etizolam*
 - 8% (5) contained flualprazolam*
 - 2% (1) contained alprazolam (Xanax)*
- 20% (12) contained 6-MAM (heroin-related)
- 20% (12) contained cocaine
- 8% (5) contained ACHMINACA (synthetic cannabinoid-related)*
- 8% (5) contained phenacetin*
- 5% (3) contained norfentanyl*
- 3% (2) contained furanyl UF-17 (opioid-related)*
- 2% (1) contained levamisole*

Other Expected Drug Samples Containing Unexpected Noteworthy Drugs

Of the remaining 78 samples checked between April 1 – June 15, 2020, meaning samples that were not expected to be fentanyl, 29% (23) contained one or more unexpected noteworthy drug. Unexpected noteworthy drugs found included:

- **Expected cocaine samples (14)**
 - 14% (2) contained phenacetin*
 - 7% (1) contained levamisole*
- **Expected crack samples (8)**
 - 75% (6) contained phenacetin*
 - 13% (1) contained levamisole*
- **Expected heroin samples (3)**
 - 33% (1) contained ACHMINACA (synthetic cannabinoid-related)*
 - 33% (1) contained one or more benzodiazepine or benzodiazepine-related drug*
 - 33% (1) contained fentanyl*
- **Samples that did not have a stated expected drug (21)**
 - 43% (9) contained fentanyl*
 - 14% (3) contained one or more benzodiazepine or benzodiazepine-related drug*
 - 10% (2) contained ACHMINACA (synthetic cannabinoid-related)*

- 10% (2) contained carfentanil*
- 10% (2) contained phenacetin*
- 5% (1) contained despropionyl fentanyl (4-ANPP)*
- 5% (1) 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.

(e) drugchecking@cdpe.org | (t) [@drugpolicyctr](https://twitter.com/drugpolicyctr) | (f) facebook.com/centreondrugpolicyevaluation

