



Results from samples checked by Toronto's drug checking service

June 1 – August 31, 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 June 1 – August 31, 2020, 392 samples were checked: 65% (253) were substances and 35% (139) 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 392 samples checked between June 1 – August 31, 2020:

- 181 were expected to be fentanyl
- 35 were expected to be cocaine
- 34 were expected to be methamphetamine
- 22 were expected to be MDMA
- 17 were expected to be ketamine
- 12 were expected to be crack cocaine
- 11 were expected to be benzodiazepine
- 7 were expected to be amphetamine
- 7 were expected to be heroin
- 7 were expected to be LSD
- 30 were expected to be other drugs, including: 2C class, 3-MeO-PCE, 4-FA, codeine, DiPT, DMT, GHB, hydromorphone, lisdexamfetamine, mescaline, morphine, O-DSMT, opium, oxymetholone, Percocet, psilocybin, sildenafil, tadalafil, and testosterone
- 16 were expected to be a polysubstance
- 13 did not have a stated expected drug

Expected fentanyl samples

Of the 392 samples checked between June 1 – August 31, 2020, 46% (181) were expected to be fentanyl (40% were substances and 60% were used paraphernalia).

Presence of fentanyl in expected fentanyl samples (181)

- 92% (167) contained fentanyl and other drugs
- 6% (10) contained no fentanyl
- 2% (4) contained only fentanyl

Expected fentanyl samples containing fentanyl and other drugs (167)

Of the 181 samples expected to be fentanyl, 92% (167) **contained fentanyl and other drugs**. Other drugs found included:

- 93% (155) contained caffeine
- 57% (96) contained despropionyl fentanyl (4-ANPP)*
- 33% (55) contained norfentanyl*
- 23% (39) contained cocaine
- 23% (38) contained acetyl fentanyl*
- 23% (38) contained heroin
- 22% (36) contained 6-MAM (heroin-related)
- 20% (34) contained methamphetamine
- 49% (81) contained one or more benzodiazepine or benzodiazepine-related drug*:
 - 44% (74) contained etizolam*
 - 10% (17) contained flualprazolam*
 - 2% (3) contained flubromazolam*
 - 1% (2) contained alprazolam (Xanax)*
 - 1% (1) contained clonazepam*
- 14% (23) contained fentanyl (hydroxy)*
- 6% (10) contained furanyl UF-17 (opioid-related)*
- 4% (7) contained phenacetin*
- 4% (6) contained ACHMINACA (synthetic cannabinoid-related)*
- 3% (5) contained levamisole*
- 1% (2) AMB-FUBINACA (synthetic cannabinoid-related)*
- 1% (2) contained n-methyl norfentanyl*
- 1% (1) contained 3-methyl fentanyl*
- 1% (1) furanylethyl fentanyl*
- 1% (1) valeryl fentanyl*

Other expected drug samples containing unexpected noteworthy drugs

Of the remaining (211) samples checked between June 1 – August 31, 2020, meaning samples that were not expected to be fentanyl, 11% (23) contained one or more unexpected noteworthy drug.

Unexpected noteworthy drugs found included:

Expected cocaine samples (35)

- 11% (4) contained phenacetin*
- 9% (3) contained levamisole*
- 3% (1) contained benzocaine*

Expected methamphetamine samples (34)

- 2% (1) contained levamisole*

Expected crack cocaine samples (12)

- 75% (9) contained phenacetin*
- 25% (3) contained levamisole*

Expected benzodiazepine samples (11)

- 18% (2) contained fentanyl*
- 9% (1) contained despropionyl fentanyl (4-ANPP)*

Expected heroin samples (7)

- 43% (3) contained fentanyl*
- 14% (1) contained β -methyl acetyl fentanyl*
- 14% (1) contained one or more benzodiazepine or benzodiazepine-related drug*
- 14% (1) contained despropionyl fentanyl (4-ANPP)*
- 14% (1) contained levamisole*
- 14% (1) contained n-methyl norfentanyl*

Expected O-DSMT sample (1)

- 100% (1) contained 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 (13)

- 38% (5) contained fentanyl*
- 23% (3) contained one or more benzodiazepine or benzodiazepine-related drug*
- 23% (3) contained phenacetin*
- 15% (2) contained despropionyl fentanyl (4-ANPP)*

***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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