





BCINTERIOR FESTIVAL DRUG CHECKING

Drug checking results from Bass Coast and Shambhala in British Columbia, Canada.



Total festival attendees

Samples analyzed

Service Uses

DRUG CHECKING?

Drug checking is a free harm reduction based service that enables people to know what is in their drugs.



The service user is welcomed in an anonymous

and inclusive space. They are informed of the drug

Substance composition is analyzed using

specialized technology. For this report, testing

strips, reagents and FTIR spectroscopy were used.

per service use

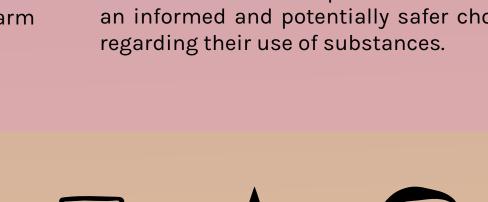
Hearts drive the drug checking crew

IMPORTANT NOTE

checking process and its limitations.

The following results do not represent overall drug use at festivals. They are based solely on findings from the drugs that voluntarily come through the drug checking service.

Alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and magic mushrooms are not analyzed by drug checking services, so this report does not look into their prevalence and composition.

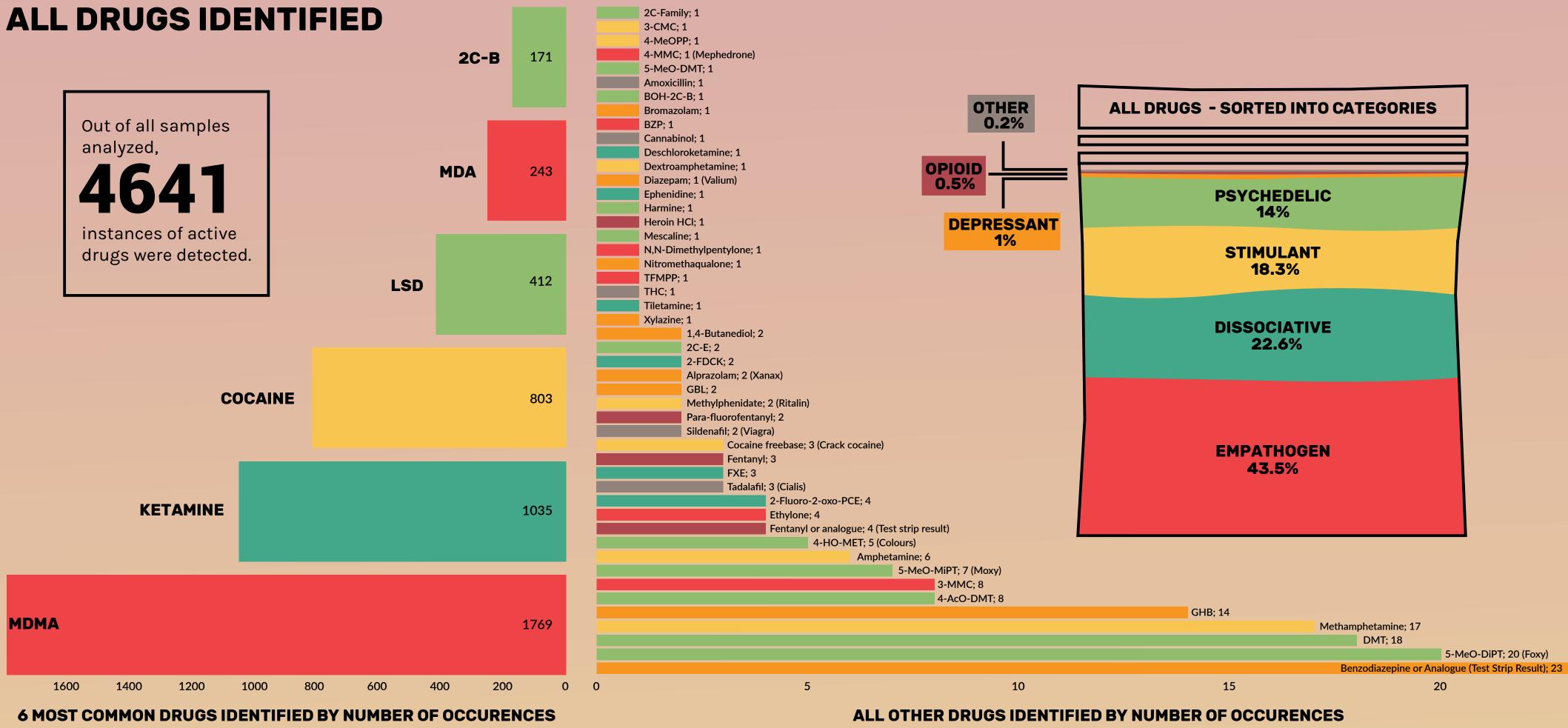


ALL DRUGS IDENTIFIED 171 2C-B Out of all samples analyzed, MDA 243 instances of active drugs were detected. 412 LSD COCAINE 803 **KETAMINE** 1035

Results are discussed with non-judgemental experts. Access to a variety of other harm reduction related services is available.

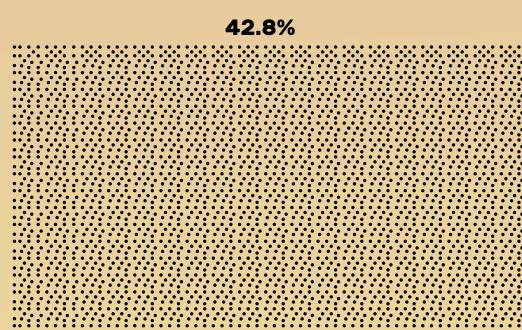
The service user is empowered in making an informed and potentially safer choice



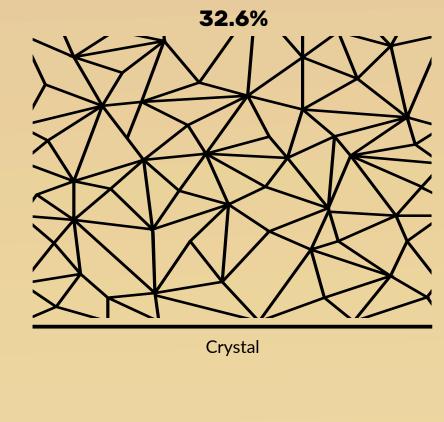


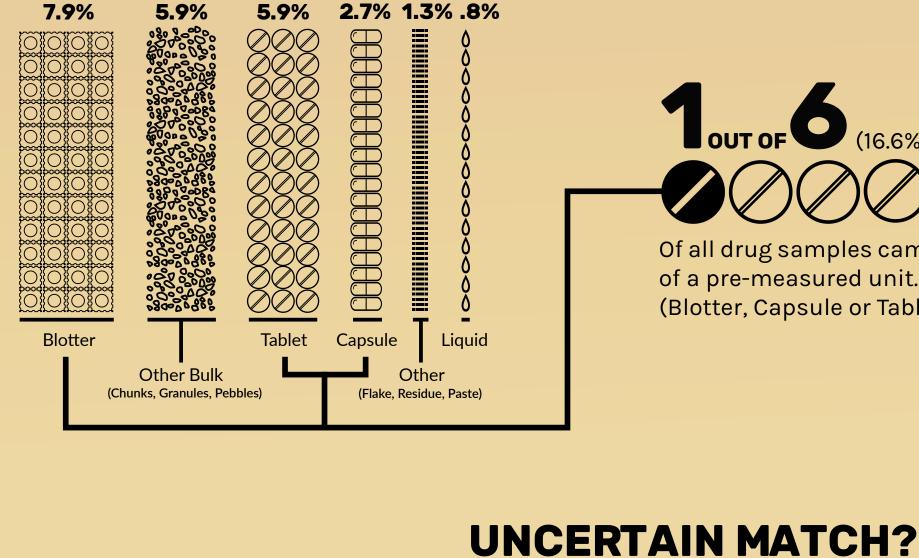
WHAT DO DRUGS LOOK LIKE?

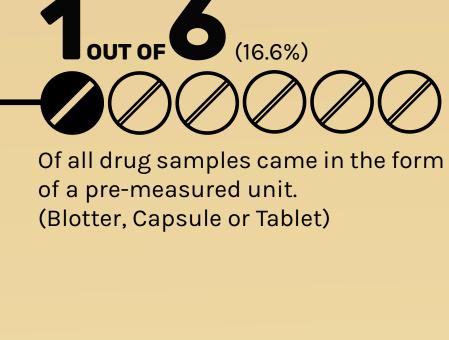
A look at all the shapes and forms of the drugs that were analyzed.

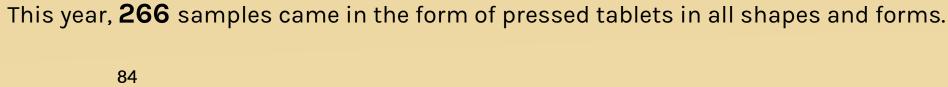


Powder

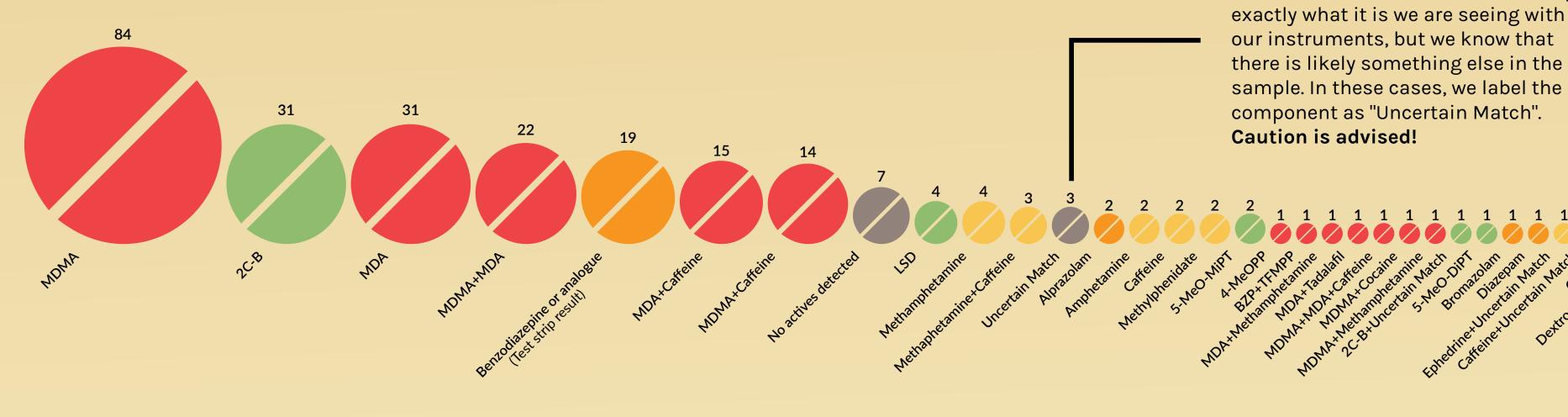








PRESSED TABLETS, WHAT'S IN THEM?



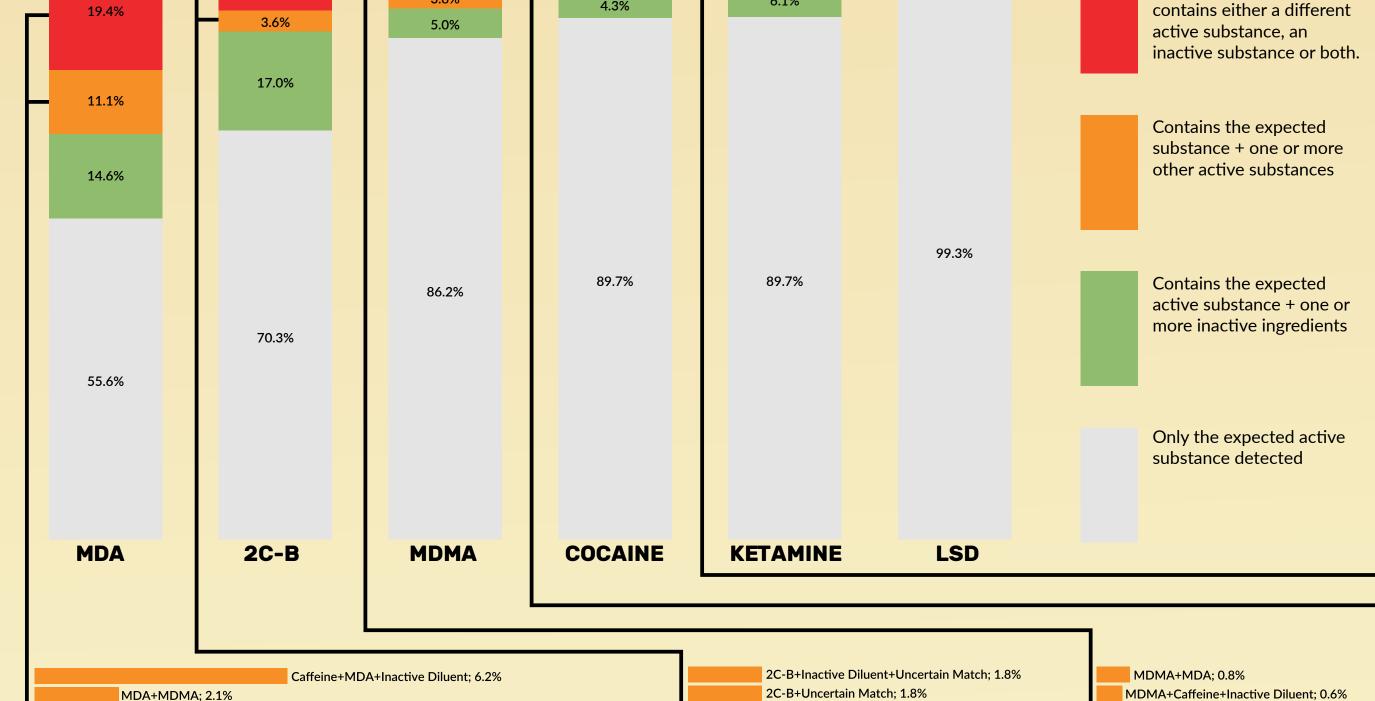
Sometimes, we are unable to identify

component as "Uncertain Match". Caution is advised!



DRUGS, WHAT ARE THEY REALLY? Keeping to the 6 most common drugs analyzed, we break down what the drug was expected to be and what it actually was.

The expected susbtance was not detected and 3.8% 6.1% 4.3%



MDMA; 13.1%

2C-B+Phenacetin; 1.2%

2C-B+MDMA; 0.6%

2C-Family; 0.6%

2C-B+Phenacetin+Inactive Diluent; 1.2%

Phenacetin+Inactive Diluent; 1.2%

2C-B+Caffeine+Ketamine+MDMA+Inactive Diluent; 0.6%

ACTIVE ingredients are substances that have a noticeable

ACTIVE OR INACTIVE?

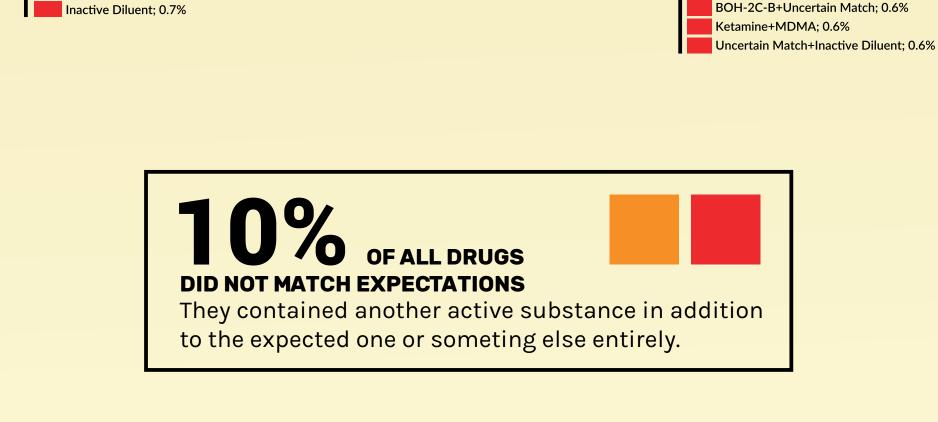
effect. They can be illicit drugs or buffs and cuts used to bulk up the drug or change its effects.

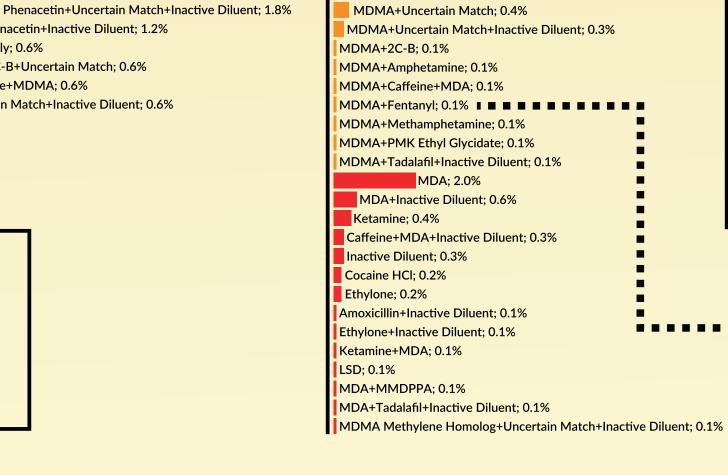
INACTIVE ingredients are substances that do not have a significant or noticeable effect on the body or mind. They are usually used to either bulk up the volume of a drug to save money, or to dilute a substance that is too strong on its own.

Inactive ingredients are grouped under "Inactive Diluent". This category includes carbohydrates, sugars, health supplements, food additives, salts and oils such as:

Microcrystaline Cellulose, Sucrose, Glucose, Mannitol, Inositol, Dextrose, Erythritol,

Lactose, Xylitol, Creatine, Glucosamine, Leucine, Glutamine, Dimethyl Sulfone, Dicalcium Phosphate, Sodium Bicarbonate, Stearic Acid, Magnesium Sulfate, Monosodium Glutamate





OF ALL DRUGS

Average of all drugs that **tested as unexpected**, where the

something else altogether.

sample contained either another active on top of the expected one or

WERE ACQUIRED

AT THE FESTIVAL

MDMA+Cocaine HCI; 0.6%

MDMA+MDA+Inactive Diluent; 0.5%

MDMA+Ketamine; 0.5%

MDMA+Caffeine; 0.4%

Ketamine+FXE; 0.1% Cocaine HCl+Fentanyl+Inactive Diluent; 0.1% Ketamine+MDMA+Inactive Diluent; 0.1% Cocaine HCI+Ketamine+Inactive Diluent; 0.1% Cocaine HCI; 0.6% Cocaine HCl+Phenacetin+Inactive Diluent; 0.1% 2-Fluoro-2-oxo-PCE; 0.3% Inactive Diluent; 0.3% MDMA; 0.3% FXE; 0.2% MDMA; 0.2% MDA; 0.1% Procaine; 0.1% Tiletamine; 0.1% strips

Ketamine+Cocaine HCl; 0.6%

Ketamine+Uncertain Match; 0.3%

Ketamine+MDMA; 0.2%

Ketamine+2C-B; 0.1%

Ketamine+2-FDCK; 0.1%

Ketamine+Benzocaine; 0.1%

Ketamine+Phenacetin; 0.2%

Ketamine+Cocaine HCl+Inactive Diluent; 0.2%

Ketamine; 1.2% **FENTANYL** was detected in MDA MDMA and cocaine by fentanyl testing

Cocaine HCl+Phenacetin; 2.1%

Cocaine HCl+Ketamine; 0.6%

Cocaine HCl+Uncertain Match; 0.3%

Cocaine HCI+Benzocaine+Inactive Diluent; 0.1%

Cocaine HCl+Benzocaine+Phenacetin; 0.1%

Cocaine HCl+MDMA; 0.4%

Cocaine HCI+Benzocaine; 0.1%

Cocaine HCl+Caffeine+MDA; 0.1%

A general overview of the origin of the drugs analyzed.

WHERE DO PEOPLE GET THEIR DRUGS?

A comparison of the origin of the drug and its ingredients.

contain the expected ingredient and other actives were not

On-Site: Drug acquired from within the festival site

Drugs acquired at the festival were **9%** more likely to test as expected.

Off-Site: Drug acquired outside of the festival

Average of all drugs that **tested as expected**, meaning they

MDA+MDMA+Inactive Diluent; 2.1%

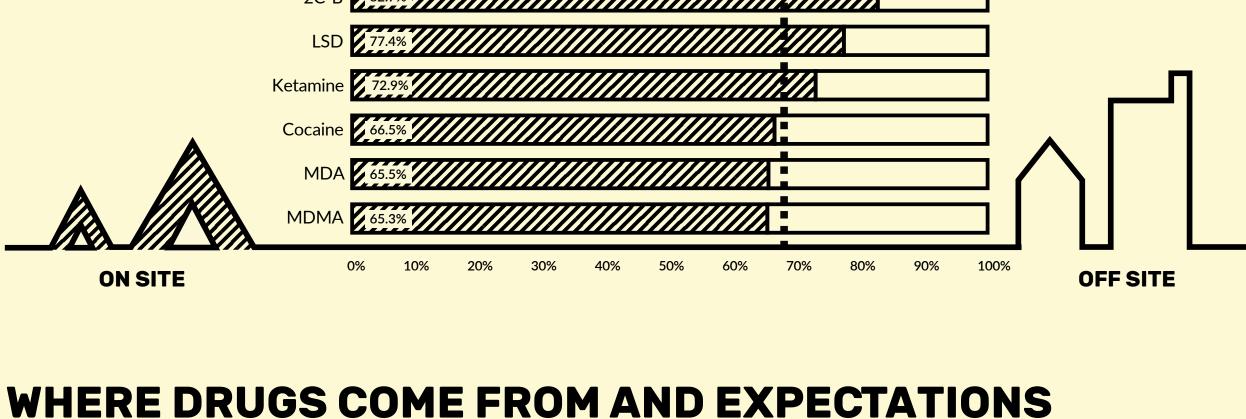
MDMA+Inactive Diluent; 4.8%

MDA+MMDPPA; 1.4%

MDMA+Caffeine+Inactive Diluent; 0.7%

MDA+Caffeine; 0.7%

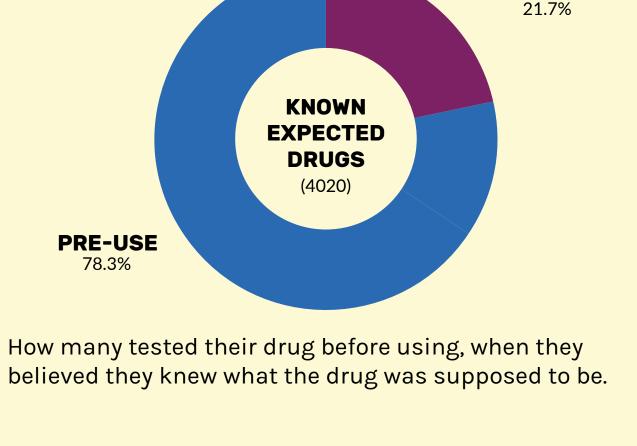
MDA+Fentanyl; 0.7%



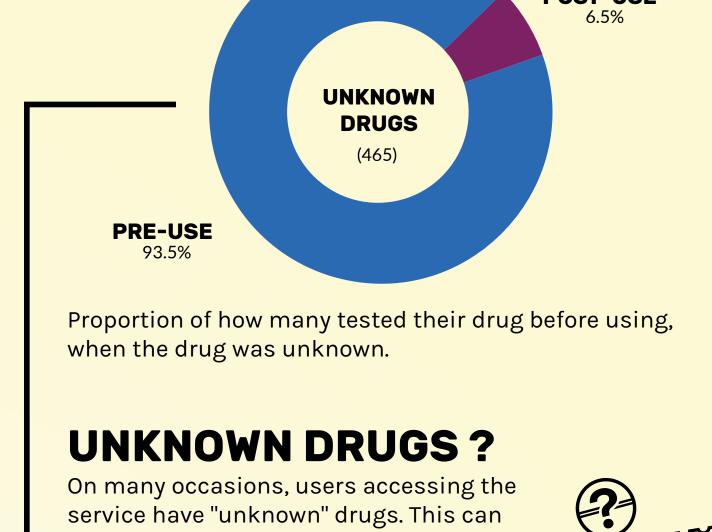
92.8%

WHERE DRUGS COME FROM AND SERVICE ACCESS

TESTING BEFORE USING? Drug checking works best if drugs are tested before use. **POST-USE**



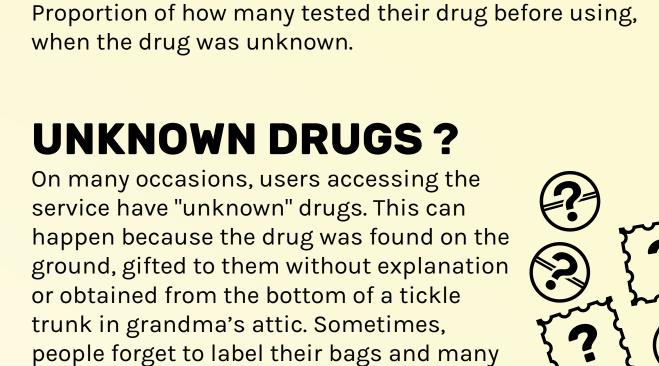
POST-USE



At festivals, the origin of the drug influences if someone is more likely to access on-site drug checking before using.

When the drug was acquired on-site, 86.7% checked their drug at the festival before using. When the drug was acquired off-site, 61.4% checked their drug at the festival before using.

People who acquired their drug on-site were 41% more likely to test their drug at the festival prior to using, compared to those who got their drug off-site.



drugs look the same. Drug checking is a

safer option than "trying just a little bit!"

OVER OUT OF OSAMPLES

Were brought to the drug checking service as **UNKNOWN.** (10.4%)

DISCLAIMER

FTIR Spectroscopy (Fourier Transform Infrared) uses light absorption to determine the composition of a drug. This technology is quick, non-destructive and relatively accurate. However, it is not able to accurately detect any substances that are in a proportion of less than 5%. It cannot accurately measure the quantity (amount) of each component in a sample.

LSD was tested using **Ehrlich reagent**. This method can tell if there is a high likelihood, but not certainty, of having LSD or other indole containing molecules present. It does not inform about other substances potentially co-occurring in the sample.

STOP GUESSING, START CHECKING. For more information, and to find drug checking in your community, visit: drugchecking.ca

possible at festivals.

drug checking services used for this report may be missing important information regarding the composition of substances. Testing strips for potent drugs like fentanyl and benzodiazepines are used with the FTIR to circumvent some of these limitations, but may leave some substances ndetected.

The results listed in this report take into consideration the limitations of technologies used. The results obtained by the

Thank you to AAWARE, ANKORS, ASK Wellness, Bass Coast Festival, BCCSU, Blood Ties, Fraser Health, Interior Health, Mountain Side Harm Reduction Society, POUNDS Project, Shambhala Music Festival, UBCO HaRT, UBCO Hein Lab, UVIC. Thank you to Shambhala drug checking team lead Chloe Sage.

Thank you to all attendees who donated, your contribution made this possible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Above all, thanks to all the volunteers. We wish to note that festival drug checking is a mostly volunteer effort. In the case of Shambhala, over 70 people come from all over Canada to participate in providing drug checking and related harm reduction services.

We wish to acknowledge the contribution of the many partners and collaborators that make drug checking and harm reduction



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Interior Health Population Health - Harm Reduction Program