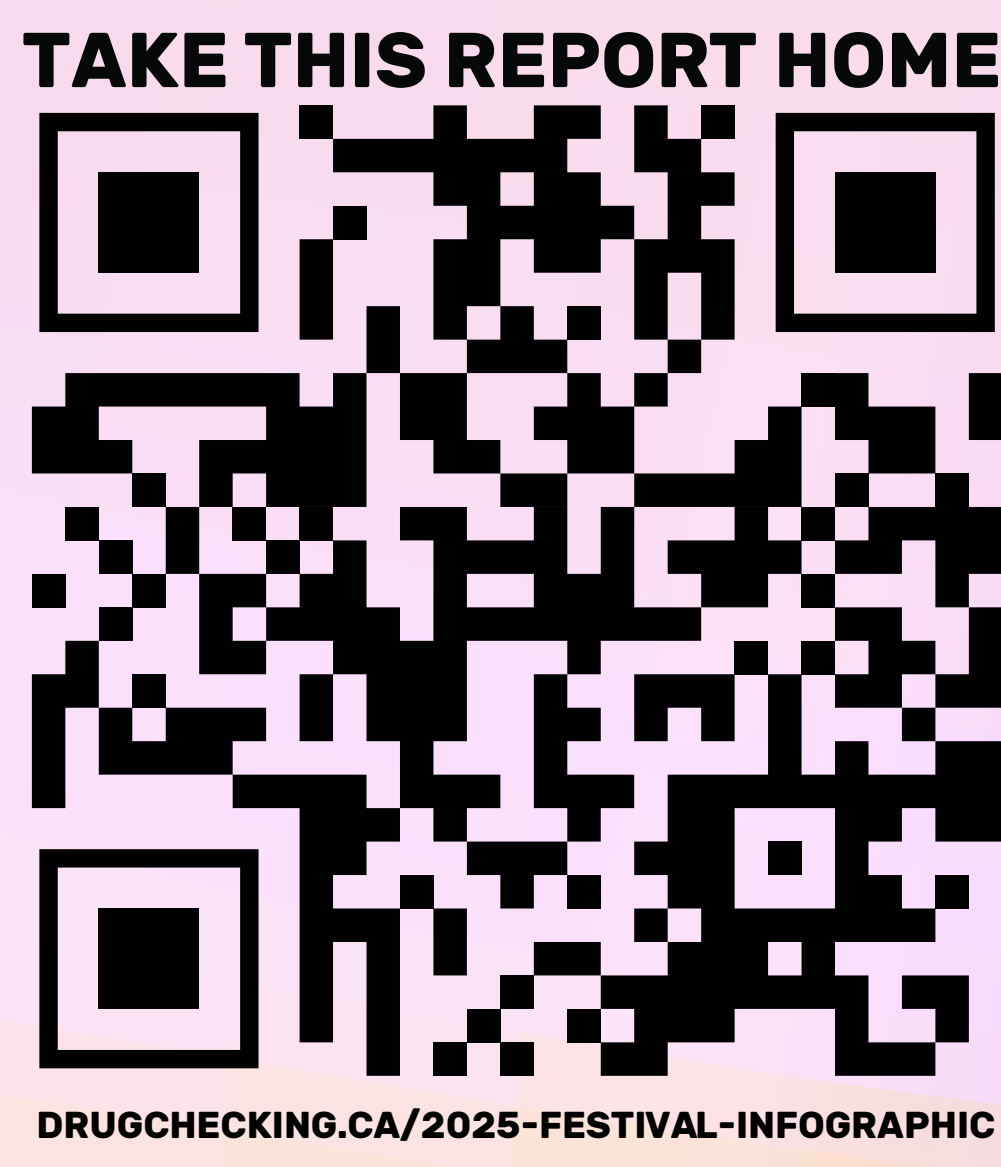


2025 BC INTERIOR FESTIVAL DRUG CHECKING

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



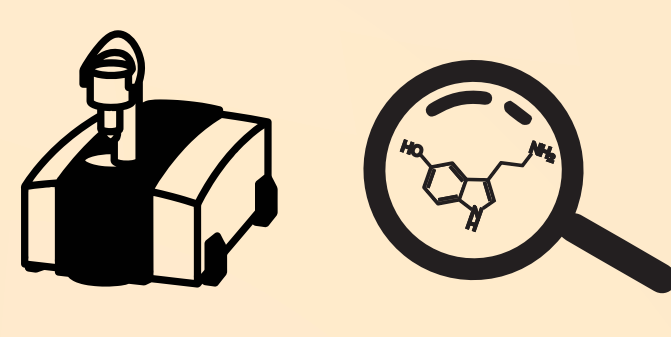
27 000 Total festival attendees | **4592** Samples analyzed | **2255** Service Uses | **2** Average drugs tested per service use | **80+** Hearts drive the drug checking crews

What is 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 checking process and its limitations.



Substance composition is analyzed using specialized technology. A combination of FTIR spectroscopy, testing strips and reagents is used.



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



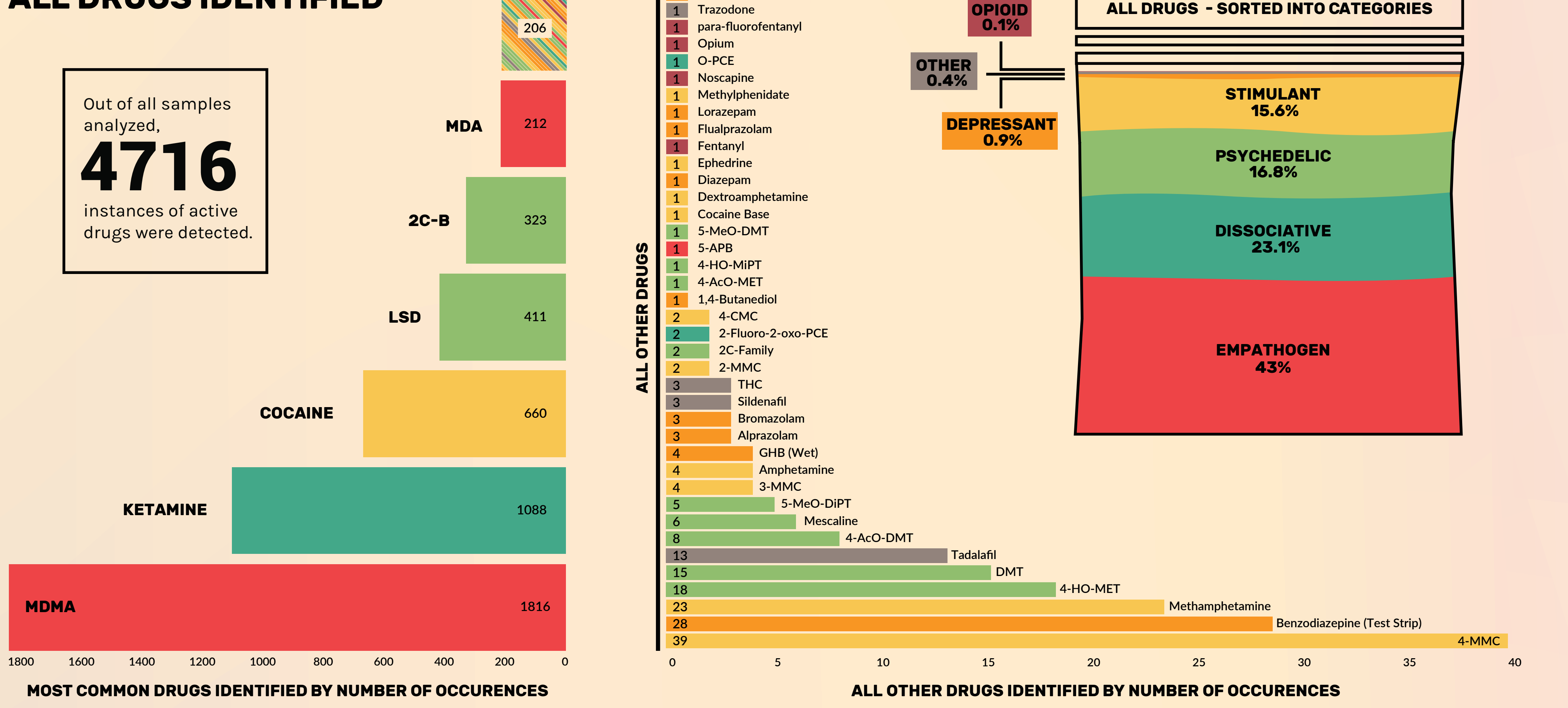
The service user is empowered in making an informed and potentially safer choice regarding their use of substances.

Important Note!

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.

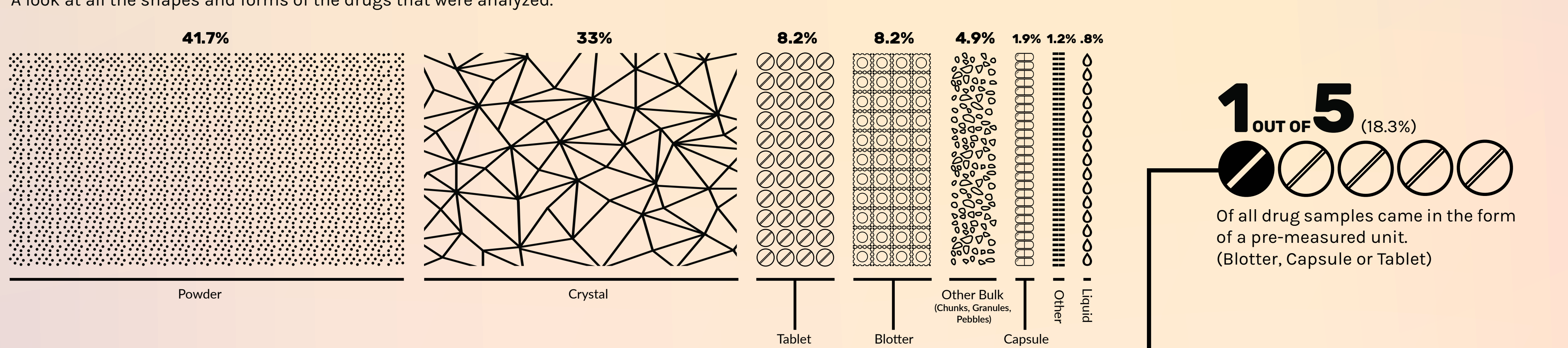
Alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and magic mushrooms are not analyzed by drug checking services, so this report does not look into their prevalence and composition.

ALL DRUGS IDENTIFIED



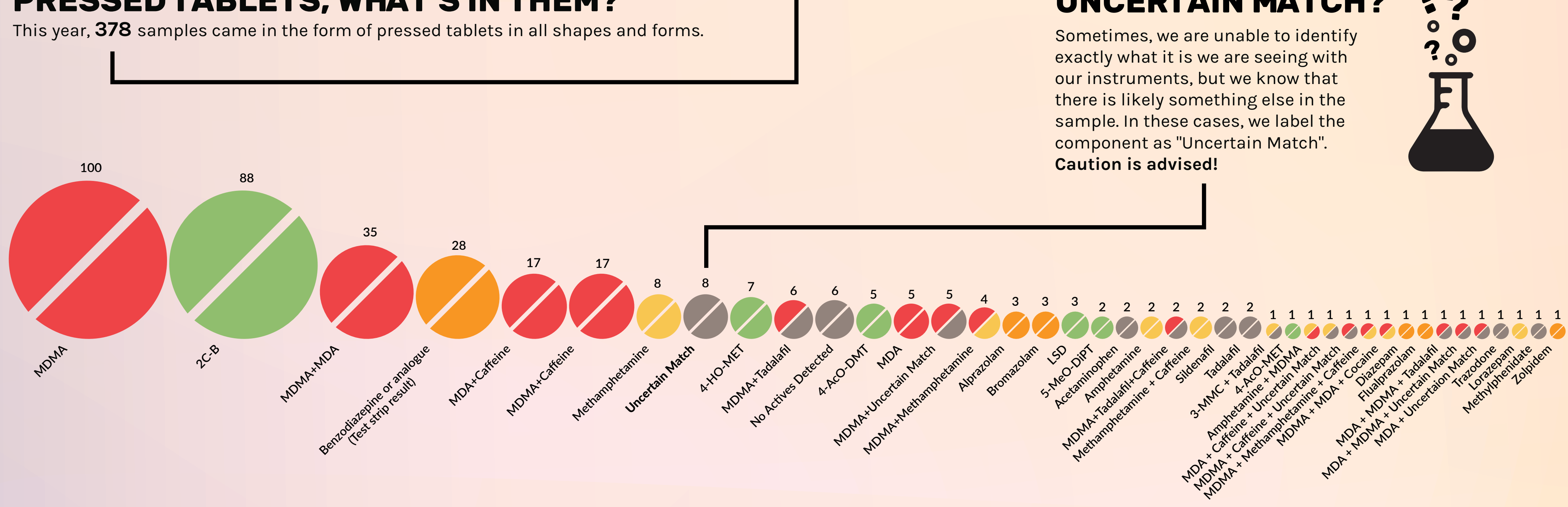
WHAT DO DRUGS LOOK LIKE?

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



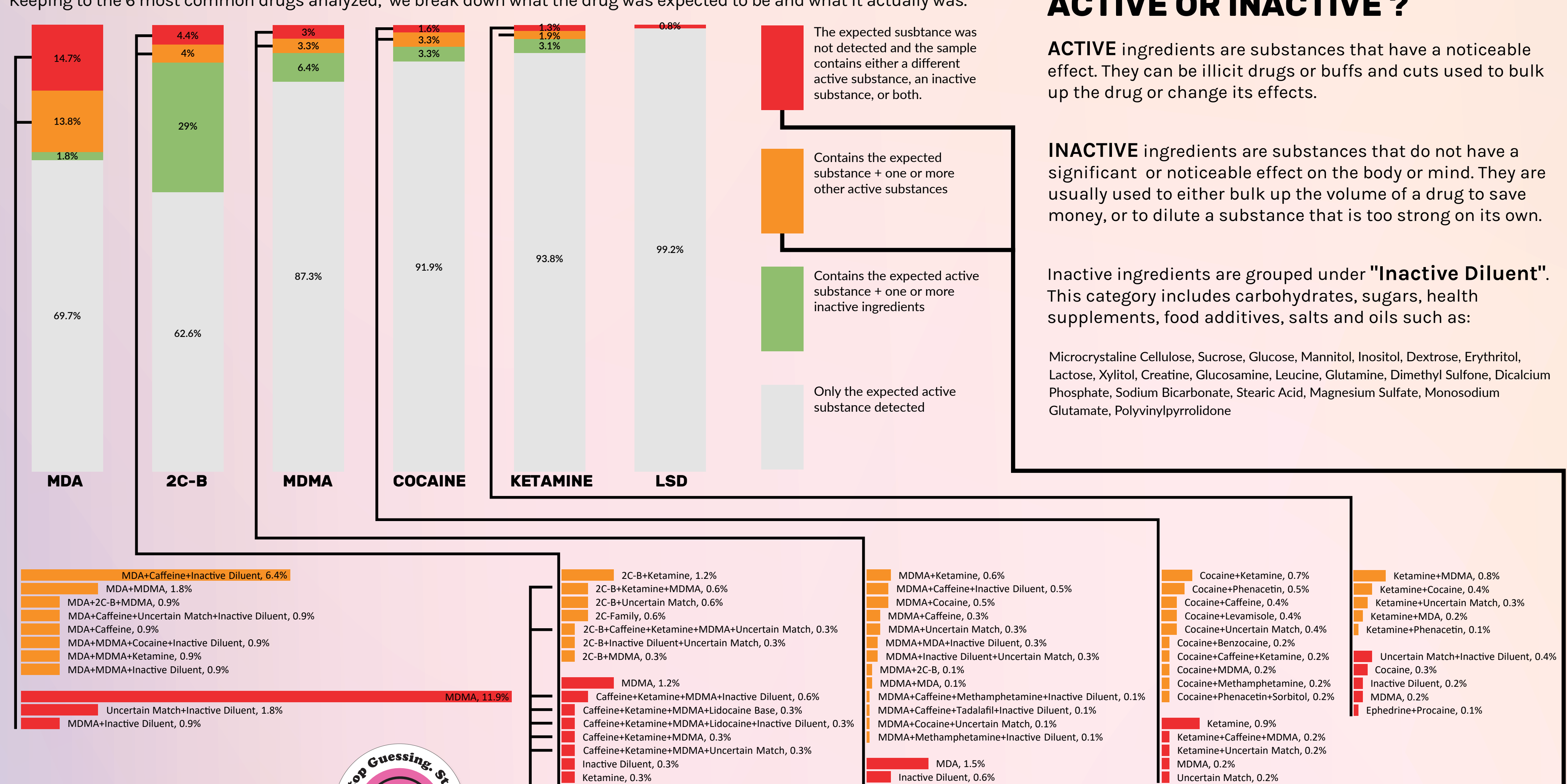
PRESSED TABLETS, WHAT'S IN THEM?

This year, **378** samples came in the form of pressed tablets in all shapes and forms.



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.



TUSI Is sometimes confused with 2C-B, a potent psychedelic drug. Tusi is a pink powder consisting of a variable mixture of drugs that most often contains MDMA and ketamine, alongside other substances.

FENTANYL One sample of MDMA was actually "DOWN", a mixture of fentanyl and other substances.

7% OF ALL DRUGS DID NOT MATCH EXPECTATIONS They contained another active substance in addition to the expected one, or something else entirely.

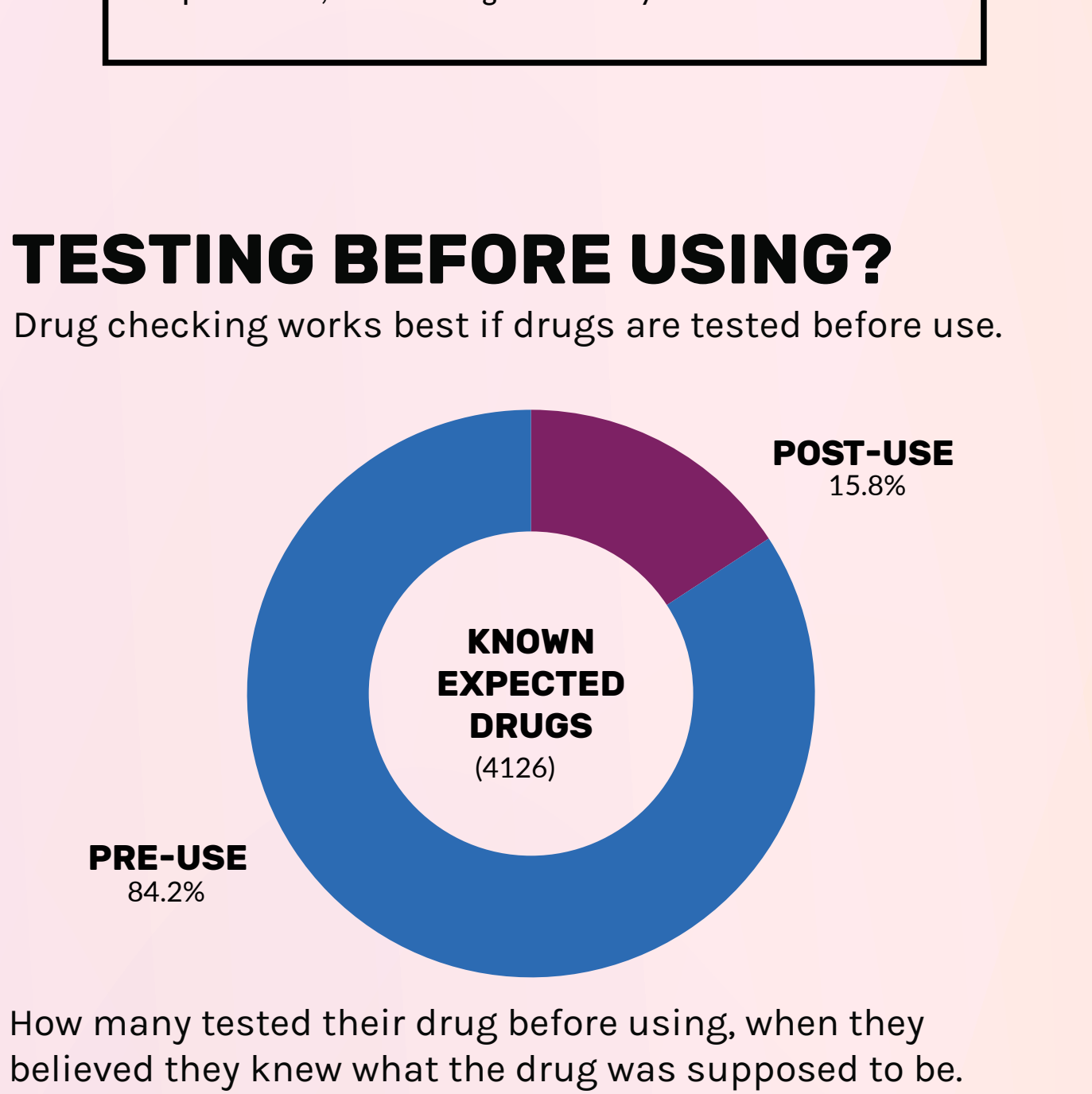
WHERE DO PEOPLE GET THEIR DRUGS?

A general overview of the drugs analyzed, when origin was known.



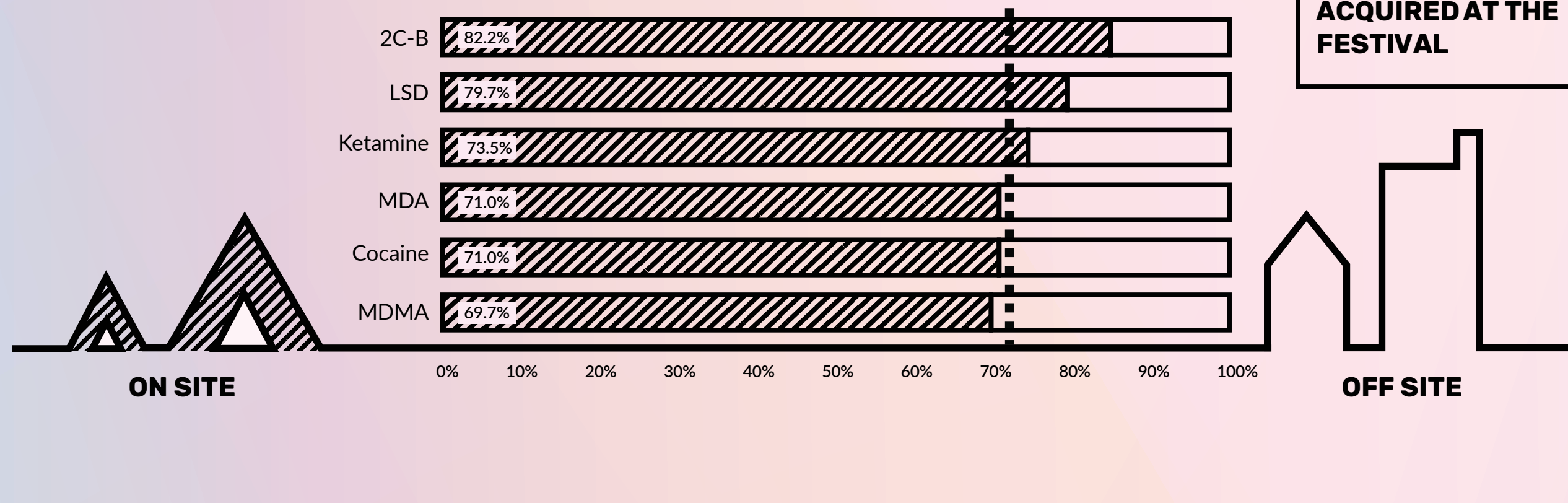
TESTING BEFORE USING?

Drug checking works best if drugs are tested before use.



WHERE DRUGS COME FROM AND EXPECTATIONS

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



WHERE DRUGS COME FROM AND SERVICE ACCESS

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



33% INCREASE IN DRUG CHECKING ACCESS IF THE DRUG IS ACQUIRED AT THE FESTIVAL

People who acquired their drug on-site were 33% more likely to test their drug at the festival prior to using, compared to those who got their drug off-site.

1 OUT OF 10 SAMPLES Were brought to the drug checking service as UNKNOWN. (9.5%)

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

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

Thank you to ANKORS, ASK Wellness, Bass Coast Festival, BCCSU, Interior Health, Shambhala Music Festival.

Thank you to all attendees who waited patiently in line and donated, your contributions make this possible.

Above all, thanks to all the volunteers. We wish to note that festival drug checking is a mostly volunteer effort. With Bass Coast and Shambhala together, over 80 people come from all over Canada to participate in providing drug checking services.

