June 27 2022

groupe de recherche et d'intervention psychosociale

Drug Checking Service (SAS)

Report on samples analyzed in April and May 2022

Key points

- During this period, we analyzed **83 samples**.
- We tested 24 samples purchased as MDMA. Instead of MDMA, 10 of these samples contained MDA, 1 sample contained methamphetamine, and 1 sample contained N-ethylpentylone.
- **One sample, purchased as a Dilaudid (hydromorphone) tablet, was found to contain isotonitazene, a synthetic opioid similar in potency to fentanyl, which does not react to fentanyl test strips.**

Data on the users of our service for April and May :

65 users of our mobile service
Service users without analysis (material distribution and overdose prevention): 9
Service users with analysis: 56
Total number of samples: 83

Variation of analyzed samples

Assumes substance	Number of samples
4-AcO-DMT	1
4-HO-MET	1
4-HO-MIPT	1
5-MeO-DMT	1
Cialis	1
Cocaine	17
Crystal meth	2
Dilaudid	1
DMT	1
DPT-HCl	1
Etizolam	1

Assumed substance	Number of samples
GHB	1
Heroin	2
Ketamine	8
LSD	3
MDA	1
MDMA	24
Mescaline	1
Psilocybin	1
Speed	12
THC vape pen	1
Unknown	1

Stay cautious

- One sample, purchased as a Dilaudid (oxycodone) tablet, was found to contain isotonitazene.
    - Isotonitazene is a synthetic opioid that is about as potent as fentanyl.
    - The effects of isotonitazene are known to be similar to those of fentanyl or morphine. Respiratory depression is a significant risk, especially when mixed with other depressants like benzos.
    - Naloxone can be used for overdoses involving isotonitazene.
    - Isotonitazene would not cause a positive result on fentanyl strips and could easily go undetected in our tests at concentrations high enough to cause an overdose.

MDMA adulterants that we found:

- MDA
    - MDA is a similar substance to MDMA, with a similar dosage, but the effects have been reported to be more hallucinogenic and less empathogenic, and the effects last longer. Some people seek out MDA and prefer it to MDMA. If a person expects to take MDMA, they may be tempted to take another dose if the effects are not what they expected. We recommend waiting at least two hours before taking another dose.
- Methamphetamine
    - It is not uncommon for methamphetamine to be sold as MDMA. Because methamphetamine lasts longer than MDMA, insomnia can be one of the side effects. If it is not possible to test your pill, we recommend starting with a small dose (for example, a piece of pill) and waiting to feel the effects before using more.
- N-ethylpentylone
    - N-ethylpentylone is a synthetic cathinone, a member of the family of substances sometimes called "bath salts". It is a stimulant whose short and long term effects are not well studied.

Our drug checking technologies have limits:

- Fentanyl test strips:

These strips can only detect fentanyl, and if the sample is not mixed properly, a false negative may be obtained. False positives have been observed with methamphetamine and MDMA if too much sample is used. Research into whether test strips can reliably detect fentanyl analogues (e.g. carfentanil or acetyl fentanyl) is limited.

- Benzodiazepine test strips:

These test strips are most reliable for detecting the most commonly prescribed benzodiazepines (e.g. alprazolam (Xanax) and diazepam (Valium)). Their reliability is limited when it comes to detecting the newer benzos such as etizolam. Because benzodiazepines may be present in a sample in small amounts and are not easily dissolved, a negative result cannot confirm that there are no benzodiazepines in the sample.

- Colorimetry:

The observed color is the result of the complete composition of the sample, and stronger colors will dominate weaker colors. Even if the colors of the reaction match what is expected from the pure substance, other unexpected compounds may be present. The ability of the colorimetric test to identify the components of a mixture depends on the nature of those components and the homogeneity of the sample. Using more reagents to test your sample increases the power of differentiation, but reagent analysis cannot confirm that a sample is pure or safe.

- FT-IR:

The FT-IR cannot detect substances present at a concentration of 5% or less. It can also only identify substances that are in the database, which might not contain newly synthesized substances. When analyzing a mixture, the FT-IR can only detect a maximum of 5 components, each of which must be present at more than 5% to be detected. We are not able to give results on the percentage composition, or purity of a sample. We can only conclude that if a component is detected, it is present at more than 5%. Even if only one substance is detected in a sample, this does not mean that there are no other substances in the sample present at concentrations of 5% or less.

Drug Checking Service (SAS) - Report for April and May 2022

groupe de recherche et d'intervention psychosociale

					Test strip results			
ID	Presumed substance (expected substance)	Sample type	Colour and shape	FT-IR Results (See note 1 and 2)	Fentanyl test strips (Note 3)	Benzo test strips (Note 4)	Apparent composition	Comments
121	4-AcO-DMT			4-AcO-DMT fumarate	Negative		4-AcO-DMT	
134	4-HO-MET			Could not find a match	Negative			Identification was not possible
120	4-HO-MiPT	Pill	green, round	Could not find a match	Negative		4-HO-MiPT fumarate	Identification was not possible with our technologies. However, confirmatory testing using more advanced technologies confirmed the presence of 4-HO-MiPT.
118	5-MeO-DMT	Powder	beige	5-MeO-DMT	Negative		5-MeO-DMT	
125	Cialis (tadalafil)	Pill "C 20"	yellow, egg-shaped	Cellulose and tadalafil			Cellulose and tadalafil (Cialis)	
84	Cocaine	Powder	white	Cocaine, caffeine and mannitol	Negative		Cocaine, caffeine and mannitol (a sugar)	
116	Cocaine	Powder	white	Cocaine	Negative		Cocaine with the possibility of levamisole	Colorimetry suggests that levamisole is possibly present in ths sample
135	Cocaine	Powder	white	Cocaine	Negative		Cocaine	
143	Cocaine	Clumpy powder	white	Cocaine	Negative		Cocaine	
145	Cocaine	Powder	white	Cocaine	Negative		Cocaine	
152	Cocaine	Powder	white	Cocaine	Negative		Cocaine	
153	Cocaine	Powder	white	Cocaine	Negative		Cocaine	
154	Cocaine	Powder	white	Cocaine and mannitol	Negative		Cocaine and mannitol (a sugar)	
90	Cocaine	Powder	white	Caffeine, cocaine and phenacetin	Negative		Caffeine, cocaine and phenacetin	Phenacetin is a pain medication that is no longer approved for sale because it has been found to be a possible carcinogen.
93	Cocaine	Powder	white	Cocaine	Negative		Cocaine	

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ID	Presumed substance (expected substance)	Sample type	Colour and shape	FT-IR Results (See note 1 and 2)	Fentanyl test strips (Note 3)	Benzo test strips (Note 4)	Apparent composition	Comments
103	Cocaine	Powder	white	Cocaine	Negative		Cocaine	
104	Cocaine	Powder	white	Cocaine	Negative		Cocaine	
106	Cocaine	Powder	white	Cocaine	Negative		Cocaine with the possibility of levamisole	Colorimetry suggests that levamisole is possibly present in ths sample
107	Cocaine	Clumpy powder	white	Cocaine	Negative		Cocaine	
108	Cocaine	Clumpy powder	white	Cocaine	Negative		Cocaine with the possibility of levamisole	Colorimetry suggests that levamisole is possibly present in ths sample
132	Cocaine	Powder	white	Cocaine	Negative		Cocaine	
146	Cocaine	Powder	white	Cocaine and lidocaine	Negative		Cocaine and lidocaine (a local analgesic)	
99	Crystal (methamphetamine)	Wet crystals	transparent	Water	Negative	Negative	Inconclusive	We were only able to do the test strips because the sample was very humid
126	Crystal (methamphetamine)	Crystals	transparent	Methamphetamine	Negative		Methamphetamine	
137	Dilaudid (fentanyl)	Pill "D D, 8"	white	Cellulose	Negative	Negative	Cellulose and isotonitazene	**Sample was suspected to be counterfeit, but could not confirm with our technologies. More advanced analysis technologies detected the presence of isotonitazene, a synthetic opioid with a similar potency to fentanyl.**
78	DMT	Grainy powder	yellow	DMT	Negative		DMT	
122	DPT-HCl			DPT	Negative		DPT	
119	Etizolam	Powder	white	Cellulose and an uncertain match with etizolam	Negative	Positive	Cellulose and etizolam or another benzodiazepine	
142	GHB	Liquid	pale yellow	GHB-wet	Negative		GHB and water	
97	Heroin	Powder	dark grey-green	Mannitol and dimethyl sulfone	Positive	Negative	Mannitol (a sugar), dimethyl sulfone and the presence of fentanyl	Dimethyl sulfone is a substance sold as a nutritional supplement. It is supposed to be useful for hair and nail health, as well as for intestinal health, but its effects have not been proven.

					Test strip results			
ID	Presumed substance (expected substance)	Sample type	Colour and shape	FT-IR Results (See note 1 and 2)	Fentanyl test strips (Note 3)	Benzo test strips (Note 4)	Apparent composition	Comments
139	Heroin (fentanyl, benzos, caffeine)	Powder	purple	Caffeine, cyclopentanoyl fentanyl, mannitol and sucpink	Positive	Positive	Caffeine, fentanyl analog, mannitol, sucpink and the presence of a benzodiazepine	
117	Ketamine	Powder	white	Ketamine	Negative		Ketamine	
144	Ketamine	Crystals	white	Ketamine	Negative		Ketamine	
147	Ketamine	Powder	white	Ketamine	Negative		Ketamine	
148	Ketamine	Powder	white	Ketamine	Negative		Ketamine	
149	Ketamine	Powder	white	Ketamine	Negative		Ketamine	
155	Ketamine	Powder	white	Uncertain match with 2-FDCK and ketamine				Identification was not possible
130	Ketamine (R enantiomer)	Crystals	white	Uncertain match with 2-FDCK				Identification was not possible
131	Ketamine (S enantiomer)	Crystals	white	Ketamine			Ketamine	
79	LSD						LSD or an analogue	Colorimetry suggests the presence of LSD or an analog.
88	LSD	Tab	blue-gray				LSD or an analogue	Colorimetry suggests the presence of LSD or an analog.
98	LSD	Tab	grey				LSD or an analogue	Colorimetry suggests the presence of LSD or an analog.
123	MDA			MDA	Negative		MDA	
74	MDMA	Capsule with crystals	brown-black	MDA et safrole	Negative		MDA and safrole (a precursor)	
75	MDMA	Capsule with powder and crystals	white	N-ethylpentylone	Negative		N-ethylpentylone	N-ethylpentylone is a synthetic cathinone, which belongs to the family of "bath salts". It is a stimulant, which can cause insomnia and paranoia. People who think they are taking MDMA may be tempted to take another dose when they don't feel the effects. At higher doses, the negative effects are more pronounced.

					Test strip results			
ID	Presumed substance (expected substance)	Sample type	Colour and shape	FT-IR Results (See note 1 and 2)	Fentanyl test strips (Note 3)	Benzo test strips (Note 4)	Apparent composition	Comments
76	MDMA	Capsule with powder and crystals		MDMA	Negative		MDMA	
77	MDMA	Capsule with powder and crystals	white	MDMA	Negative		MDMA	
81	MDMA	Crystals	white	MDA	Negative		MDA	
82	MDMA	Crystals	yellow	MDMA	Negative		MDMA	
83	MDMA	Chunks	brown-purple	MDMA	Negative		MDMA	
85	MDMA	Powder	white	MDA	Negative		MDA	
86	MDMA	Crystals	pale yellow	MDMA			MDMA	
87	MDMA	Crystals	white	MDMA	Negative		MDMA	
89	MDMA	Powder	pale yellow	MDMA	Negative		MDMA	
91	MDMA	Powder	pale yellow	MDA	Negative		MDA	
92	MDMA	Crystals	white	MDA	Negative		MDA	
94	MDMA	Powder	white	MDMA and dimethyl sulfone	Negative		MDMA and dimethyl sulfone	Dimethyl sulfone is a substance sold as a nutritional supplement. It is supposed to be useful for hair and nail health, as well as for intestinal health, but its effects have not been proven.
95	MDMA	Powder	white	MDMA	Negative		MDMA	
96	MDMA	Pill "bomb"	pale blue, in the shape of a heart	MDMA and calcium carbonate	Negative		MDMA and calcium carbonate (a filler)	
101	MDMA	Capsule with powder and crystals	white	MDA and mannitol	Negative		MDA and mannitol (a sugar)	
102	MDMA	Crystals	pink	MDMA and dimethyl sulfone	Negative		MDMA and dimethyl sulfone	Dimethyl sulfone is a substance sold as a nutritional supplement. It is supposed to be useful for hair and nail health, as well as for intestinal health, but its effects have not been proven.

					Test strip results			
ID	Presumed substance (expected substance)	Sample type	Colour and shape	FT-IR Results (See note 1 and 2)	Fentanyl test strips (Note 3)	Benzo test strips (Note 4)	Apparent composition	Comments
111	MDMA	Capsule with powder and crystals	white	MDA	Negative		MDA	
113	MDMA	Pill "Dove"	beige, oval	MDMA, lactose and an uncertain match	Negative		MDA, lactose and an uncertain kind of oil	
124	MDMA	Capsule with powder	brun	MDA and safrole	Negative		MDA and safrole (a precursor)	
127	MDMA	Capsule with powder	white	MDA and ketamine			MDA and ketamine	
138	MDMA	Pill "ICE"	white, orange spots, rectangular	Cellulose and methamphetamine	Negative		Cellulose and methamphetamine	
150	MDMA	Capsule with powder and crystals	pink	Mannitol, MDMA and dimethyl sulfone			Mannitol (a sugar), MDMA and dimethyl sulfone	Dimethyl sulfone is a substance sold as a nutritional supplement. It is supposed to be useful for hair and nail health, as well as for intestinal health, but its effects have not been proven.
80	Mescaline	Powder	beige					Inconclusive because of the organic matter
100	Psilocybin	Organic matter (crushed mushroom)	grey-brown		Negative			Inconclusive because of the organic matter
110	Speed	Pill "Snapchat"	white with red spots	Caffeine and sucrose	Negative	Negative	Caffeine and sucrose (a sugar)	Colorimetry did not detect methamphetamine or amphetamine
114	Speed	Pill "ICE"	white, rectangular	Caffeine, cellulose and methamphetamine	Negative		Caffeine, cellulose, and methamphetamine	Colorimetry also detected methamphetamine
115	Speed	Pill "ICE"	white, rectangular	Cellulose and caffeine	Negative		Cellulose, caffeine and methamphetamine	Colorimetry indicated that methamphetamine was present
140	Speed	Pill "ICE"	white, rectangular	Cellulose, calcium carbonate, methamphetamine, and stearic acid	Negative		Cellulose, calcium carbonate (a filler), methamphetamine, and stearic acid	
141	Speed	Pill "ICE"	white, rectangular	Caffeine, cellulose and methamphetamine	Negative		Caffeine, cellulose and methamphetamine	
105	Speed (amphetamine)	Pill "ICE"	white with brown spots, rectangular	Calcium carbonate	Negative		Calcium carbonate (a filler) with possibly methamphetamine	Colorimetry indicated that methamphetamine was present
133	Speed (amphetamine)	Pill "ICE"	white, rectangular	C0affeine, methamphetamine, cellulose and an uncertain match	Negative		Caffeine, methamphetamine, cellulose and an uncertain match	

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ID	Presumed substance (expected substance)	Sample type	Colour and shape	FT-IR Results (See note 1 and 2)	Fentanyl test strips (Note 3)	Benzo test strips (Note 4)	Apparent composition	Comments
136	Speed (amphetamine)	Pill "ICE"	white, rectangular	Caffeine and cellulose			Caffeine and cellulose	Colorimetry did not detect methamphetamine or amphetamine
109	Speed (methamphetamine)	Pill "ICE"	white, rectangular	Caffeine, cellulose and methamphetamine	Negative		Caffeine, cellulose and methamphetamine	Colorimetry also detected methamphetamine
112	Speed (methamphetamine)	Pill "ICE"	white, rectangular	Caffeine and cellulose	Negative		Caffeine and cellulose	Colorimetry did not detect methamphetamine or amphetamine
128	Speed (methamphetamine)	Pill "MTL"	white, rectangular	Cellulose, methamphetamine, and calcium carbonate	Negative		Cellulose, methamphetamine, and calcium carbonate (a filler)	
151	Speed (methamphetamine)	Pill "ICE"	white, rectangular	Cellulose, caffeine, and methamphetamine	Negative		Cellulose, caffeine, and methamphetamine	
156	THC vape pen	Liquid	orange		Négative			Identification was not possible
129	Unknown (MDMA)	Powder	pale yellow-white	MDA			MDA	

Number of service users in April	27 (8 without drug checking)
Number of substances in April	33
Number of service users in May	38 (1 without drug checking)
Number of substances in May	50

NOTES

1 The FT-IR matches are presented in the order that they are found. This does not translate to the % composition or the purity of the sample.

2 The FT-IR cannot detect substances that are present at a concentration of less than 5%. In addition, it cannot detect substances that are not in our database, which may include newly synthesized substances.

3 The detection limit of the fentanyl test strips is 20 ng/mL. These test strips can only detect fentanyl, and if the sample is not well mixed, a false negative result might be obtained.

4 The detection limit of the benzodiazepine test strips is 300 ng/mL. These test strips cannot detect all benzodiazepines.