

# LIMIT OF DETECTION OF DRUG CHECKING TECHNOLOGIES FOR DRUG CHECKING IN A REAL-WORLD SETTING

## WHAT WE DID

This study compared drug samples checked at drug checking services at supervised consumption sites in Vancouver to results in a laboratory.

Looked at the limit of detecting fentanyl in two drug checking technologies: FTIR machine and test strips used at the drug checking settings.

## QUICK FACT

*The FTIR has a higher limit of detecting fentanyl than test strips*

## WHAT WE FOUND

The FTIR was consistently able to detect fentanyl at a concentration of 10% or higher

The fentanyl test strips were able to detect fentanyl at a concentration of 5% or higher.

## WHY THIS MATTERS

The FTIR has a higher limit of detecting fentanyl so it needs to be used in combination with fentanyl test strips.

The FTIR is still valuable because it can look at things other than fentanyl.

For more information about the evaluation please visit:

[www.bccsu.ca/drug-checking/](http://www.bccsu.ca/drug-checking/)

McCrae K, Tobias S, Grant C, et al. Assessing the limit of detection of Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy and immunoassay strips for fentanyl in a real-world setting. *Drug Alcohol Rev.* 2019;39(1):98-102. doi:10.1111/dar.13004