



Change in Opioid Supply During Cheque Week

WHAT DID WE DO?

We looked at how benzo positivity, fentanyl positivity, and fentanyl concentration in unregulated opioids change during cheque week in Vancouver.

Please note some benzos can't always be detected and the numbers reported here may be an underestimate of what's in the drug supply.

WHAT WE USED:



FENTANYL AND
BENZO TEST STRIPS



FOURIER TRANSFORM
INFRARED
SPECTROSCOPY (FTIR)



LAB CONFIRMATORY TESTING

WHAT WE FOUND:



More expected-opioid samples tested **POSITIVE** for fentanyl during cheque week

Opioid samples were almost

2x as likely to contain benzos during cheque week

compared to the rest of the month

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Increased fentanyl and benzo positivity in opioids during cheque week could lead to more drug-related harms. Getting your drugs checked can help give you an idea of what substances are in them.

CITATION: Beaulac M, Richardson L, Tobias S, Lysyshyn M, Grant C, Ti L. Changes in the unregulated opioid drug supply during income assistant payment weeks in Vancouver, Canada: An exploratory analysis. Int J Drug Policy. 2022;105:103707. doi: 10.1016/j.drugpo.2022.103707



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