Witnessing Overdose and Drug Checking

WHAT DID WE DO?

We looked at whether people who had witnessed an overdose were more likely to check their drugs in Vancouver, BC.

WHAT WE USED:

- Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)
- Fentanyl and Benzo test strips
- Questionnaire
WHAT WE FOUND:

- 54% of participants had recently witnessed an overdose
- 14% had recently checked their drugs

Participants that witnessed an overdose were 2x as likely to check their drugs.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Seeing someone overdose may motivate people to use drug checking. During the overdose crisis, access to drug checking can be useful to let people know what’s in their drugs.


www.providencehealthcare.org
www.drugcheckingbc.ca