

# DRUG CHECKING

## FTIR SPECTROMETER + FENTANYL TEST STRIPS

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### Drugs may not be what you think!

Even if you know your source, your drugs may contain unexpected and dangerous substances

Drug checking can help **reduce risk** by providing information about what is actually in a substance, allowing you to make **better-informed decisions**

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#### What we can tell you about your sample:

*With the FTIR:*

- Up to 3-4 different components in a mixture and approximate proportions
- Other drugs and cutting agents that may be mixed in or used as filler

*With the strips:*

- Whether your sample contains fentanyl and some fentanyl analogues
- **Note:** strips only test for fentanyl within the sample provided. Fentanyl may still be present in the remainder of the drug batch. Strips may occasionally report a negative result when fentanyl or an analogue is present

#### What we cannot tell you about your sample:

- The FTIR cannot detect substances present in small amounts (less than about 5%)
- Specific quantities or the exact percentage in a mixture
- New or rare substances we don't have in our reference database
- We cannot reliably distinguish between specific substances with similar chemical make-up (e.g., 2C-family, fentanyl analogues)

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### Checking your drugs cannot guarantee that a drug is safe to use

The FTIR and the strips may occasionally miss fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, or other dangerous substances

#### Even after checking your drugs, we recommend you:

- Not use alone
- Know the signs of overdose and call for help if you think someone needs assistance
- Start with a small amount
- Carry and know how to use naloxone
- Avoid mixing substances (especially alcohol with depressants) which increases your risk of overdose
- Use where help is available whenever possible, like at an overdose prevention site