

Drug Checking Expansion across the United States and Latin America: An Annual Survey

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Thank you to our Collaborators

- Survey Design
 - Ju Nyeong Park, PhD
 - Jessica Tardif, BA
 - ▶ Traci Green, PhD, MSc
- Latin American Outreach and Spanish Support
 - ▶ John Bird, BA
 - ▶ Jaime Arredondo Sanchez, PhD
- Outreach Support
 - ▶ Alliance for Collaborative Drug Checking
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 - ► The COBRE on Opioids and Overdose
 - ▶ Brown Department of Medicine



Background: Current Reality

Unregulated Drug Supply

Impurities and contaminants

Unintended
Health
Implications

Long-Term Effects

- Variable contents
- Variable potency
- Possible cross contamination

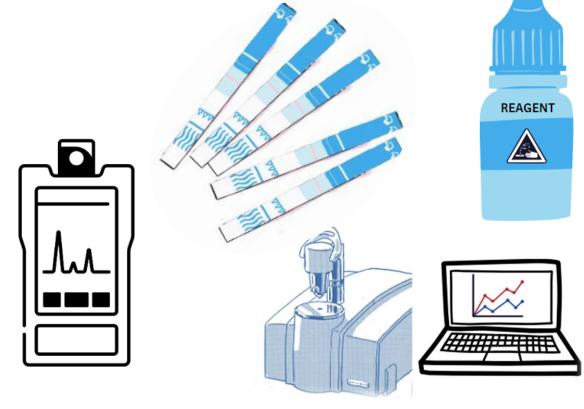
- Xylazine
- Fentanyl
- Nitazines

- Overdose
- Wounds
- Psychological harms

- Death
- Brain Damage
- Trauma
- Amputation

Background: What is Drug Checking?

- Informs individuals what could be in their drugs
- Existed since the 70's
- Use a variety of testing tools
- Models include communitybased, lab based, and mobile



Park, Ju Nyeong et al. "A survey of North American drug checking services operating in 2022." The International journal on drug policy vol. 121 (2023): 104206. doi:10.1016/j.drugpo.2023.104206

Methods

- Annual survey starting in 2022
- Open to programs offering drug checking (not distribution of testing materials)
- ✓ In operation for at least 6 months
- Recruited through Alliance for Collaborative Drug Checking and Snowball Sampling
- Topics: services offered, procedures, operational characteristics, utilization rates
- Length: 20 Minutes; Compensation: \$25

Results: Sample Overview

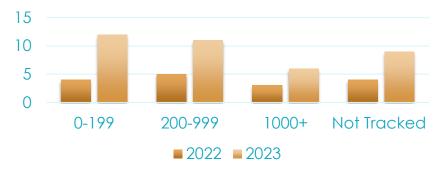
2022	2023
16 Responses	36 Responses
3 CountriesUSCanadaMexico	5 Countries*USMexicoColumbiaPeruChile
7 US States	14 US States

MT ND OR MN SD WY IA NE NV OH UT CA KS MO NC TN OK SC AR Response in 2023 GA AL only TX LA Responses in 2022 and 2023

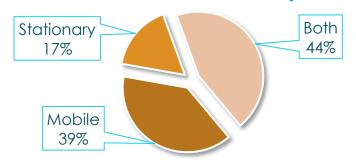
*Note: In 2023 a separate team conducted the Canadian portion of the survey

Results (N=36)

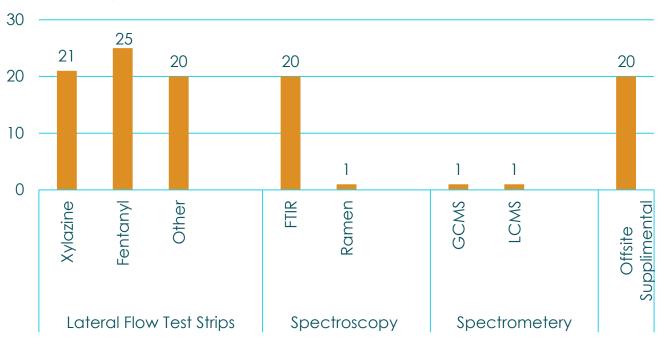
Annual Sample Count



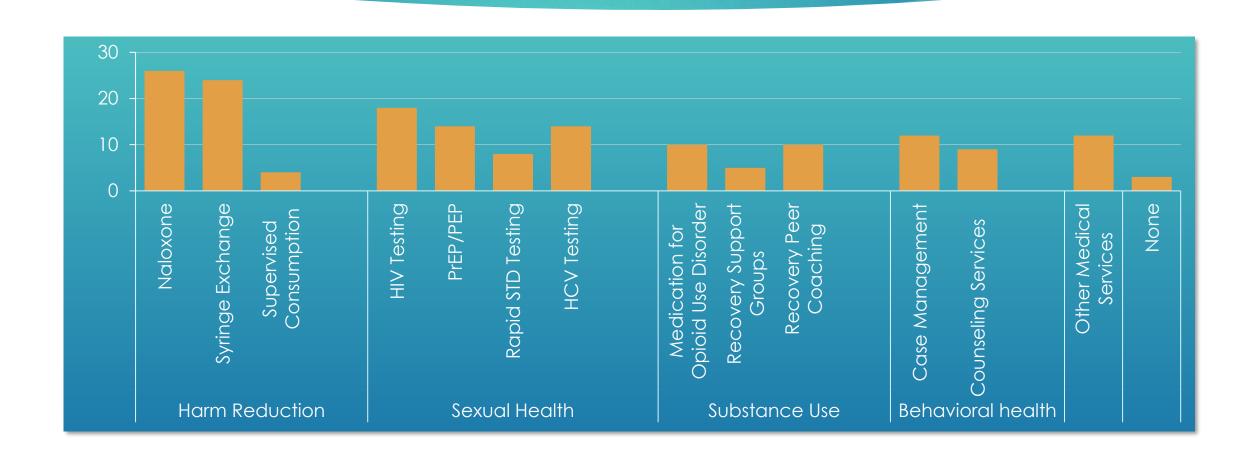
Mobile/Stationary



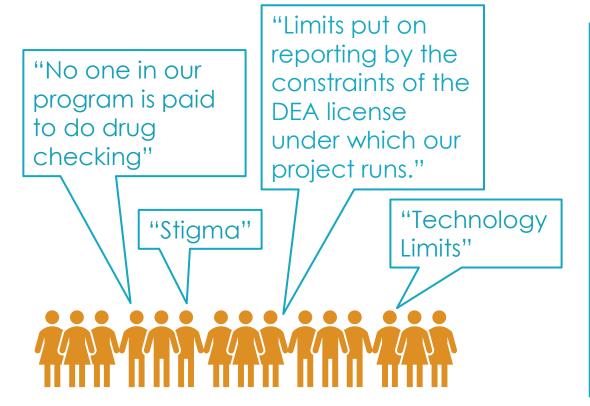
Testing Methods Offered

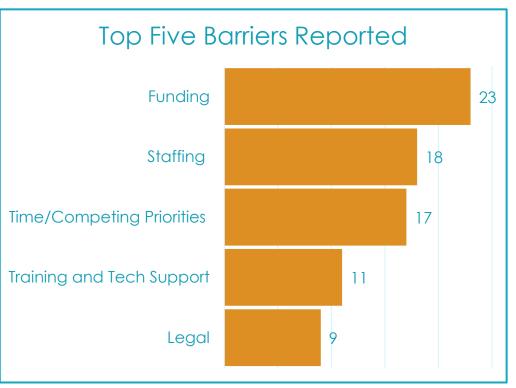


Number of Programs Offering (N=36)



Barriers (N=26)





Note: Categories were not mutually exclusive

Conclusion

- Drug checking:
 - Is rapidly expanding
 - Is vital to the continuum-of-care for individuals in active substance use
 - Creates opportunities for use of harm reduction strategies

- Next Steps:
 - Further support is needed to incorporate these services alongside existing harm reduction and medical services
 - Services should be offered in all
 languages spoken by the community
 - We will continue this survey annually

Thank you!

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