

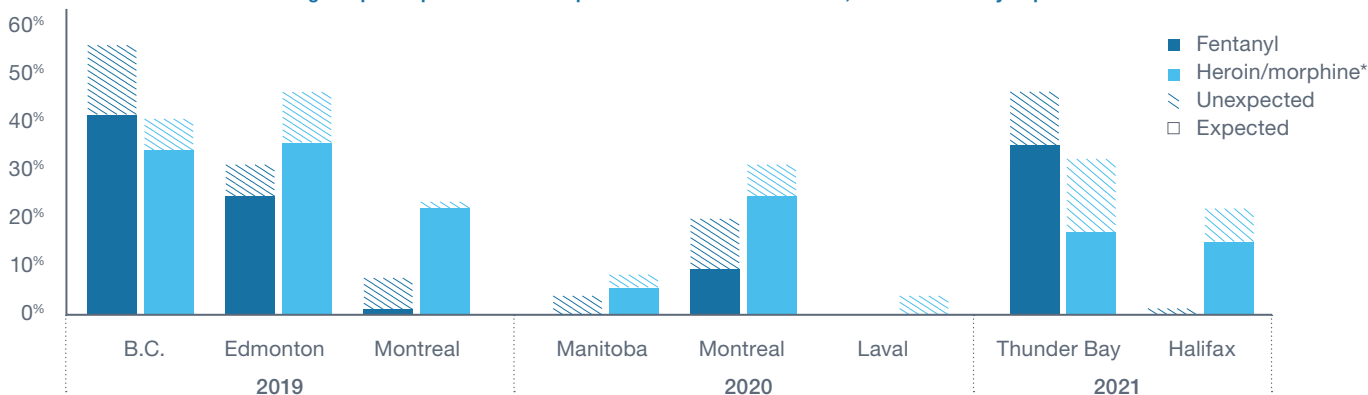
Do Drugs Contain What People Think They Contain?

Results from the Community Urinalysis and Self-Report Project

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

- **Participants:** 1,526 people who use drugs in seven regions across Canada.
- **Measures:** Self-report of substances used in the previous three days and urine sample to detect actual substances used.
- **Objective:** Compare reported and detected substance use.
 - Expected = detected and reported used; Unexpected = detected but not reported used.

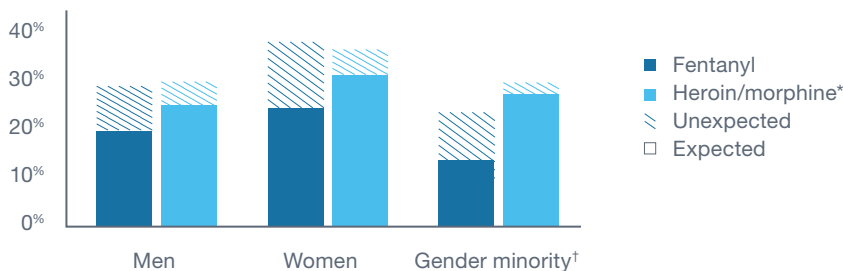
Percentage of participants who had opioids detected in their urine, broken down by expectation



*Heroin and morphine are combined as urinalysis cannot detect the difference.

Unexpected use of fentanyl and heroin/morphine was found in every region, although patterns of detection and expectation varied greatly.

Percentage of participants who had opioids detected in their urine, broken down by expectation and gender (all sites)



†Gender minority includes trans men, trans women, gender nonconforming, nonbinary or no gender indicated.



- These opioids were detected most often among women.
- Unexpected fentanyl was found most often among those who identify as a gender minority.†



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The unregulated drug supply contains unexpected, often toxic substances. This unpredictability causes harm to people who use drugs.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Improve drug predictability by expanding access to a safer drug supply that meets the needs of people who use drugs.
- Reduce the risks of unexpected substances by expanding access to low-barrier harm reduction services (e.g., observed consumption, drug checking, naloxone kits).
- Address the unique needs of people of different social identities by collecting more detailed data and developing services accordingly.

Listen to, engage with and compensate people who use drugs as experts and the people directly affected by these actions.

The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction thanks the Community Urinalysis and Self-Report Project Working Group, all partner sites and participants for their contributions.

Additional findings are presented in: Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction. (2022). *Community Urinalysis and Self-Report Project: Cross-Canada report on the use of drugs from the unregulated supply, 2019-2021 data*. Ottawa, Ont.: Author. <https://www.ccsa.ca/community-urinalysis-and-self-report-project-cross-canada-report-use-drugs-unregulated-supply-2019>. For more information, see <https://www.ccsa.ca/urinalysis-and-self-reporting>