

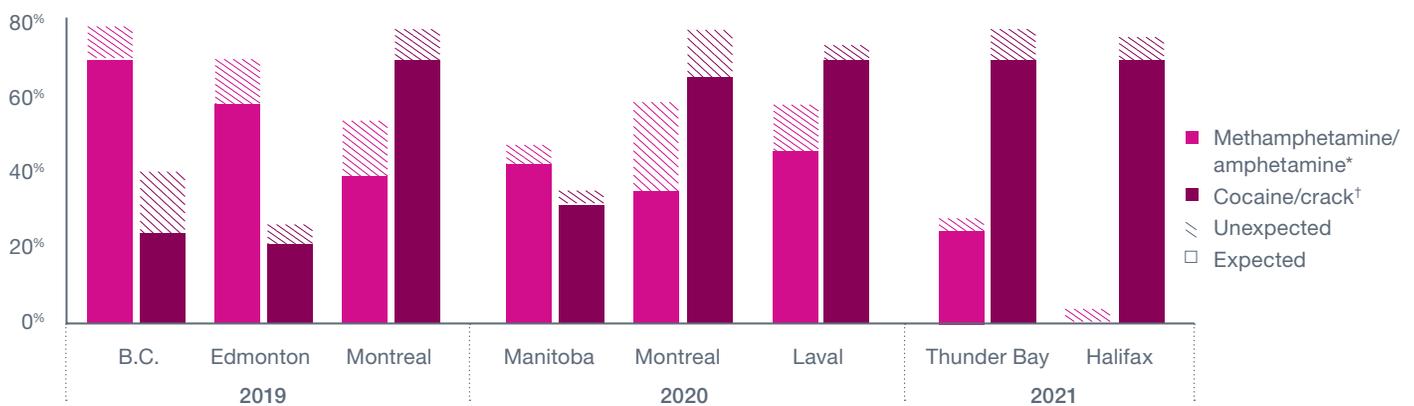
Do Drugs Contain What People Think They Contain?

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 stimulants detected in their urine, broken down by expectation

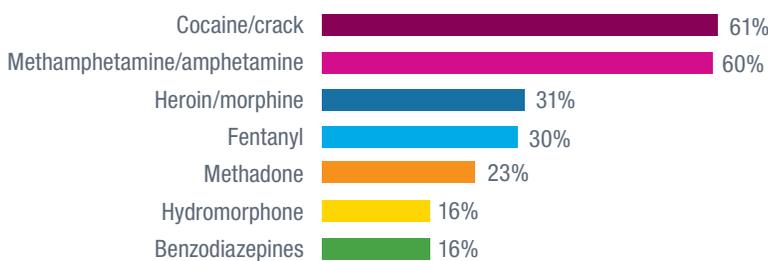


*Substances are combined (methamphetamine and amphetamine; cocaine and crack) as urinalysis cannot detect the difference.
 †Self-report of methamphetamine/amphetamine use includes speed.

Unexpected stimulant use was found in all regions.

Methamphetamine/amphetamine use was more often unexpected than cocaine/crack use.

Most commonly detected substances in urine (percentage of all participants)



Most participants reported smoking these stimulants, compared with other methods of use.

Cocaine or amphetamines were used more often than any other drug in all regions.



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, pharmaceutical-grade drug supply that includes stimulants.
- Reduce the risks of unexpected substances by expanding access to low-barrier harm reduction services.
- Meet the needs of people who smoke their drugs by considering access to safer supply options that can be smoked, observed inhalation services and safer smoking supplies.

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>