

Land Acknowledgement



Customer Service: Drug Sellers' Use of a Drug Checking Service Amidst the Overdose Crisis in B.C., Canada



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Use Research

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Outline

- *Background*
- *Study Objective*
- *Methods*
- *Findings*
- *Implications*



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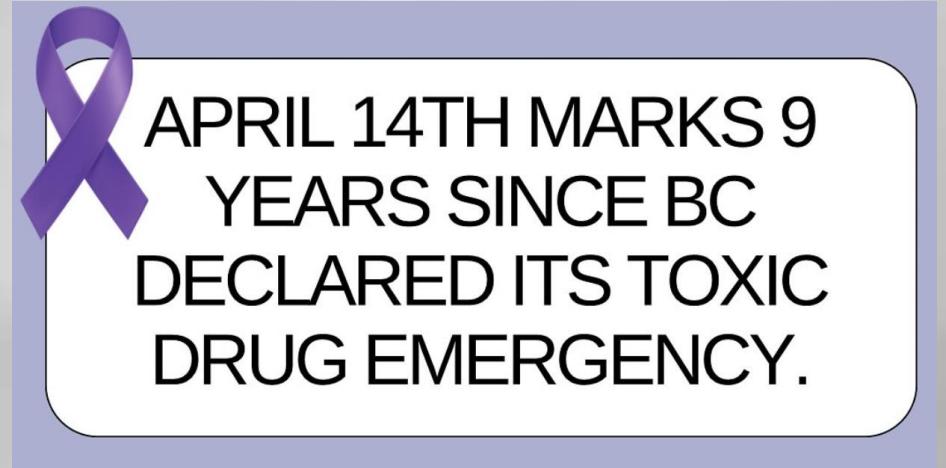


Background



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- *Overdose crisis continues in North America*
- *Fentanyl and analogues dominate opioid supply*
- *Substance Drug Checking*
- *Sellers' role largely unexamined*



Study Objective



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- *To examine the use of the drug checking service by drug sellers in “Victoria, B.C”.*
- *Challenging traditional view of drug sellers as ‘agents of harm’ in the opioid crisis.*
- *The potential role of sellers to reduce harm in the supply chain are often overlooked.*

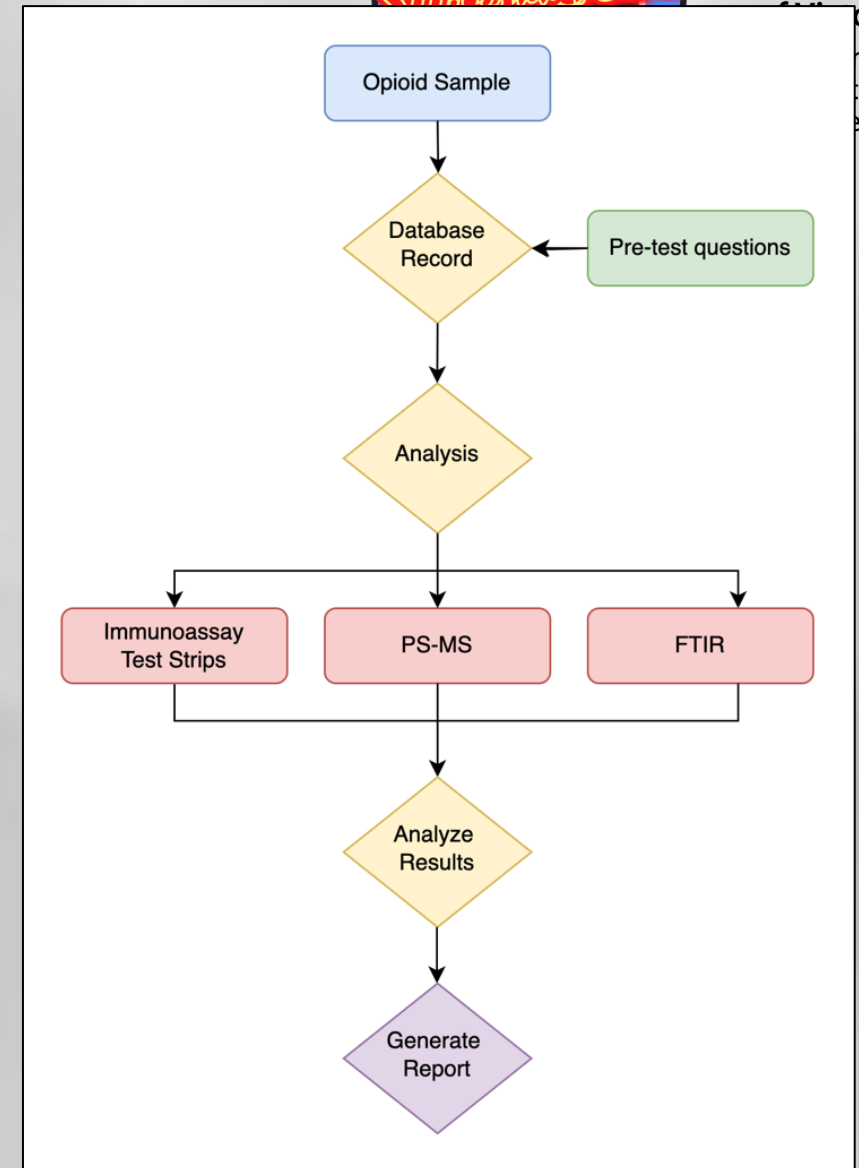


Methods

- *January 2021 – December 2024*
- *Combination of intake survey and drug checking results*
- *Self-identified people who sell drugs*
- *Previous drug check, expected substance, pre-tried?, unexpected effects, motivations, who is this for?*
- *Comparison between groups*



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Key Findings - Overview



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- *16% of users identified as sellers*
- *Submitted 22% of all samples*
- *Sellers submitted more samples per visit*

	Service Users	% of Total	Samples	% of Total	Average Samples per Service User
Non-Sellers	12,055	83.80%	20,036	78.40%	1.66
Sellers	2,332	16.20%	5,528	21.60%	2.37
Total	14,387		25,564		1.78

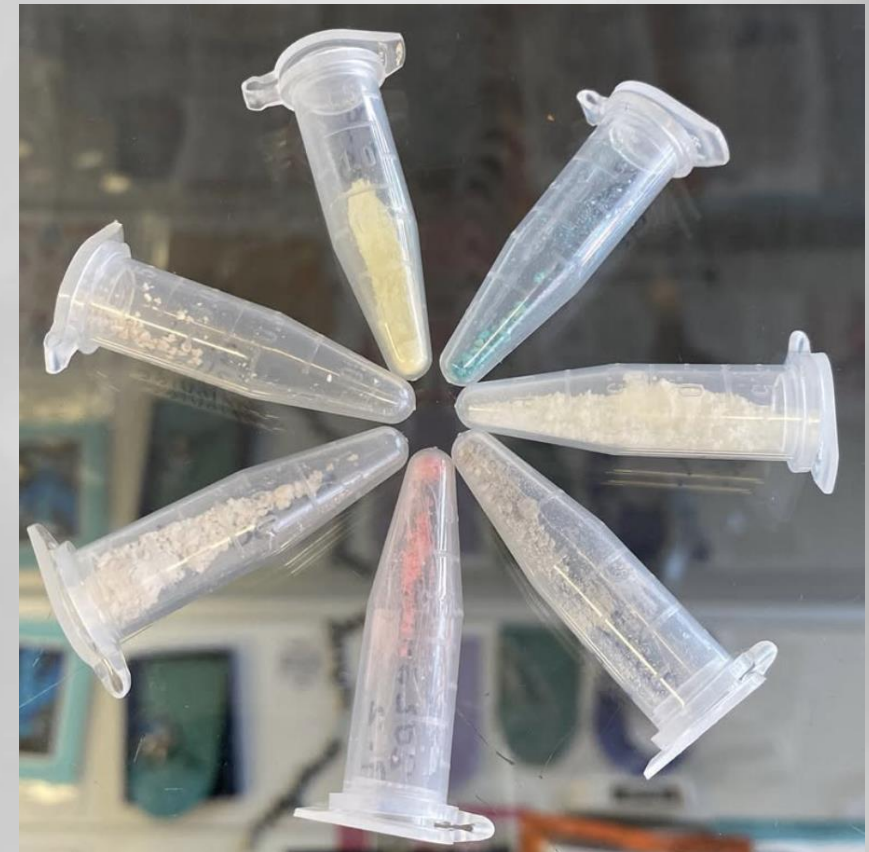


Key Findings

- 69% of seller samples = *illicit opioids* (35% overall)
- Sellers submitted more *pre-trying* samples
- Sellers more confident (as expected) but often wrong about composition
- More unexpected or additional substances found
- More “cut” samples – quality control



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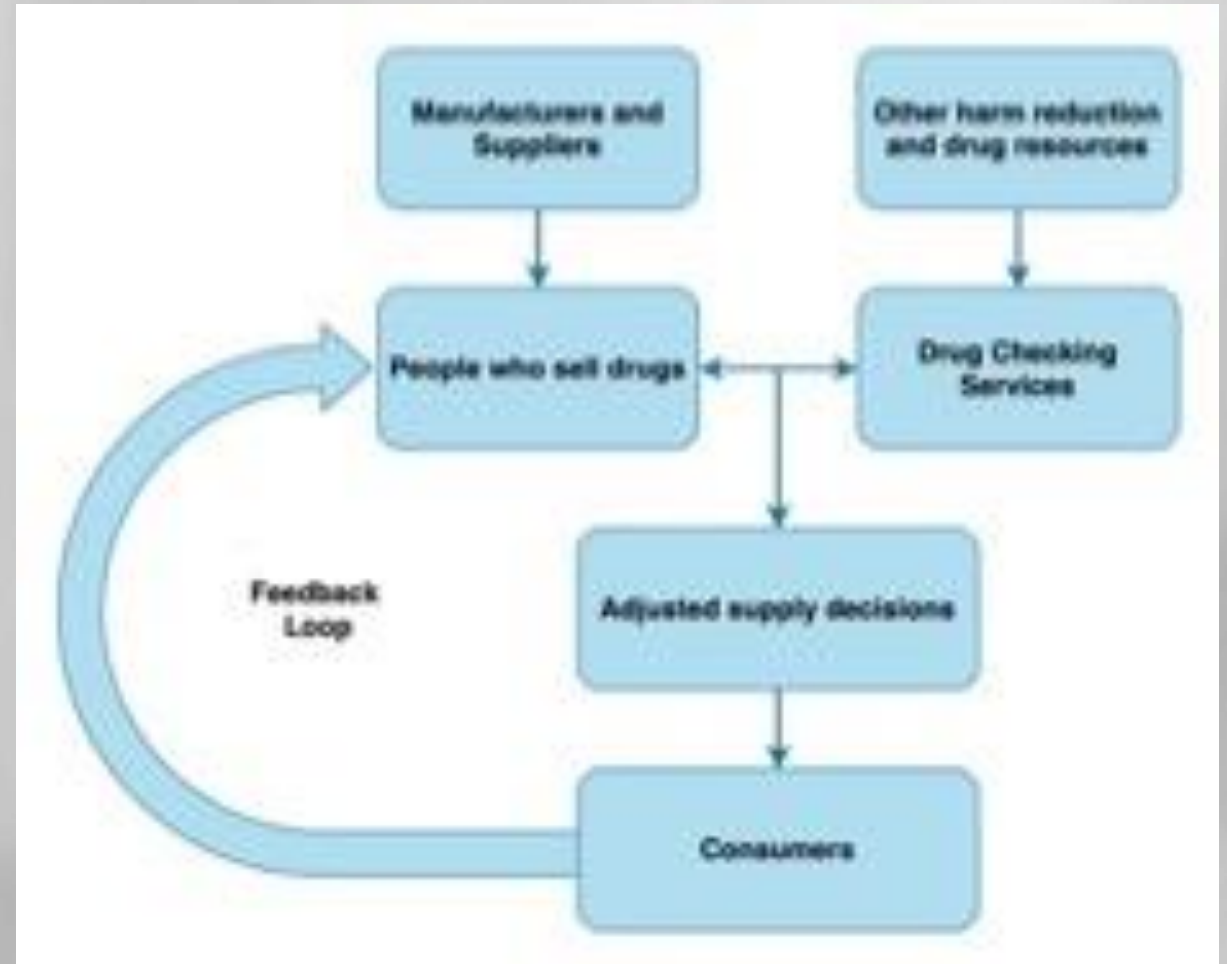


Implications



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- *People who sell drugs are public health stakeholders*
- *Drug checking can be a supply- chain intervention*
- *Intentional adaptation to the needs of sellers is needed*
- *Drug sellers protect their community*





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Thank you!

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