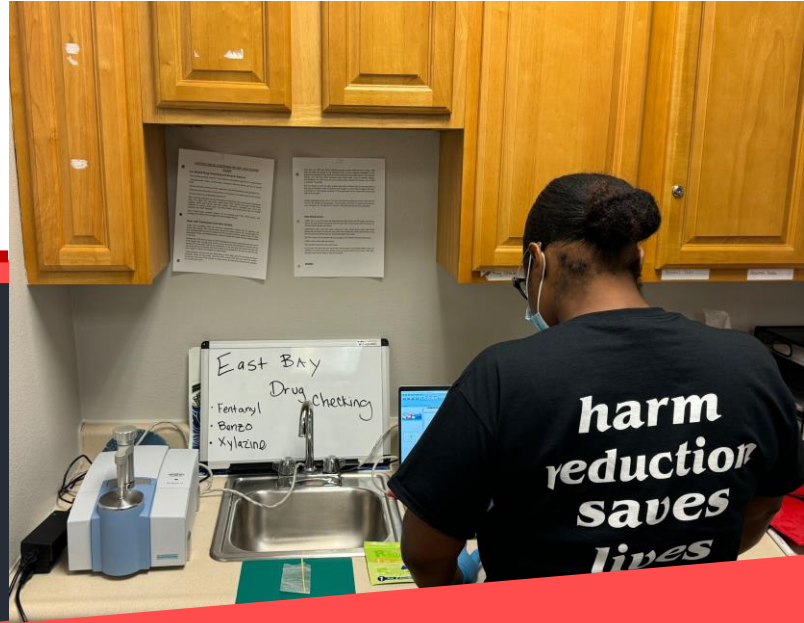


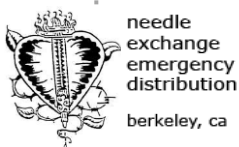
EAST BAY DRUG CHECKING COLLABORATIVE (EBDC)

FIRST YEAR SUCCESSES






How was EBDC formed?

In 2023, Alameda County funded the HIV Education Prevention Project of Alameda County (HEPPAC) to launch Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) and other drug checking services. To support drug checking across the county, HEPPAC joined forces with Punks with Lunch and NEED (Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution) to form the East Bay Drug Checking Collaborative (EBDC)—the **1st formal drug-checking collaboration of its kind** in the U.S.



needle exchange emergency distribution
berkeley, ca

Why collaborative drug checking?

-  **Feasibility.** More access to drug checking infrastructure since it's costly and time intensive.
-  **Reach.** More people receive drug checking services through different SSP networks.
-  **Peer-to-Peer Learning.** Different agencies learn from each other; smaller agencies can learn to navigate County funding norms and compliance, while larger agencies can learn from collective leadership models.

How has EBDC collaborated with partner organizations to maximize impact?

TRAINING ON DRUG CHECKING

EBDC received expert training from Remedy Alliance's Drug Checking Technical Assistance Program. Staff and volunteers from all three agencies engaged in intensive three-day training to become drug-checking technicians, practice scanning and analyzing drug samples, and receive ongoing virtual support on reading results on the FTIR.



STRATEGIC FACILITATION

HEPPAC contracted with Facente Consulting to provide strategic support and facilitation to the East Bay Drug Checking Collaborative, which supported the agencies by establishing rules of engagement and decision-making processes while launching this essential service.

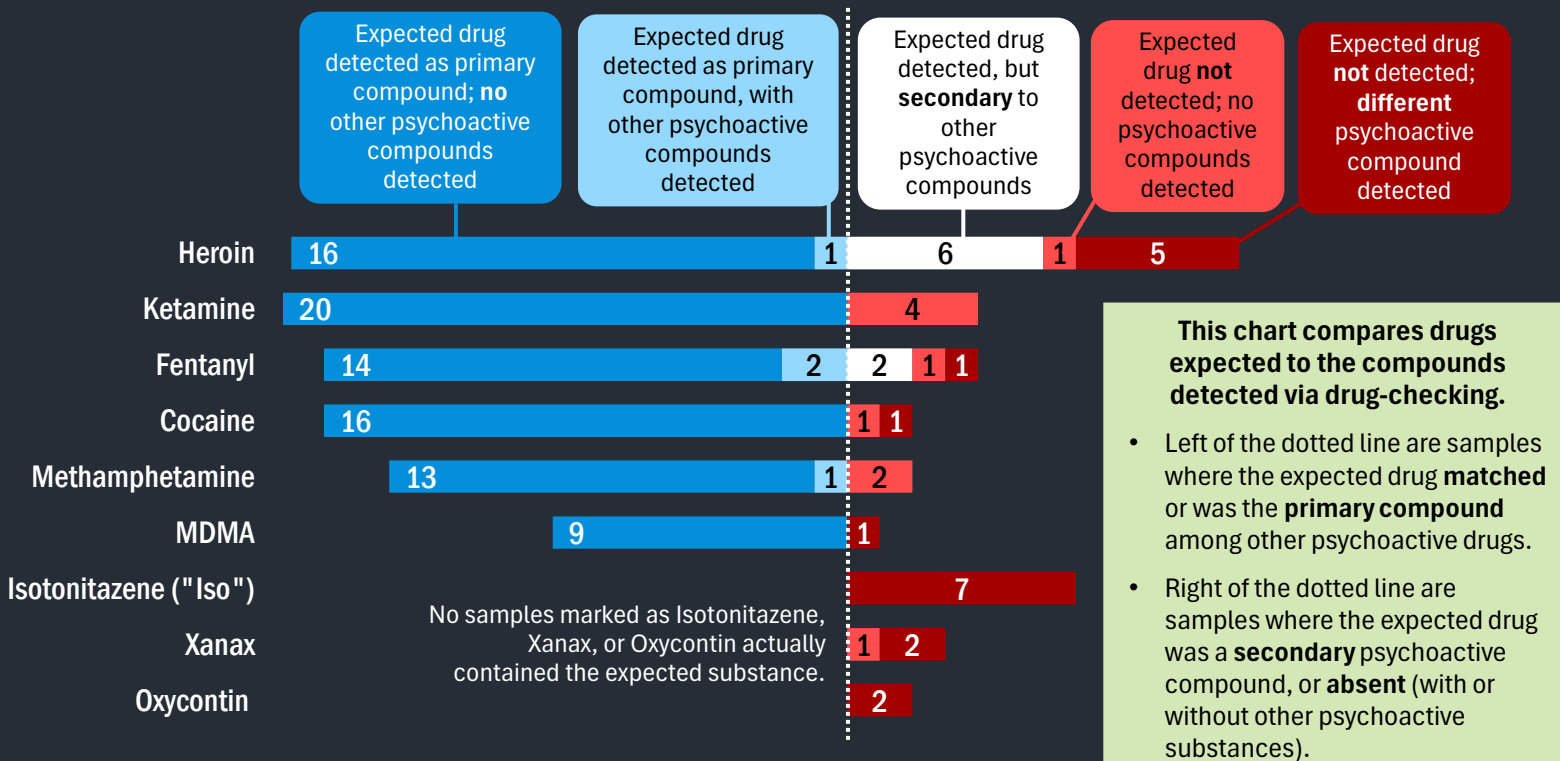
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Since launching drug checking services in October 2023, EBDC has helped improve the health and safety of people who use drugs (PWUD). By knowing what is in their drugs, PWUD can make informed decisions to meet their wellness goals and reduce harms. Below are key findings from the 129 samples collected by EBDC as of July 2023.



Drugs detected via drug checking (129 samples, October 2023 – June 2024)



Examples of unexpected drugs detected

FENTANYL

- 17% of samples **not** sold as fentanyl contained it. This included 86% of samples expected to contain Iso, and 38% of samples expected to contain heroin.
- The high prevalence of unexpected fentanyl is notable because people who are not used to using fentanyl are at high risk for fatal overdose.
- Fentanyl's presence in specific substances offers harm reduction programs opportunities for data informed harm reduction messaging.

ACETAMINOPHEN (a.k.a. Tylenol)

- Acetaminophen was unexpectedly found in 10% of samples, including 100% of samples expected to be Oxycontin, 29% of samples expected to be Iso, and 28% of samples expected to be heroin.
- The high prevalence of unexpected acetaminophen is notable because it can cause liver damage among people with liver disease—a condition for which people who use drugs are at higher risk.
- This finding creates an opportunity for harm reduction programs to create resources related to reducing the harm on someone's liver from ingesting more acetaminophen.



Questions: Contact Brittney: (510) 833-0093

