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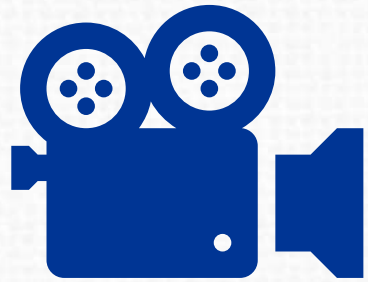
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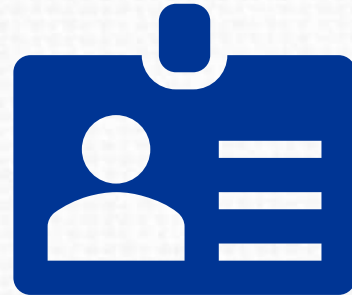
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Please complete the post-session **evaluation.**



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- Everyone on every Learning Network webinar is **valued**. Everyone has an expectation of **mutual, positive regard** for everyone else that respects the **diversity** of everyone on the webinar.
- We operate from a **strength-based, empathetic, and supportive** framework – with the people we serve, and with each other on these webinars.
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- We treat others as **they** would like to be treated and, therefore, avoid argumentative, disruptive, and/or aggressive language.





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Acknowledgements

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- COE vision: The Centers of Excellence will ensure care coordination, increase access to medication-assisted treatment and integrate physical and behavioral health for individuals with opioid use disorder.



Pennsylvania
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Drug Checking

COE Learning Collaborative 4-22-26

Raagini Jawa, MD, MPH, FASAM
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Austen Markus, MPH
Research Coordinator

Center for Research on Healthcare, Division of General Internal Medicine, University of Pittsburgh
@HRRC_PITT

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None

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Our patients & other individuals who have shared and taught us through their experiences

Harm reduction activists who have paved the way for our work today

Prevention Point Pittsburgh

Learning Objectives

By completion of this session, participants should be able to:

1

Recognize how drug checking services reduce overdose risk among high-risk populations.

2

Understand available mail-in drug checking resources and their relevance for COE outreach

3

Integrate drug checking education into harm reduction strategies with COE clients.

4

Collaborate with external partners to connect clients to safe drug checking options.

Which is Fake?



Which is Real?

People who use drugs are denied basic consumer protections





The volatile and unpredictable drug supply

Awareness of changes in drug supply happen after experiencing clinical harms.



Participant 1, 47-year-old woman

I didn't know it was xylazine until like a year and a half ago when I saw them on YouTube. But I had already full-blown wounds. You know what I mean? But it started off as little pimples and the boils, and then they opened up into holes, but I had no idea what it was.

Role of Drug Checking

- Harm reduction tool that uses chemical analysis to determine the contents of the unpredictable and volatile illicit drug supply
- Can help mitigate or prevent harms associated with consuming an unknown substance
 - Empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their drug use
 - Leads to behavioral changes to mitigate risk
 - Informs interventions, tools, and practices tailored to a local drug supply

Different Drug Checking Services



Active Contents					
Photo	Sample Name	Substance	Ratio / Amounts	Date	Location
	White Powder Versace Code: AC202282218 Sold as: Fentanyl + Heroin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fentanyl Xylazine 4-ANPP 4-Fluorofentanyl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 • 20 • 1 • 1 	Jul 04, 2023	Pittsfield, MA
	Off-White Powder Superman Code: AC202282254 Sold as: Heroin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fentanyl Xylazine 4-ANPP Phenethyl 4-ANPP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 • 10 • 5 • 1 	Jul 04, 2023	Pittsfield, MA
	Off-White Powder Car / CT Death Code: AC2022822491 Sold as: Heroin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cocaine Fentanyl Xylazine 4-ANPP Caffeine Heroin Methylecgonidine Ethyl-4-ANPP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70 • 30 • 20 • 10 • 10 • 2 • 2 • 1 	Jul 04, 2023	Pittsfield, MA



Distributable Tools

Immunoassay test strips and reagent test kits



FTIR

Point-of-Service Drug Checking

Check samples and provide results at time of service provision



LC/GCMS, QTOF

Analytical Lab Testing

Submit samples to analytical labs

cost, time, complexity

Urine toxicology Screens ≠ Drug Checking



	UDS	Drug Checking
Purpose	Used for screening drug use	Helps individuals understand the contents and safety of the drugs they have.
Setting	Common in medical, legal, or workplace contexts.	Typically found in harm reduction or recreational settings
Method	Urine samples to detect drug use	Uses samples of the drugs themselves to test for purity and contaminants.

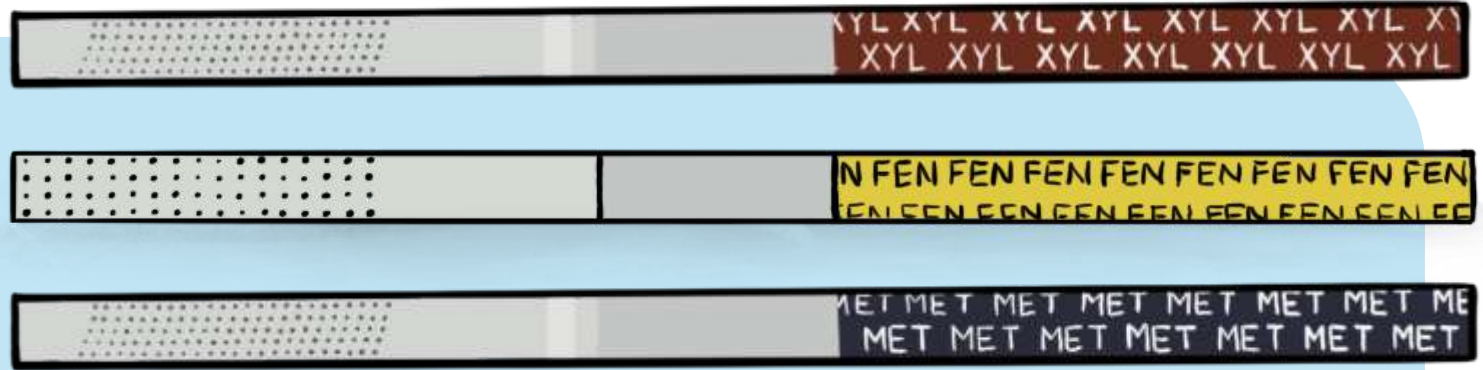
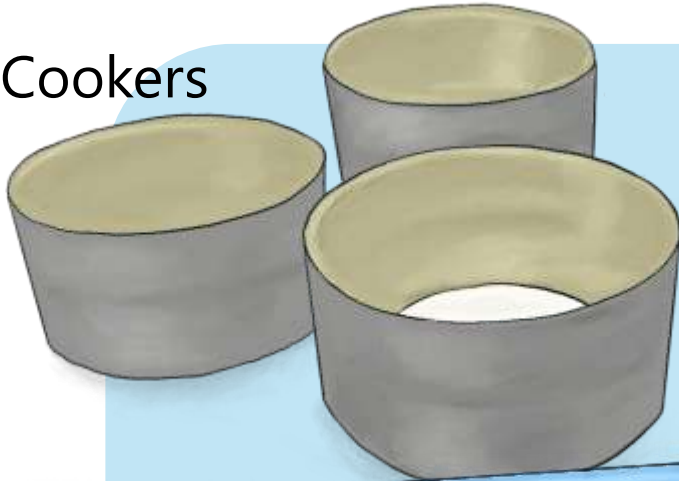


Immunoassay Test Strips

- Lateral flow assays originally designed for the clinical use of detecting fentanyl in urine samples
- Associated with risk reduction behavior change
- Low-cost, high-impact harm-reduction strategy
- Compatible with most injectable, powder, or pill drugs
- Multiple commercially available AND range in cost and dilution ratios

Test Strips

Cookers



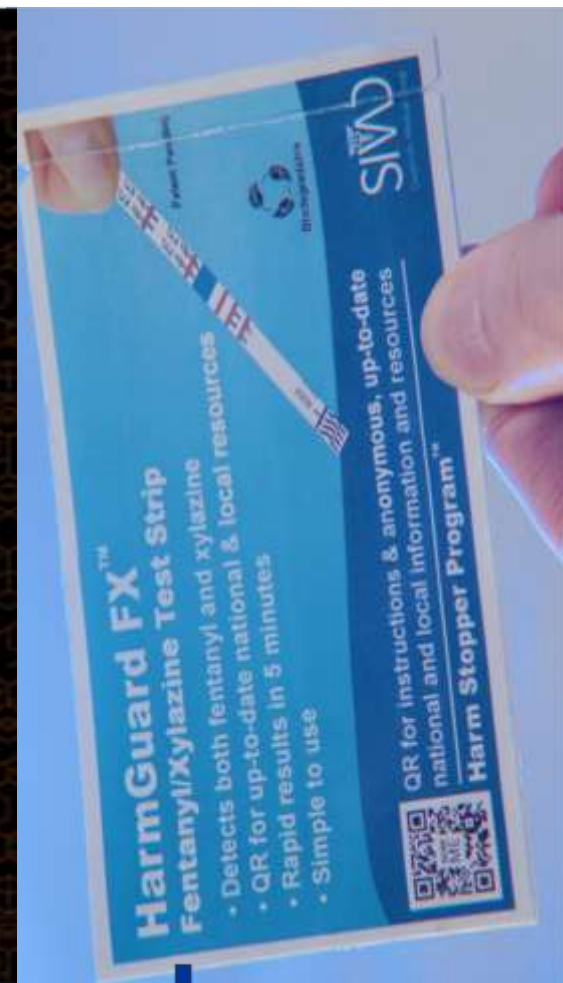
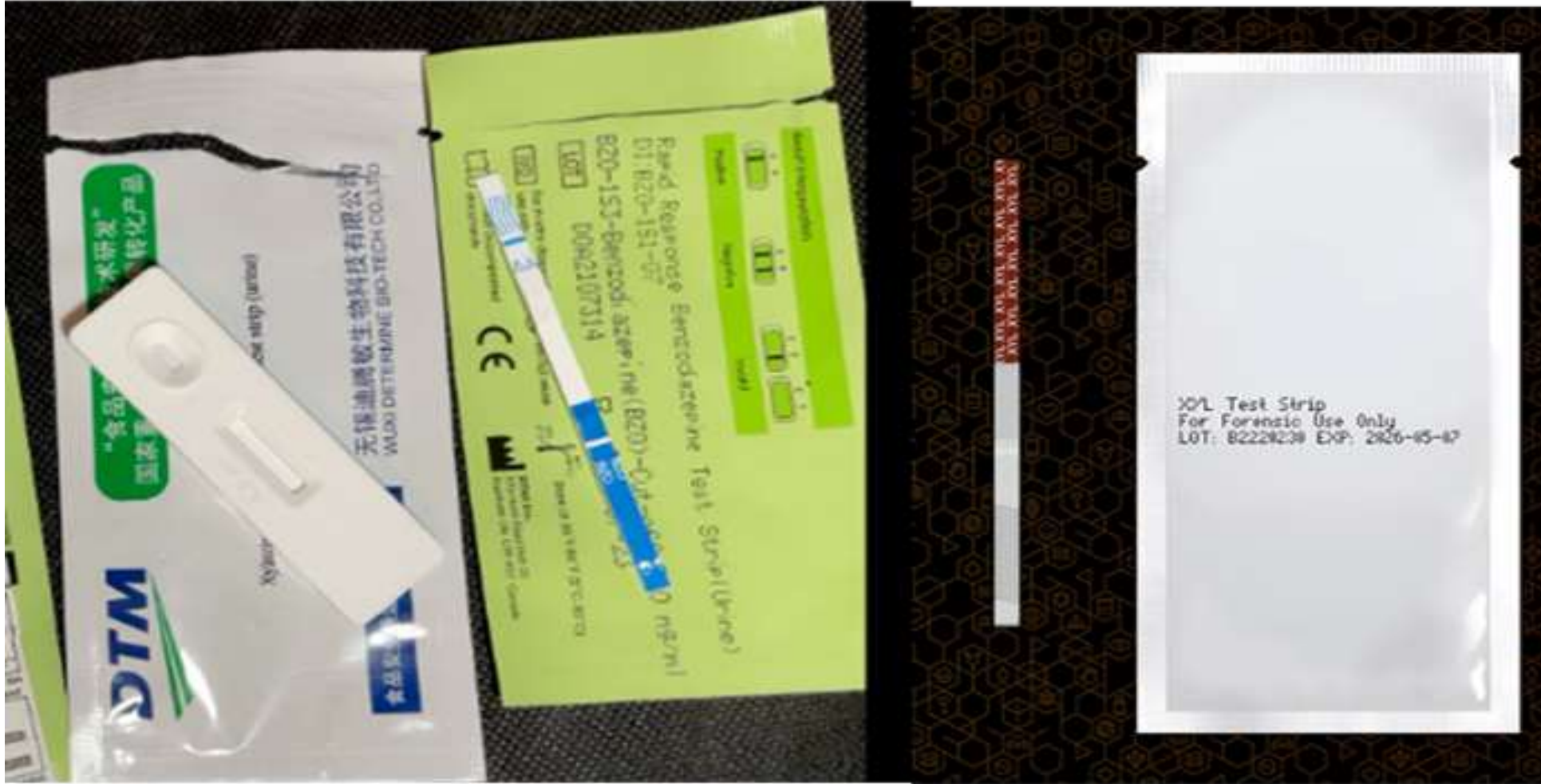
STERILE
WATER

Sterile water

Microscoop

- FTS: stimulants (cocaine, meth), pressed pills
- XTS: fentanyl/opioids
- MTS: fentanyl/opioids

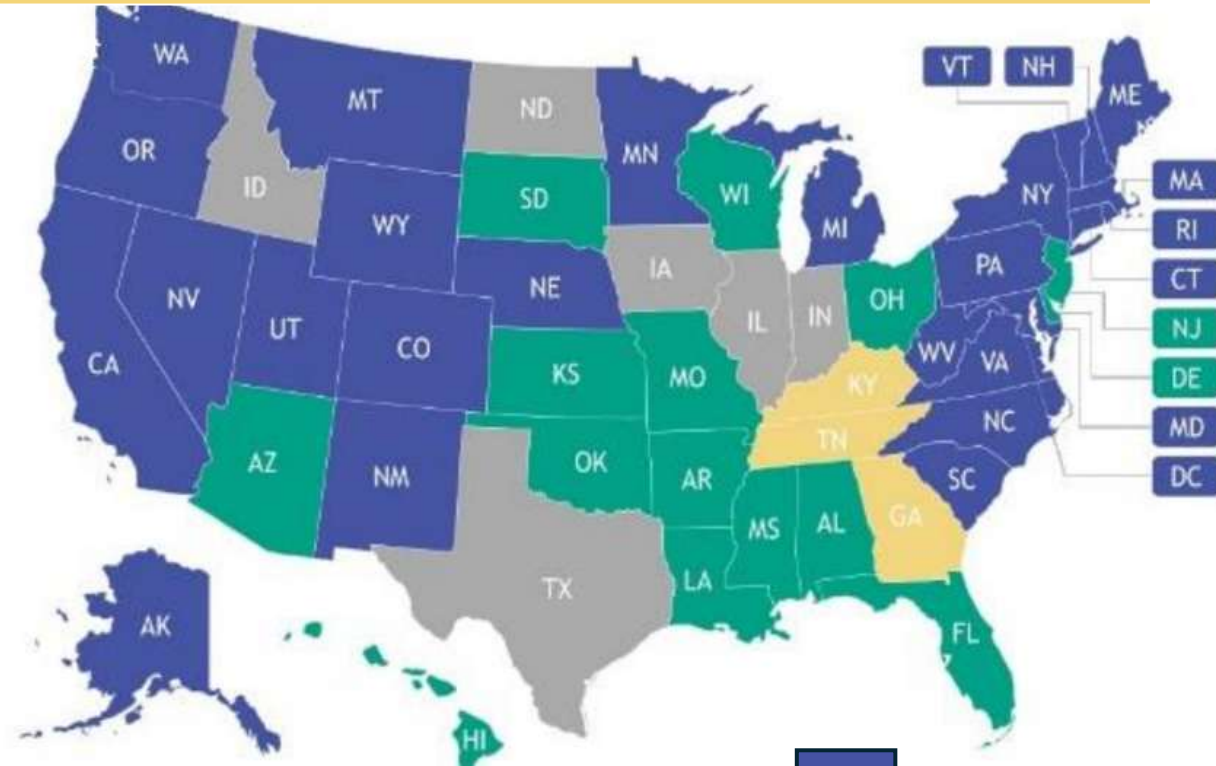
Which Test Strip?



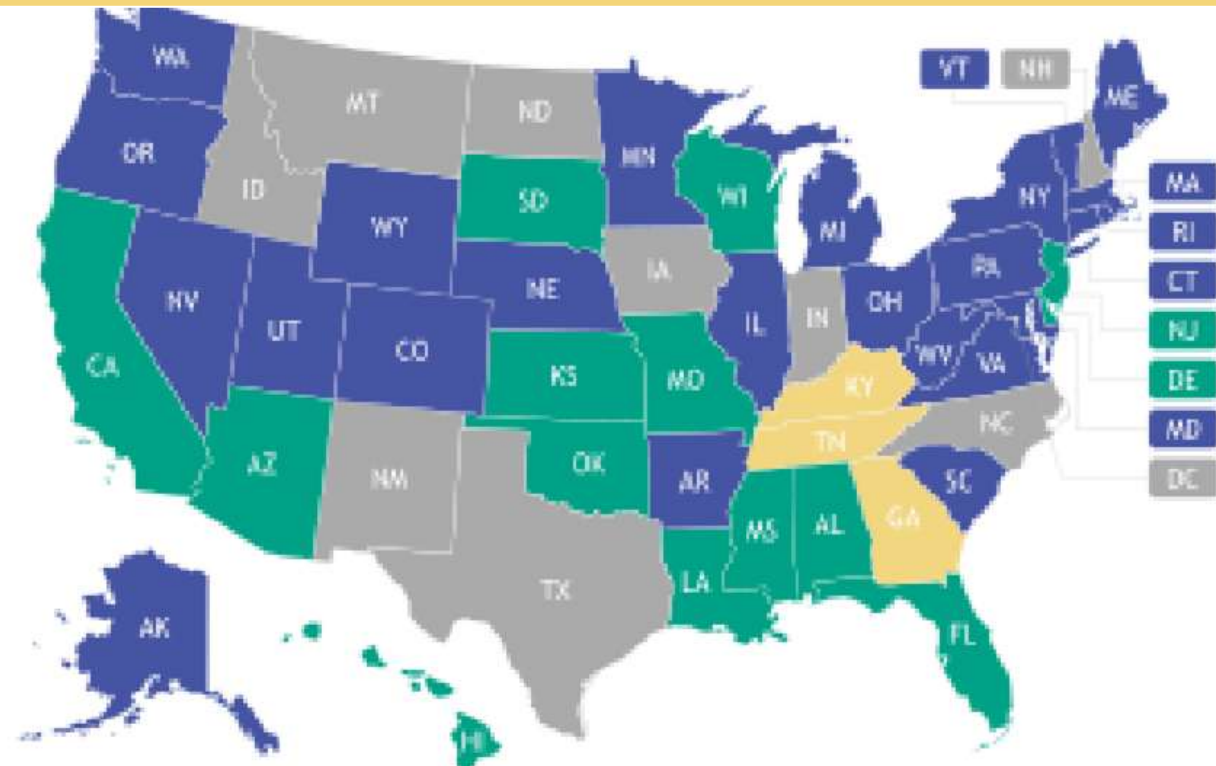
Nuances of test strips




- 90%+ of the opioids consumed now Pennsylvania are fentanyl
- As such fentanyl test strips are most effectively deployed to people who use cocaine, crack and methamphetamine
- False positives possible with cross reactivity to specific agents
- Review access and how to use test strips with patients
- “Test shot” for potency
- Start low, go slow

State with laws permitting possession of drug checking equipment



State with laws permitting free distribution of drug checking equipment



-  All Drug Checking Equipment
-  Fentanyl
-  Synthetic Opioids

Legal Drug-Checking Materials in Pennsylvania

Test strips legal in PA (Act 111, 2022)

This includes:

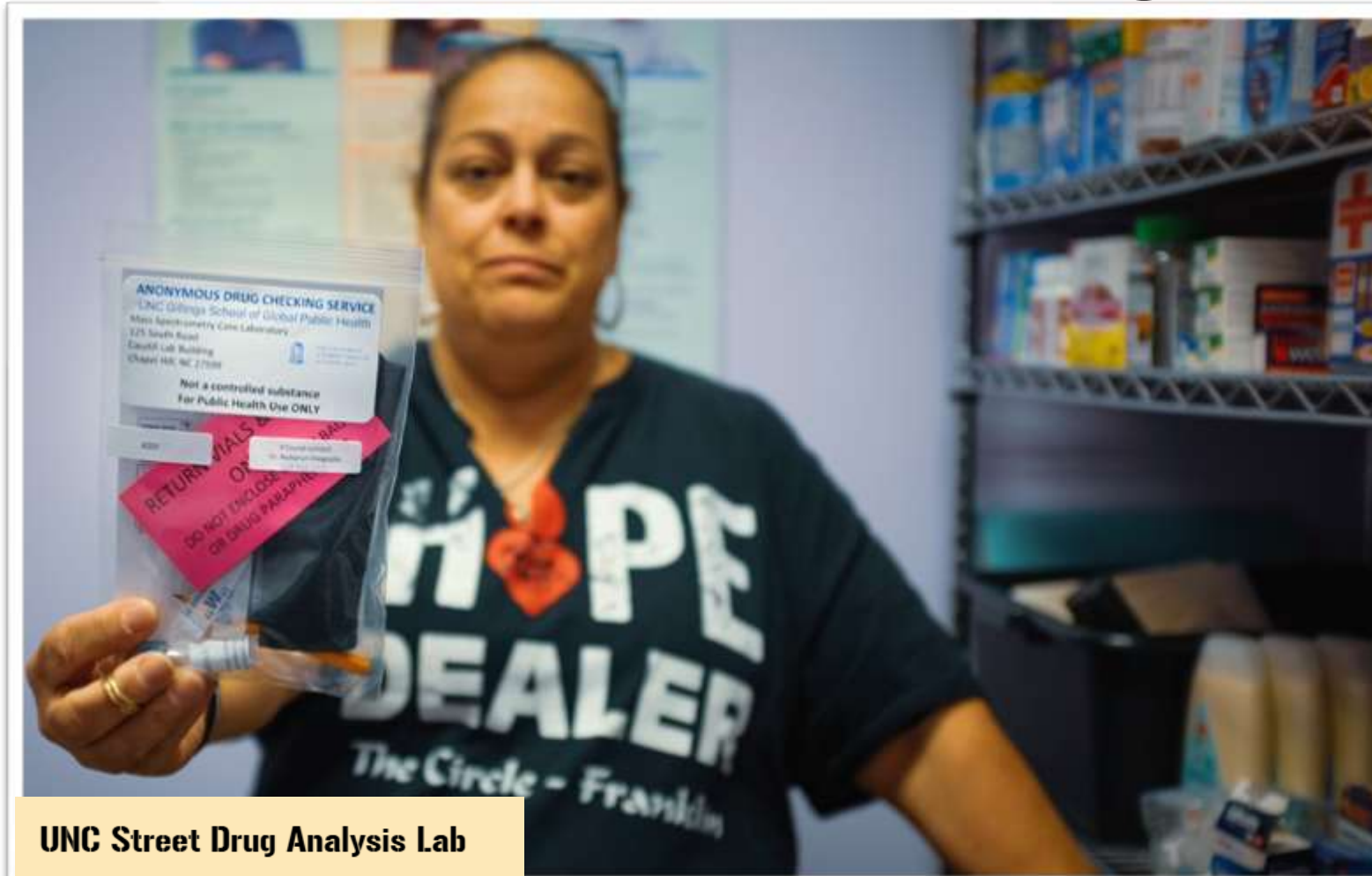
- Test Strips (Fentanyl/Xylazine)
- Test Strips for other Substances in Development
- Reagent Drug-Checking
- FTIR/Mass Spectrometry Drug-Checking



Test Strip Access Points



Mail-Based Drug Checking



UNC Street Drug Analysis Lab



Samples are given voluntarily.



Programs also share health information

Completely Anonymous
These questions help us figure out how to analyze the sample in our lab at UNC.

circle: spatula swab pill cotton
residue? syringe pipe foil

today's date: month date

circle if involved in overdose: yes no don't know
describe the overdose to were others:

describe color and markings:

circle expected drugs:
heroin fentanyl xylazine
cocaine crack meth
ketamine weed M30
benzo other:
MDMA
unknown

circle textures:
crystals pill fake pill
powder edibles oil/wax
plant/leaf tar
chunky shiny other:
shiny flaky dull

city or neighborhood:

circle & describe sensations:
normal nice weird
weaker stronger long
more up unpleasant
more down hallucinations
sedating unusual taste

describe:

sample number:

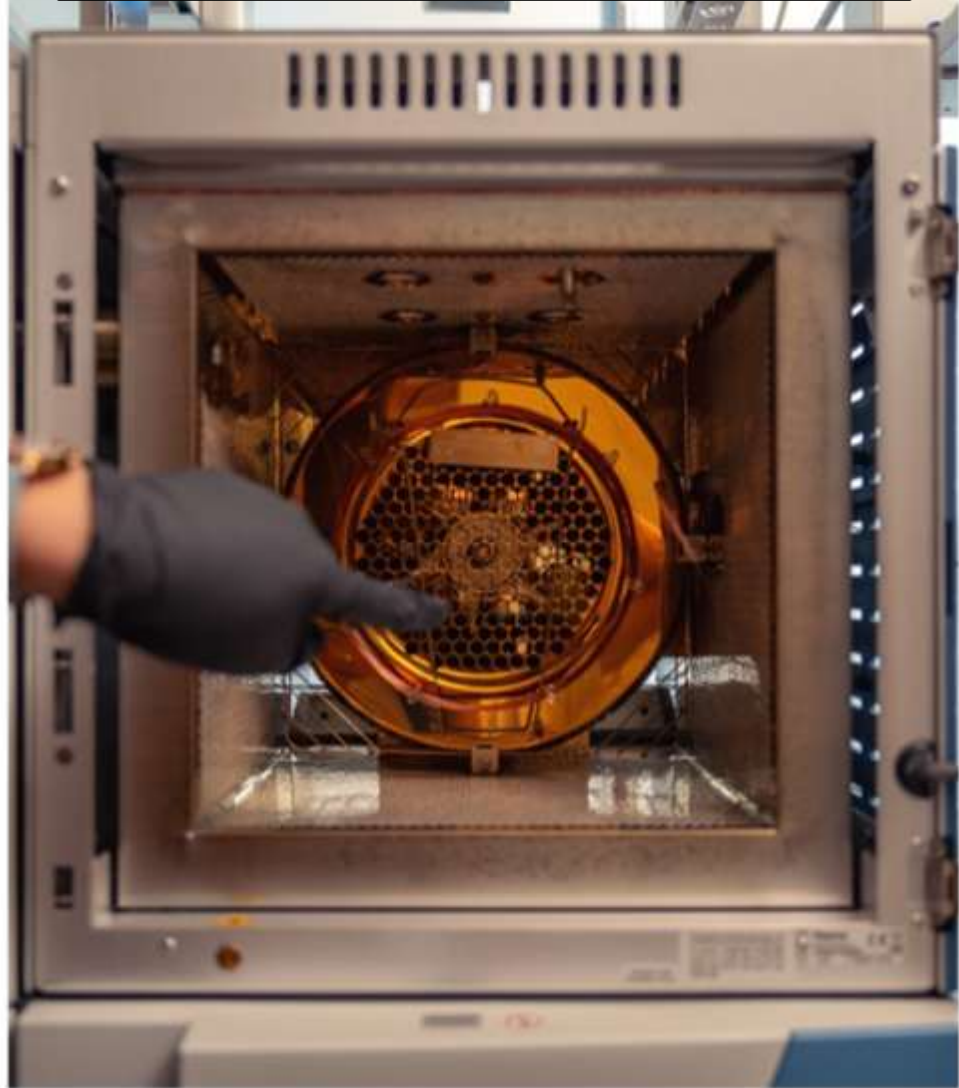


The tests are anonymous.

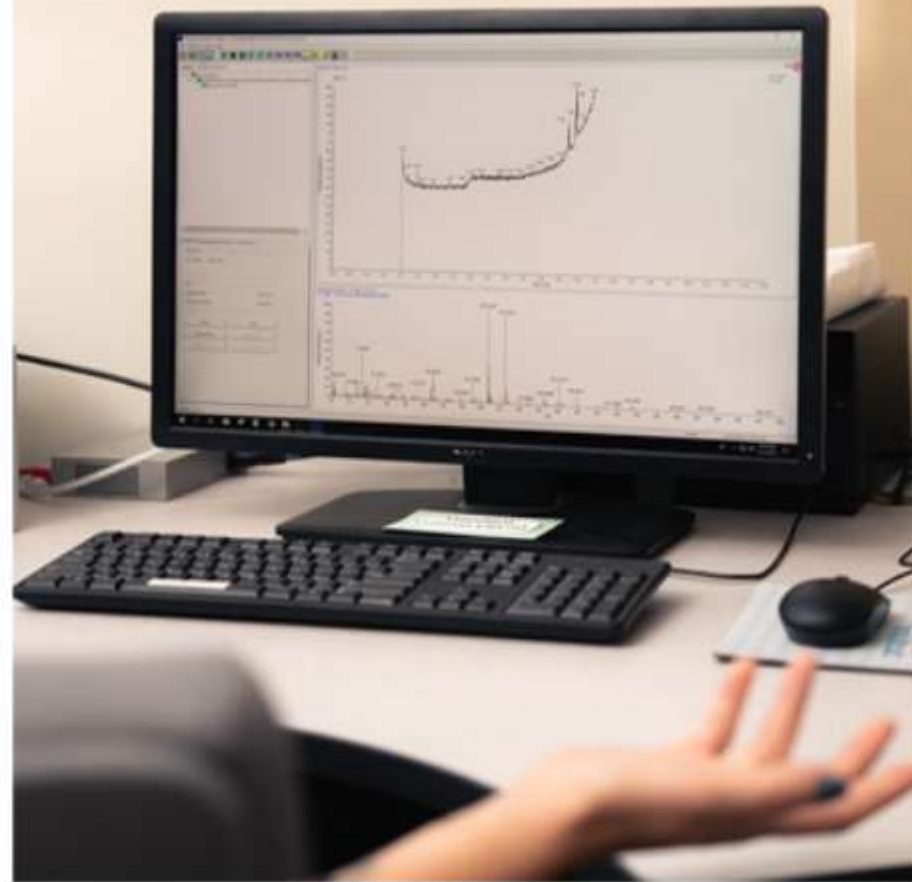


Packages arrive in compliance with drug and postal laws

High resolution results determine what's in the sample



Rapid understanding of drug supply



Actionable Steps for Integrating Drug Checking Services in COEs



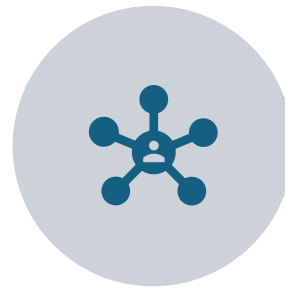
Educate clients about available drug checking services.



Ensure that clients know how to access both mail-in and in-person testing services.



Encourage safe practices and the importance of regular testing.



Strengthen connections with testing services and harm reduction networks.

Key Takeaways

- Recognize the impact of drug checking on reducing overdose risks.
- Understand the role of mail-in drug checking services in reaching underserved populations.
- Incorporate drug checking education into harm reduction strategies.
- Collaborate with external partners to connect clients to safe options.

Questions



Wrap up and Next Session

- Please complete the **session evaluation**
- Slides and recording available on [Tomorrow's Healthcare](#)
- **Next Session:**



References

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