European Drug Checking Trends 2018-2023

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

TEDI
Trans European Drug Information

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Title

European Drug Checking Trends 2018-2023. Civil Society Monitoring of Harm Reduction in Europe 2023.

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TEDI Trans European Drug Information

Correlation European Harm Reduction Network

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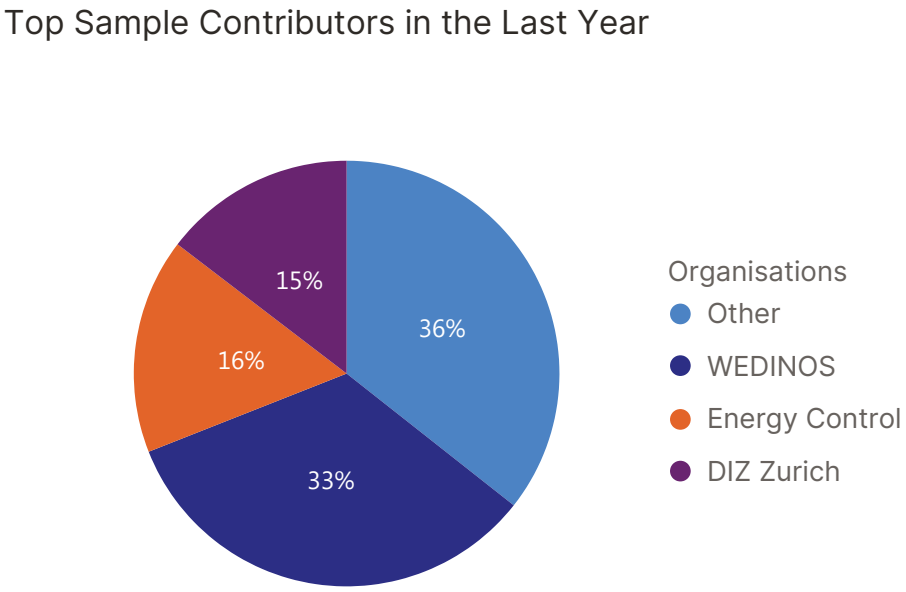
Executive Summary

This multi-year report contains data since 2018 and aims to show the changes in drug markets over time. Most drugs have fairly stable presentations over this time period, however there are some visible trends. Cocaine purity has slightly increased, but the reduction in samples with adulteration has changed quite significantly in the last 2 years, from approximately 40% to under 25%.

MDMA purity has slightly increased, but the number of samples substituted for another substance has increased from under 10% to approximately 20%. Drug checking remains inhomogenous throughout Europe, with just over half of all samples coming from two drug-checking services, in Spain and in the UK. The smallest contributors need more funding and resources if they are to play a role in market monitoring as well as harm reduction.

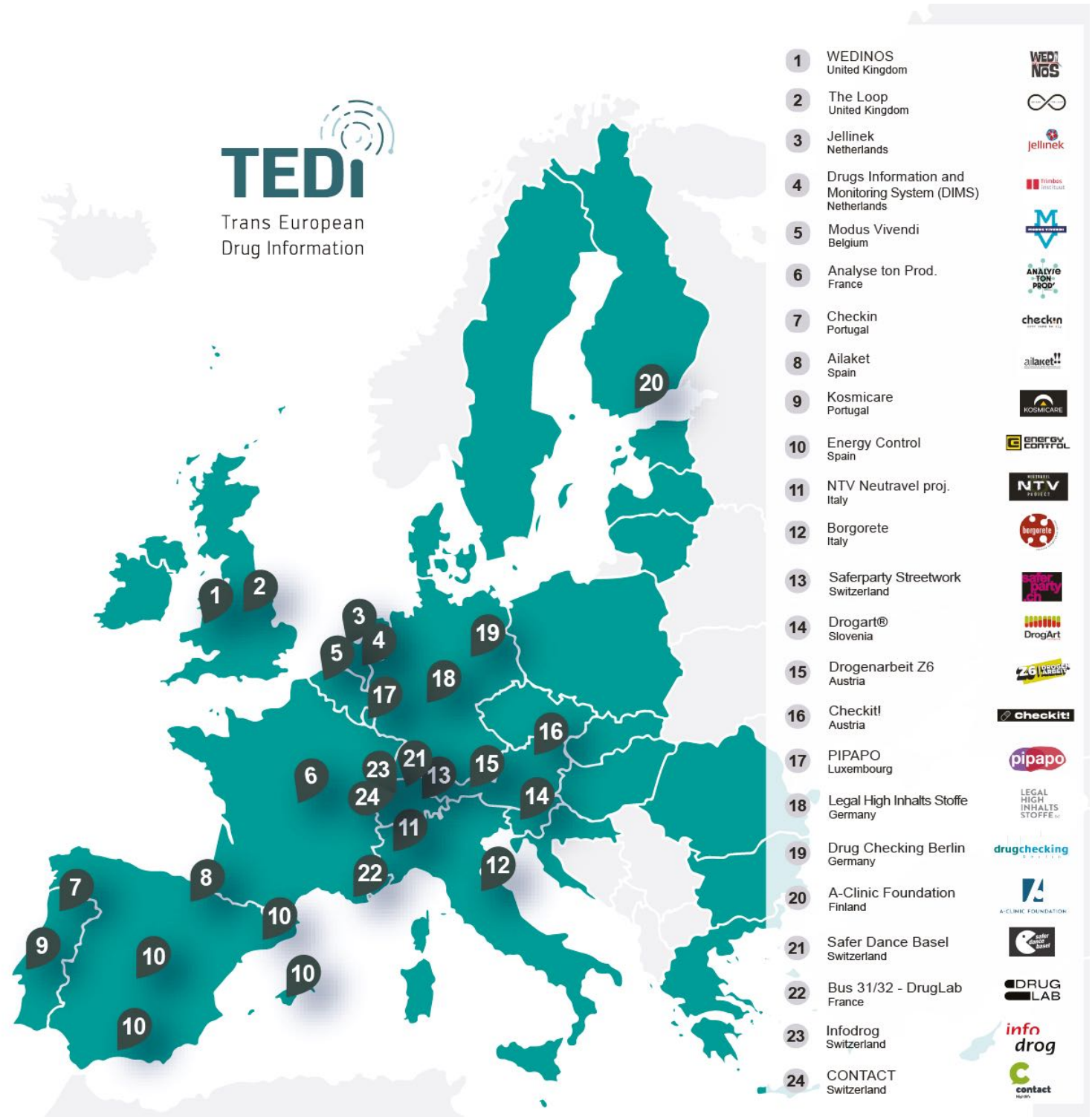
REPORTING PERIOD

01 January 2018 - 01 June 2023



The report receives data contributions from organisations across Europe, each operating a slightly different service, in different settings and interacting with different populations.

It is common for 2-3 of the largest contributors to make up over 50% of the samples tested, but we generally see trends quite homogenously across organisations.



The names, countries and a brief description of each service can be found on the **"Locations" page of the TEDI website.**

MDMA
TABLET

Date: 01/01/2018 - 01/06/2023

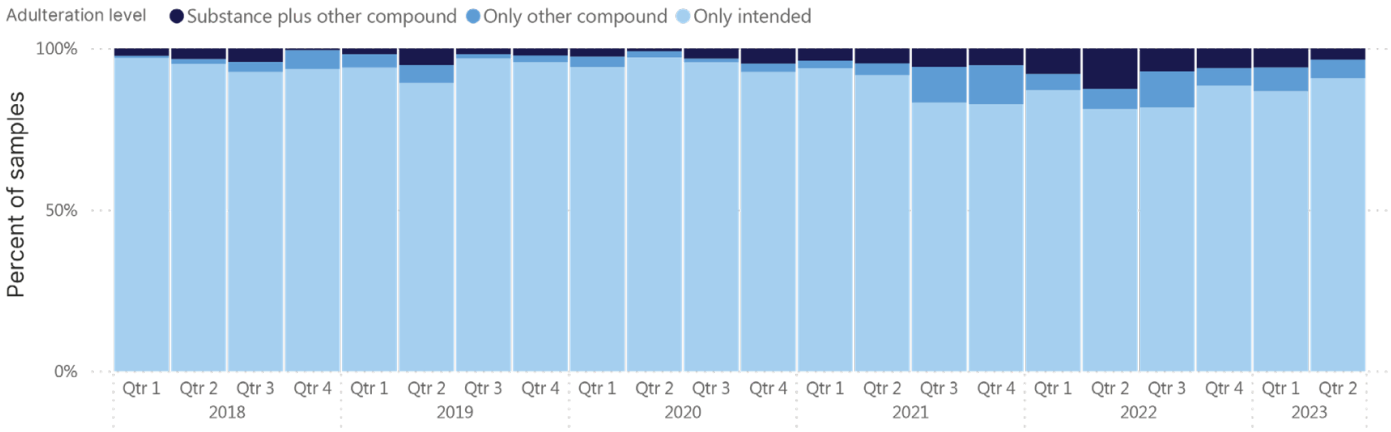
Samples Quantified

6367

Median number of samples per quarter

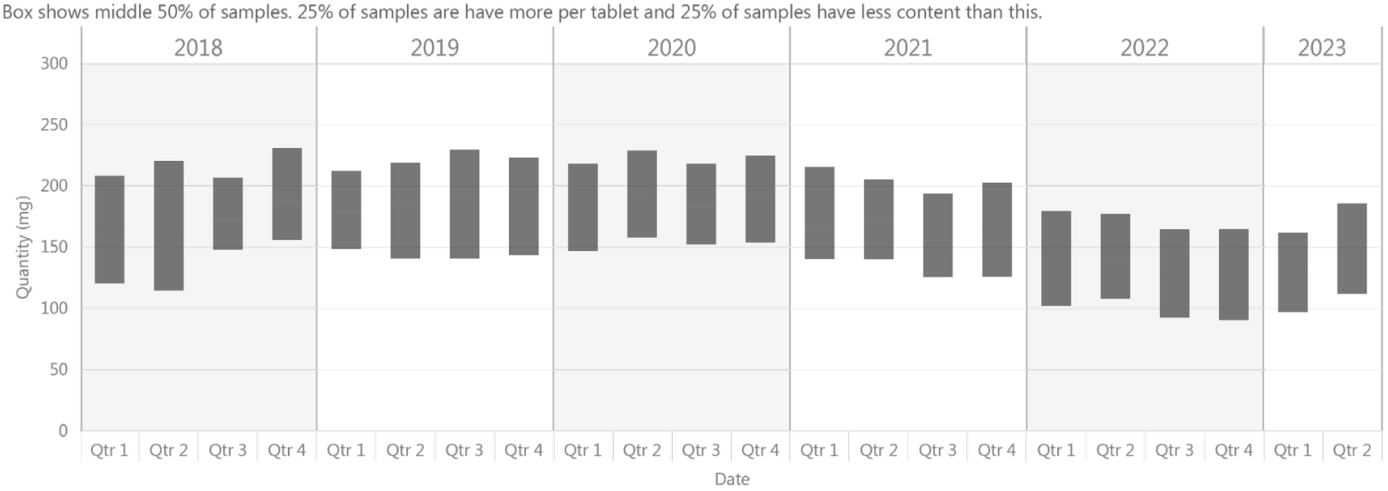
273

Adulteration Likelihood - Change Over Time



Typical MDMA Content Per Tablet - Box Chart

Box shows middle 50% of samples. 25% of samples are have more per tablet and 25% of samples have less content than this.



MDMA

CRYSTAL AND POWDER

Date: 01/01/2018 - 01/06/2023

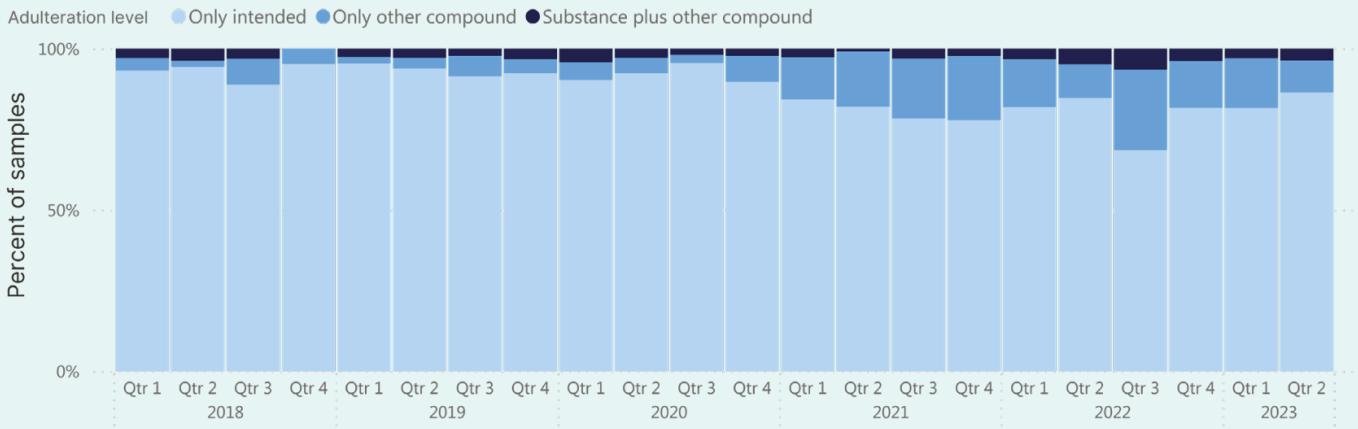
Samples Quantified

5432

Median number of samples per quarter

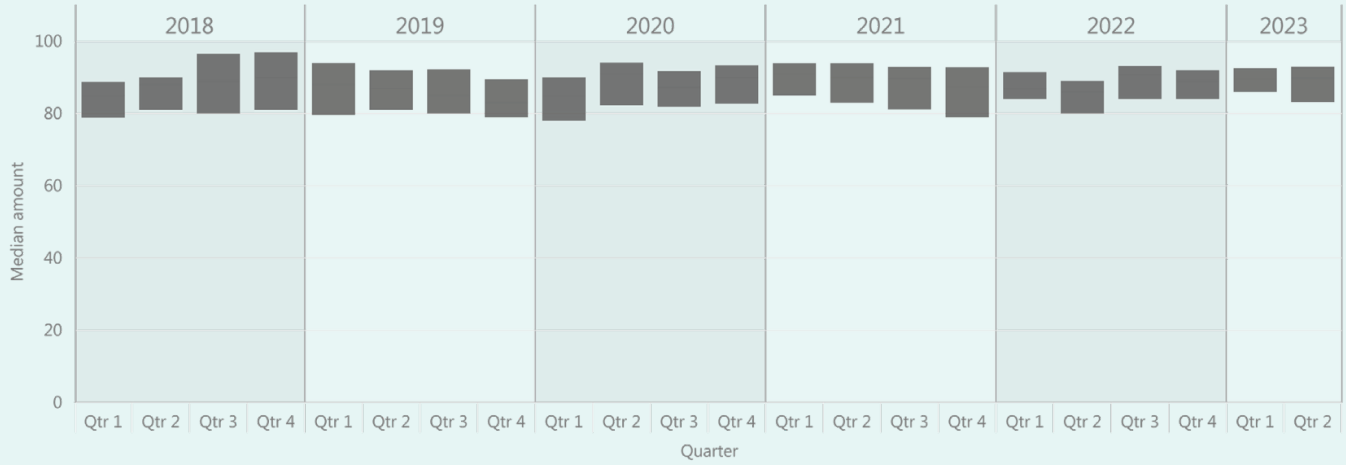
217

Adulteration Likelihood - Change Over Time



Purity Over Time - Box Chart

Box shows middle 50% of samples. 25% of samples are more pure and 25% of samples are less pure than this.



Amphetamine

Date: 01/01/2018 - 01/06/2023

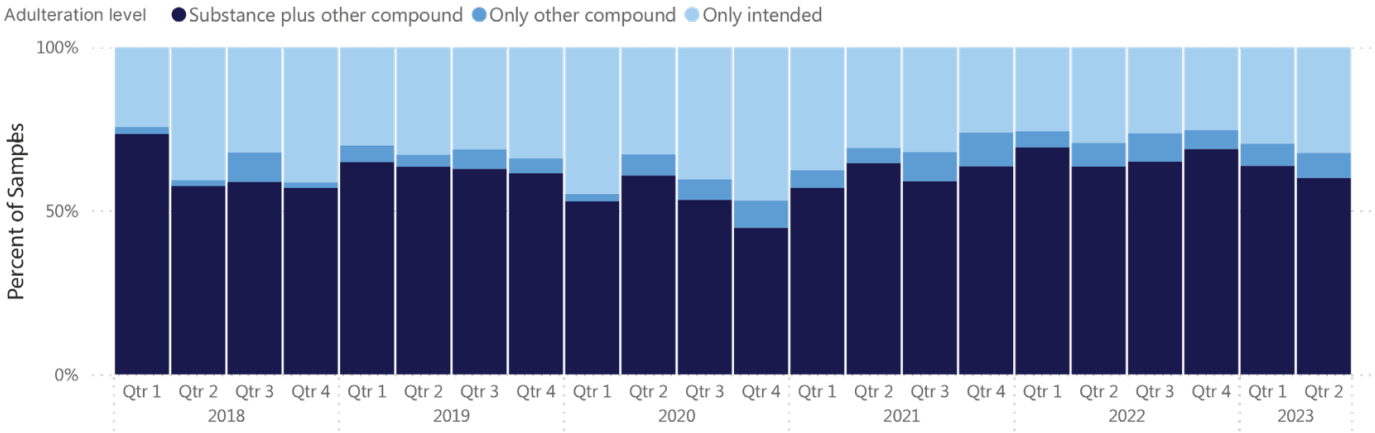
Samples Quantified

6193

Median number of samples per quarter

284

Adulteration Likelihood - Change Over Time



Purity Over Time - Box Chart

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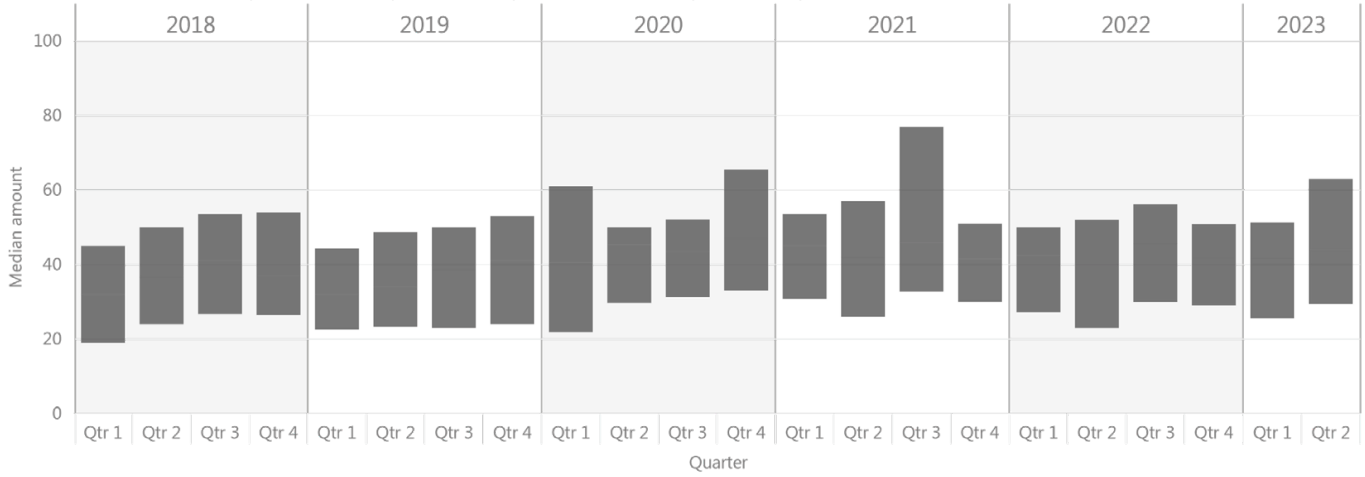


Heroin

Date: 01/01/2018 - 01/06/2023

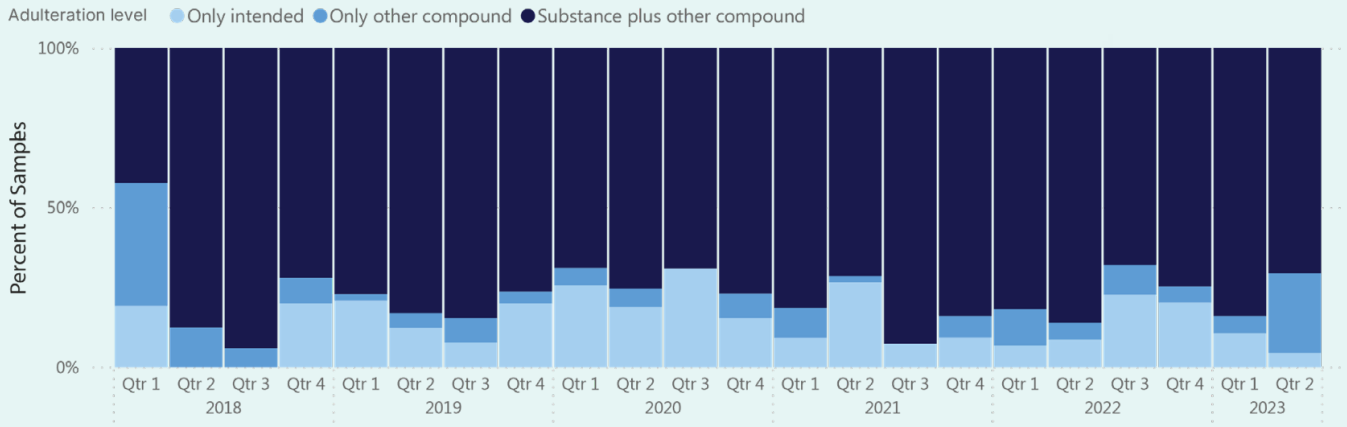
Samples Quantified

1194

Median number of samples per quarter

54

Adulteration Likelihood - Change Over Time



Purity Over Time - Box Chart

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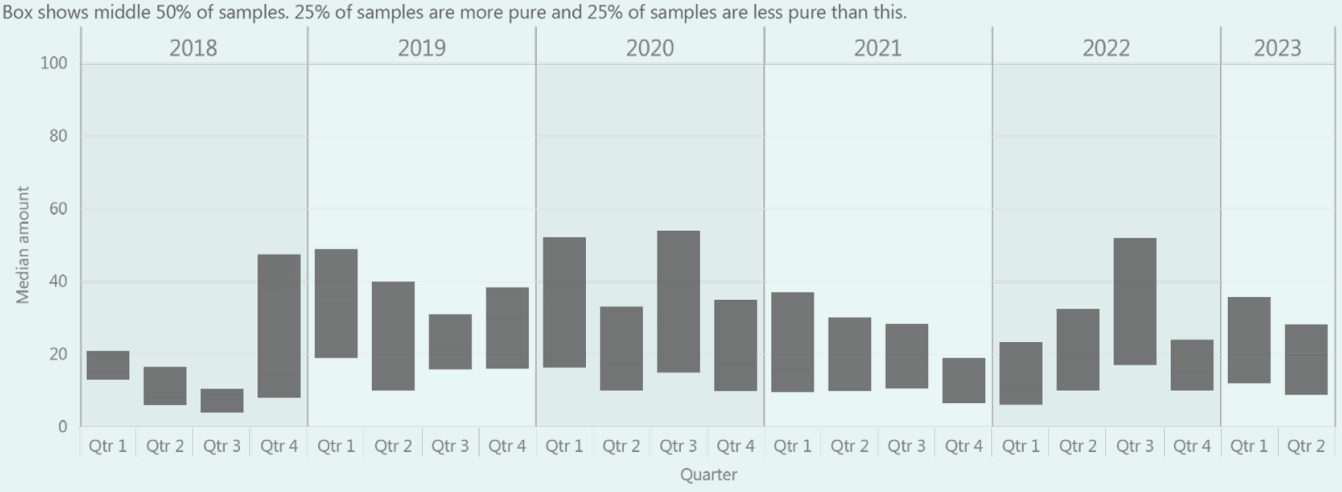


Methamphetamine

Date: 01/01/2018 - 01/06/2023

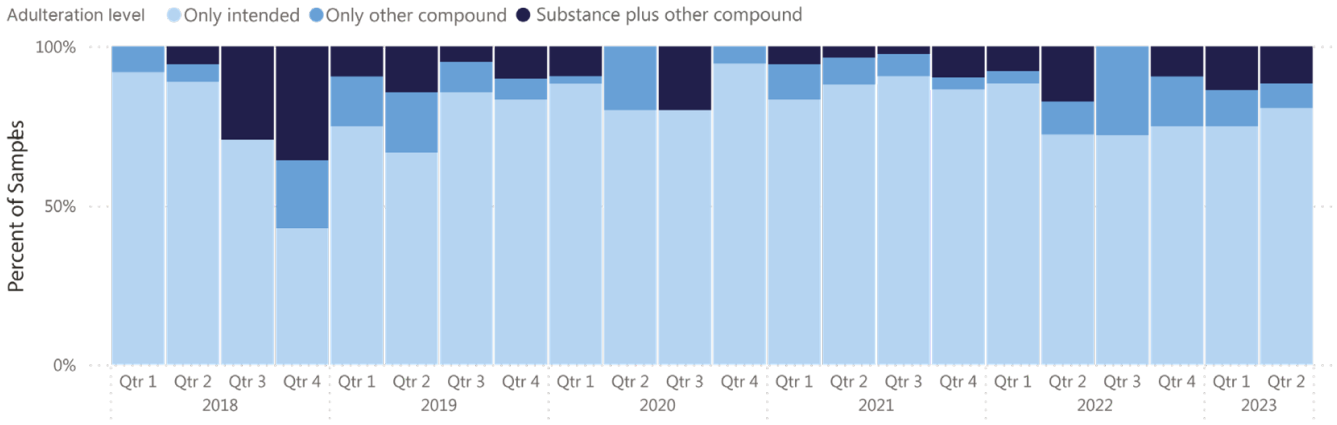
Samples Quantified

637

Median number of samples per quarter

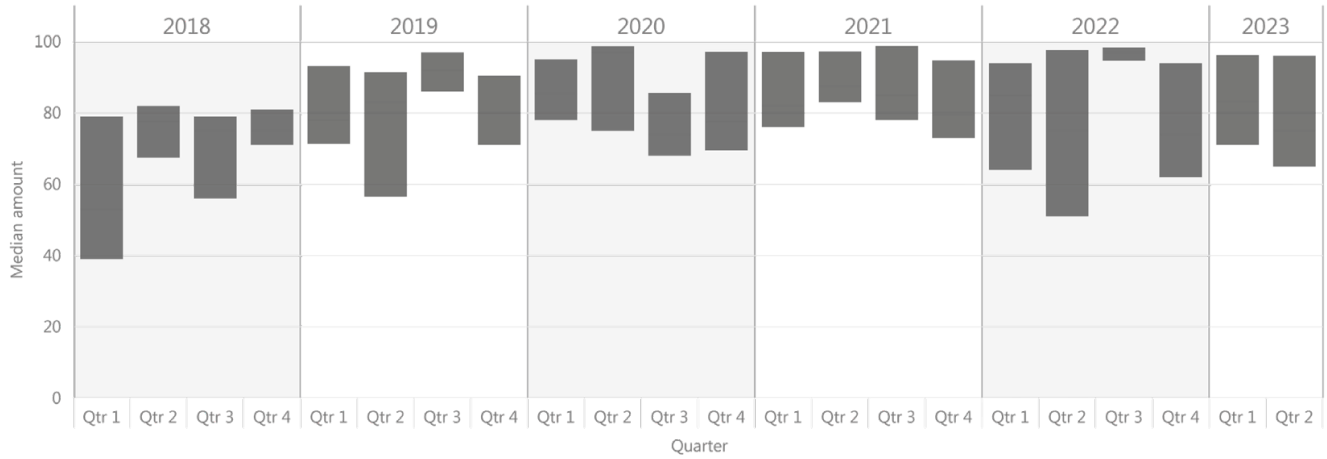
26

Adulteration Likelihood - Change Over Time



Purity Over Time - Box Chart

Box shows middle 50% of samples. 25% of samples are more pure and 25% of samples are less pure than this.



Cocaine

Date: 01/01/2018 - 01/06/2023

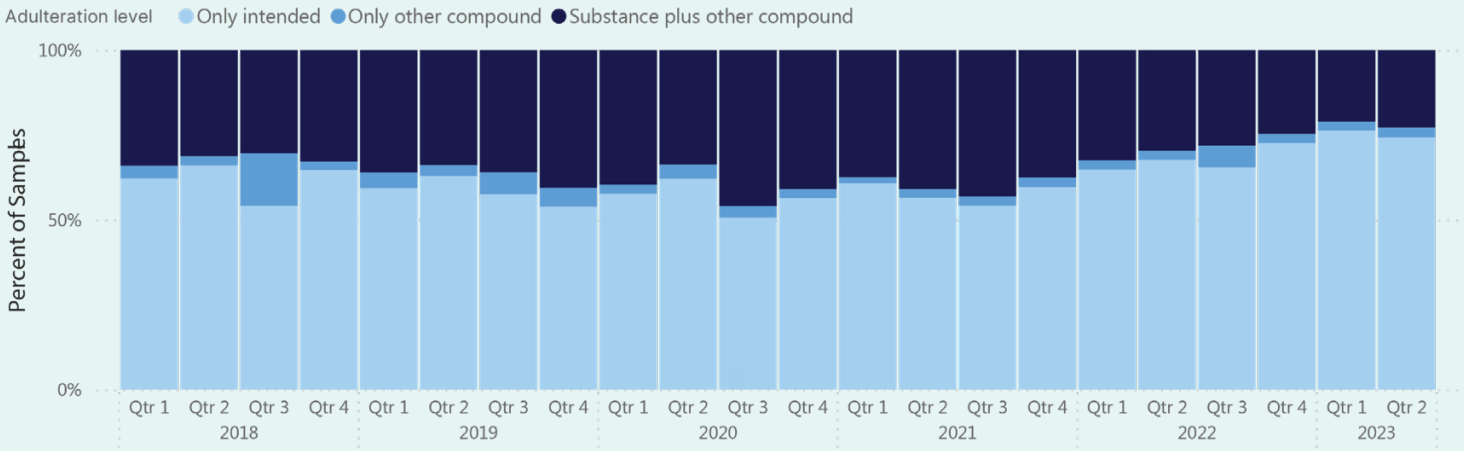
Samples Quantified

11.92k

Median number of samples per quarter

518

Adulteration Likelihood - Change Over Time



Purity Over Time - Box Chart

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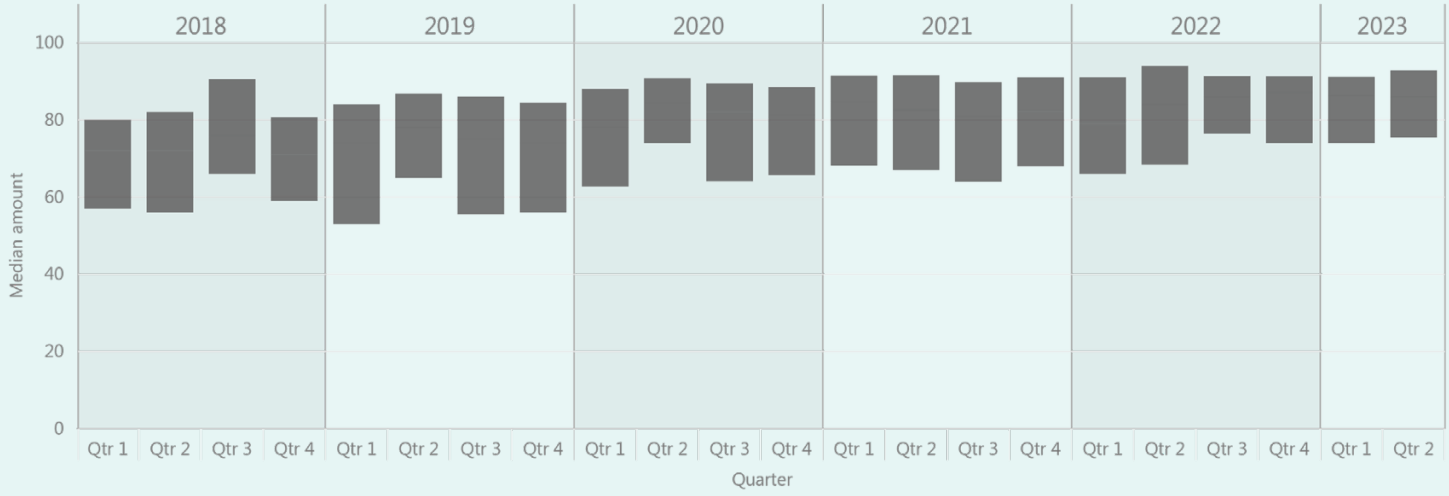
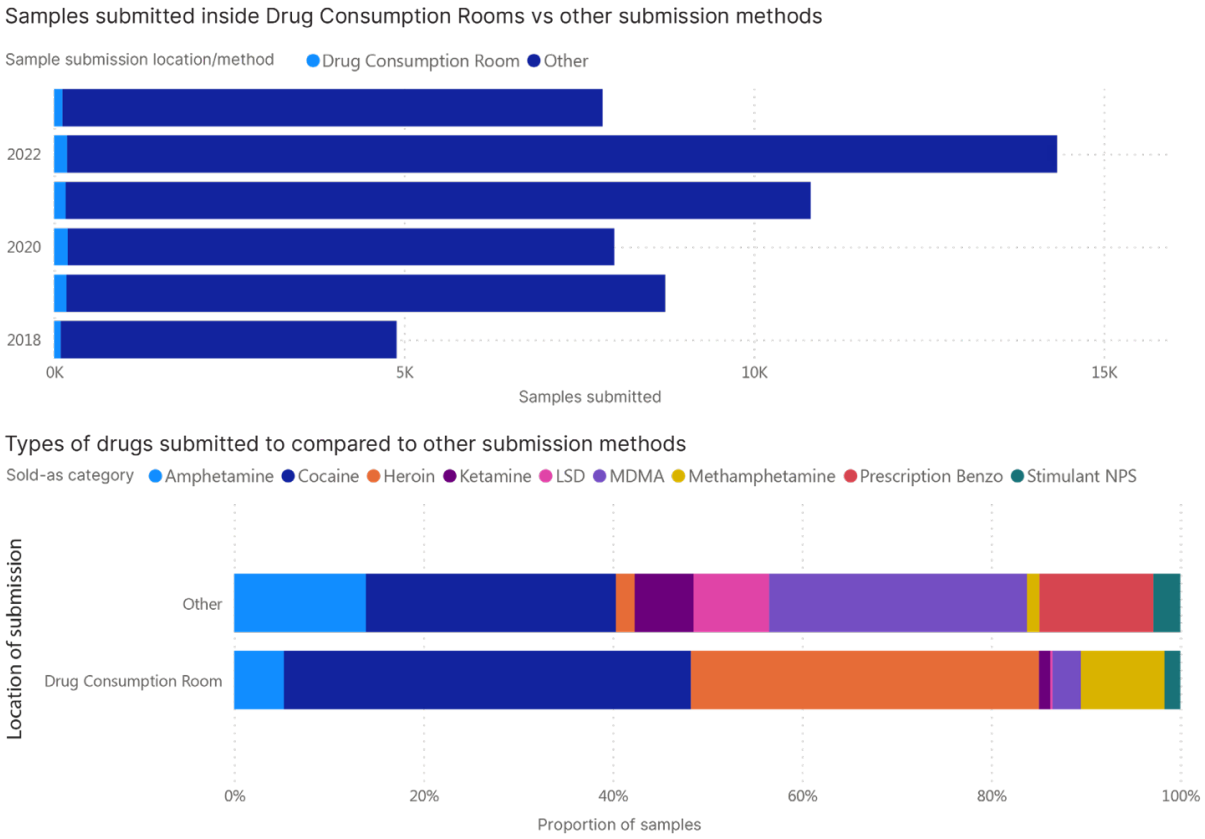


Drug checking in Drug Consumption Rooms

Date: 01/01/2018 - 01/06/2023



A drug consumption room (DCR) provides a safe and supportive environment where individuals facing substance use challenges can access harm reduction services and medical supervision, promoting health and reducing the risks associated with drug use.

Drug checking at DCRs empowers users by providing knowledge about substances, prompting thoughtful consideration, and facilitating informed decision-making. This approach encourages users to take precautions, fostering a more conscious and informed approach to drug use.

Currently, drug checking in DCRs is minimal, with only a small percentage of samples collected by TEDI members coming from DCRs. Consequently, the effects and impact of drug checking in DCRs remain largely unknown.

DCRs focus on a distinct target group, primarily individuals facing homelessness and other types of vulnerabilities, while other drug checking services tend to cater to those using drugs recreationally in nightlife settings. This means they collect different types of samples, increasing diversity for market monitoring.

Appendix

Interpreting Box and whisker charts

The box plots used in this report are a simplified form of a common data presentation format.

They use a "box" to show the range of results for a given time period. The box covers the middle 50% of results, allowing a chart to show the typical values *and* the variation that is typically seen.

Therefore, a highly variable dataset will have a larger "box" than a dataset where all values fall within a narrow range.

This is valuable for drug purity because purity values can vary significantly from a single "average" value.

Assumptions and Considerations

- Values relying on quantitative data only consider samples where the named substance **was** detected. Therefore if a sample is sold as cocaine but no cocaine is detected, it is excluded from the calculation of averages and medians.

- Values relying on quantitative data only consider samples where the detected substance matches what the substance was presented as. Therefore a sample presented as "MDMA" containing only methamphetamine would not be included calculations of the average purity of methamphetamine.

- Crack cocaine is often produced by the user, by purchasing powder cocaine and converting it themselves. This means there is very little data specific to crack cocaine.

Organisation	Main Country of Operation
A-Clinic Foundation	Finland
Ai Laket	Spain
Analyse ton Prod'	France
Bus 31/32	France
Checkin	Portugal
Checkit	Austria
DIBS Basel	Switzerland
DIZ Zurich	Switzerland
DrogArt	Slovenia
Drop In Alessandria	Italy
Energy Control	Spain
Kosmicare	Portugal
Legal-High-Inhaltsstoffe	Germany
Modus	Belgium
Neutravel	Italy
PiPaPo	Luxembourg
Safe and Drive	Italy
SottoKassa	Italy
WEDINOS	UK
Z6	Austria