Drug Checking Observations

**Q1 & Q2 2023
SNAPSHOT REPORT**

Title

Drug Checking Observations: Q1 & Q2 2023 Snapshot Report. Civil Society Monitoring of Harm Reduction in Europe 2023.

Authors

Jones, G.: Conceptualization; Methodology; Writing - Original Draft; Investigation; Formal analysis; **Ventura, M.**: Conceptualization; Methodology; Writing - Review & Editing; **Rigoni, R.**: Conceptualization; Writing - Review & Editing, Project administration and Supervision; **Katrin Schiffer**: Funding acquisition; **TEDI members**: Data provision, Validation.

Design

Jesús Román!

Graphics

Adriana Pinho

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Executive Summary

This snapshot report contains data for each drug where significant drug checking data exists in Europe, these are amphetamine, cocaine, ketamine, MDMA, methamphetamine, heroin, and general pages for benzodiazepine sedatives, novel stimulants and novel opioids.

Methamphetamine, ketamine, MDMA, and cocaine have typically highly pure supply chains, with only a small proportion of the samples being adulterated. The purity of these drugs is typically over 80%.

Data Submitters

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

TEDi
Trans European Drug Information
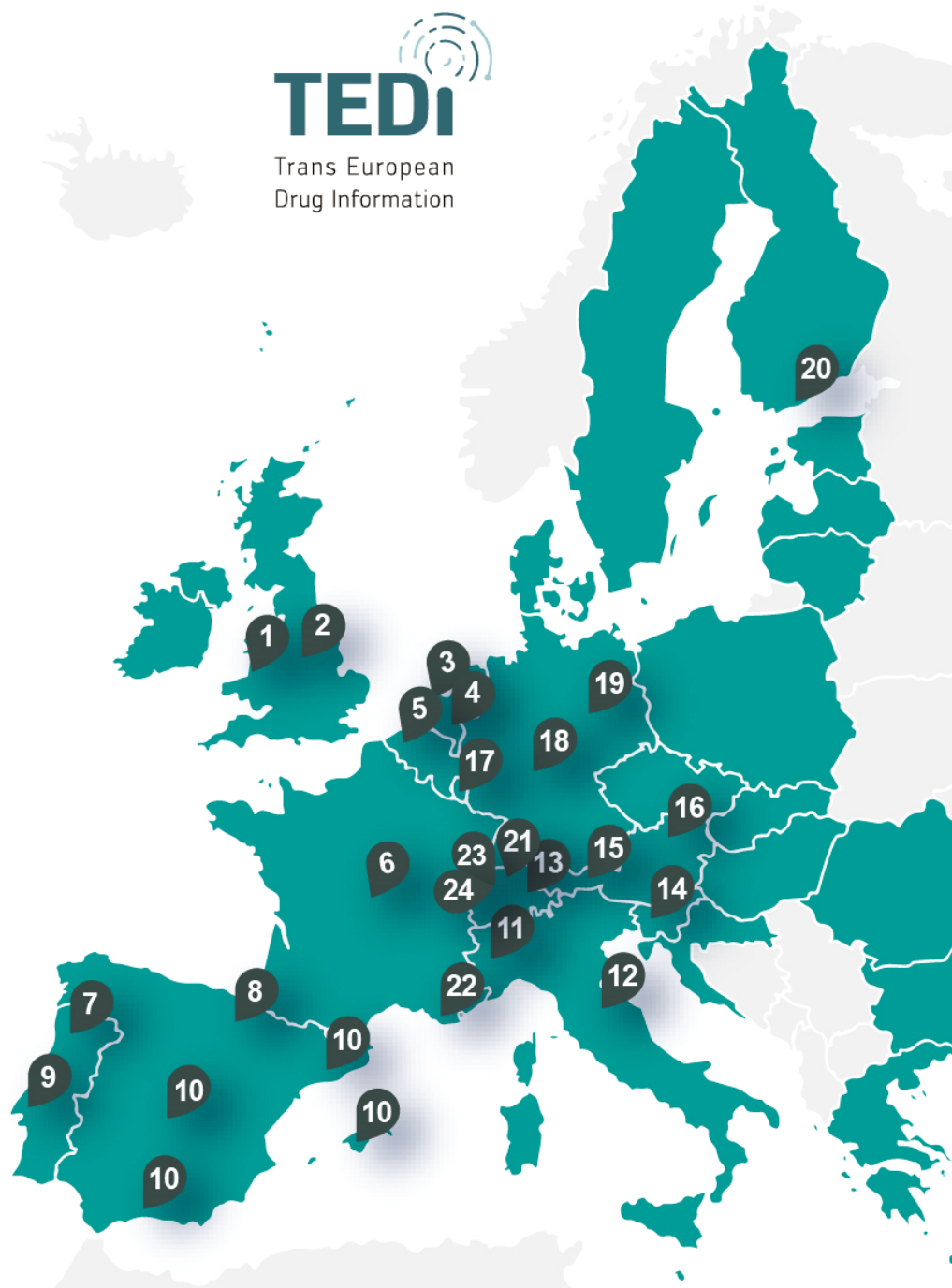
#	Organisation	Country
1	WEDINOS	United Kingdom
2	The Loop	United Kingdom
3	Jellinek	Netherlands
4	Drugs Information and Monitoring System (DIMS)	Netherlands
5	Modus Vivendi	Belgium
6	Analyse ton Prod.	France
7	Checkin	Portugal
8	Ailaket	Spain
9	Kosmicare	Portugal
10	Energy Control	Spain
11	NTV Neutravel proj.	Italy
12	Borgorete	Italy
13	Saferparty Streetwork	Switzerland
14	Drogart®	Slovenia
15	Drogenarbeit Z6	Austria
16	Checkit!	Austria
17	PIPAPO	Luxembourg
18	Legal High Inhalts Stoffe	Germany
19	Drug Checking Berlin	Germany
20	A-Clinic Foundation	Finland
21	Safer Dance Basel	Switzerland
22	Bus 31/32 - DrugLab	France
23	Infodrog	Switzerland
24	CONTACT	Switzerland

An interactive map can be seen on **https://www.tedinetwork.org/**

Contribution of Samples by Organisations

17%

37%

46%

● Other ● WEDINOS ● Energy Control
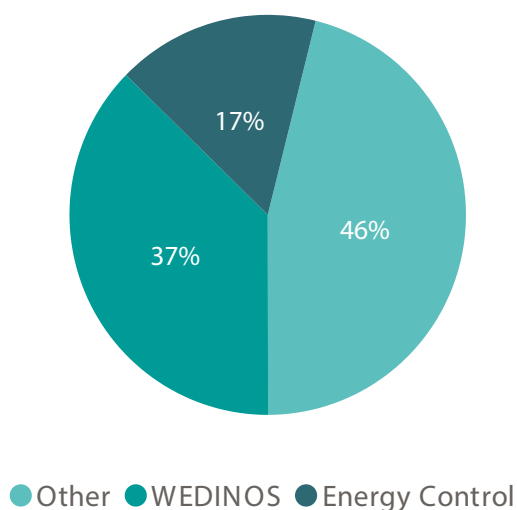
Some organisations have longer opening hours or higher testing capacity, which means they contribute a larger number of data points to the report.

The top 2 contributors make up over 50% of samples. The smallest contributors need more funding and resources if they are to play a role in market monitoring as well as harm reduction.

Currently the adulterants and risk trends in the European drug market are reasonably homogenous, even though the drug preferences vary between countries.

Where are samples submitted?
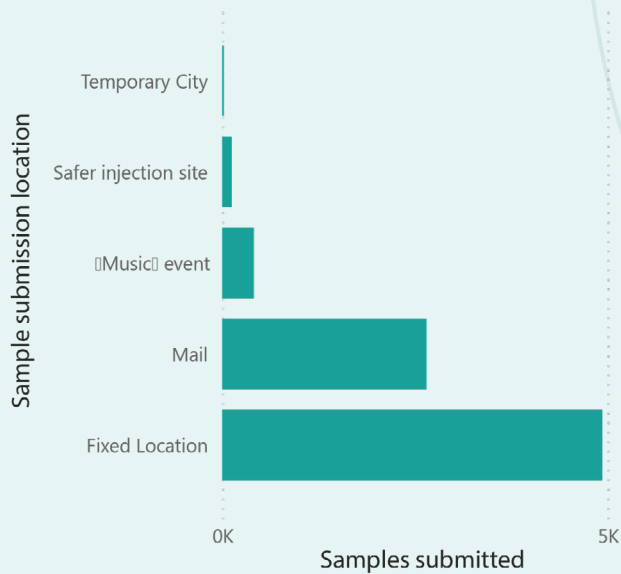
Most countries offer "Fixed Location" drug checking services, which have a permanently accessible address which service users must attend in person.

Temporary City testing services are similar but open very infrequently, such as mobile testing vans or "pop-up" testing services.

Music event based testing is conducted inside of music events and is only accessible to ticket-holders.

Safer injection sites (aka drug consumption rooms) tend to access a slightly different demographic of people with higher-risk patterns of drug use. Almost all samples of heroin and meth currently come from Safer Injection Sites.

WEDINOS, in the UK, is the largest testing service by number of samples, which are submitted by users through the mail.
Most other countries do not offer mail-in sample submission.

Service Type	Austria	Belgium	Finland	France	Germany	Italy	Luxembourg	Portugal	Slovenia	Spain	Switzerland	UK
(Music) event	189			57		60	63	52		74		
Cannabis Club										26		
Fixed Location	1312	61	119	303	118	38		456	371	1157	1472	
Mail										265		3804
Other										27		
Safer injection site				1						138		
Temporary City		13					8					

Amphetamine

Total samples submitted

943

Median Amphetamine content: 29 %

The "median" means that half of samples will have less than this, half will have more. The remainder of the content is impurities and added substances. Samples containing none of the drug are excluded from this calculation.

Adulterants detected in samples sold as Amphetamine

Number of samples by organisation

Sold-As ● Amphetamine

Organisation	Samples Tested
Energy Control	302
checkit!	188
DIZ Zurich	147
WEDINOS	129
Other	97
Z6	43
DrogArt	37

Samples Tested

Sample Adulteration Likelihood

Only intended
288 (31%)

Only other compound
78 (8%)

Substance plus other compound
577 (61%)

Cocaine

Total samples submitted

1654

Median Cocaine content: 86 %

The "median" means that half of samples will have less than this, half will have more. The remainder of the content is impurities and added substances. Samples containing none of the drug are excluded from this calculation.

Adulterants detected in samples sold as Cocaine

Levamisole	Caffeine	Procaine	Lidocaine
199	87	61	23

Phenacetin	Paracetamol	Ketamine	Tetracaine
79	21	12	11

Benzocaine	Ampheta-mine	Creatine
12	9	9

Number of samples by organisation

Sold-As ● Cocaine

Organisation	Samples Tested
DIZ Zurich	420
checkit!	346
WEDINOS	230
Energy Control	212
Other	170
Z6	99
DrogArt	91
Analyse ton Prod'	86

Sample Adulteration Likelihood

- Substance plus other compound 380 (23%)
- Only other compound 47 (3%)
- Only intended 1226 (74%)

MDMA

Total samples submitted

2212

Median MDMA content: 90 %

Half of samples will have less than this, half will have more. Samples containing none of the drug are excluded from this calculation. Median concentration data for MDMA does not cover tablets as these are mixed with cellulose or other binding agents.

Adulterants detected in samples sold as MDMA
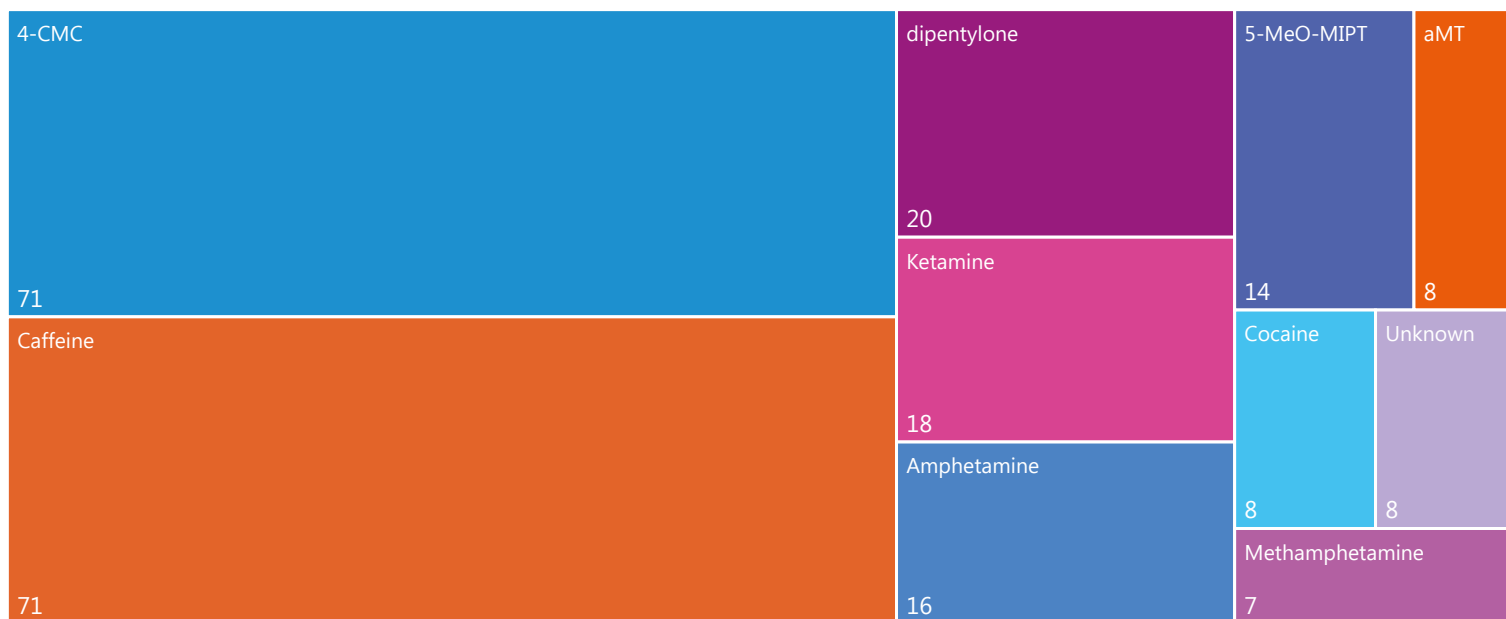
4-CMC	dipentylone	5-MeO-MIPT	aMT
71	20	14	8
Caffeine	Ketamine	Cocaine	Unknown
	18	8	8
	Amphetamine	Methamphetamine	
71	16	7	

Number of samples by organisation

Sold-As ● MDMA

Organisation	Samples Tested
Energy Control	558
Other	388
checkit!	358
WEDINOS	352
DIZ Zurich	282
Kosmicare	274

Sample Adulteration Likelihood

Only other compound 194 (9%)

Substance plus other compound 98 (4%)

Only intended 1920 (87%)
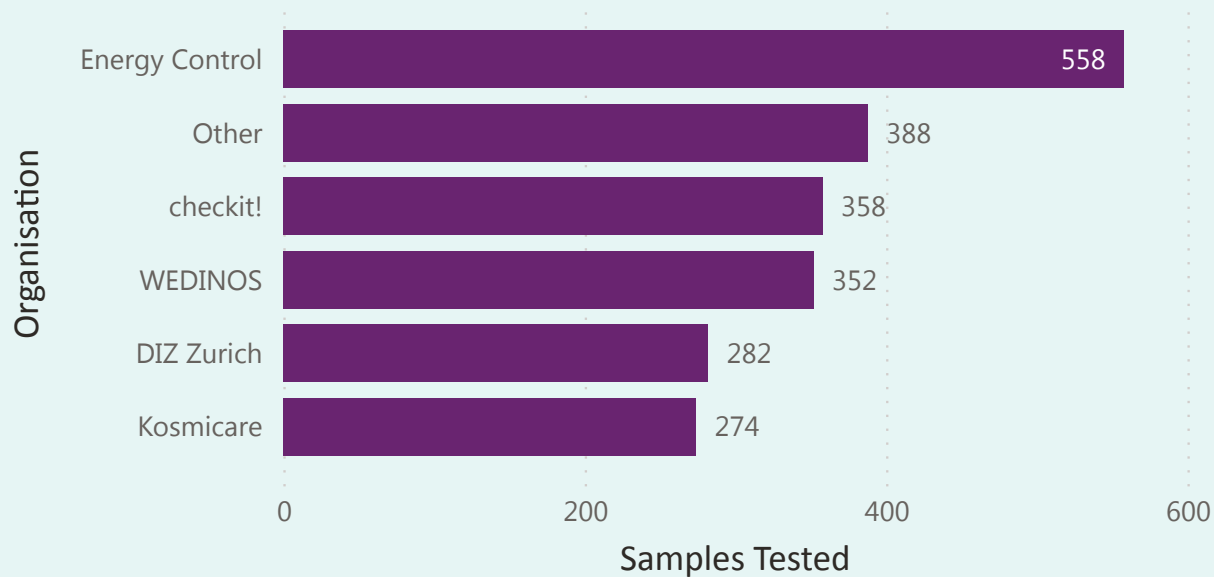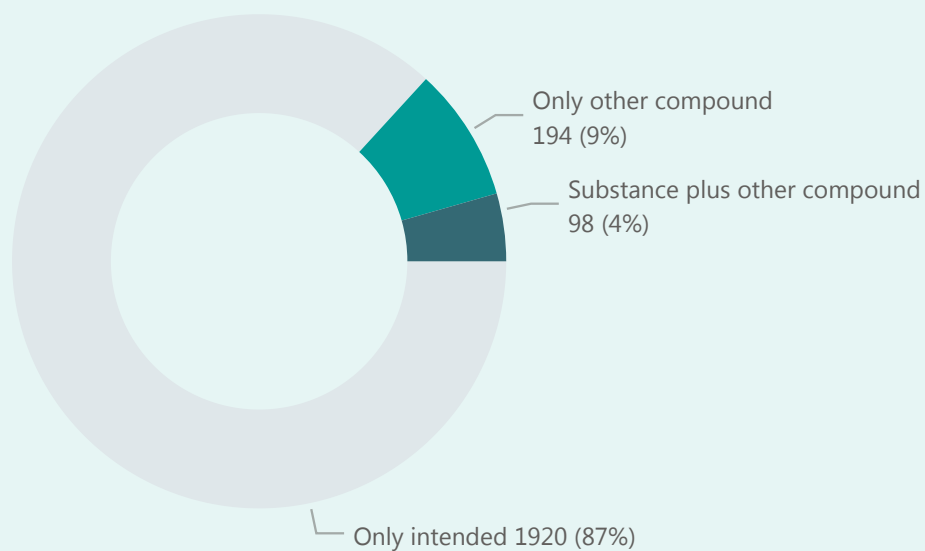
Methamphetamine

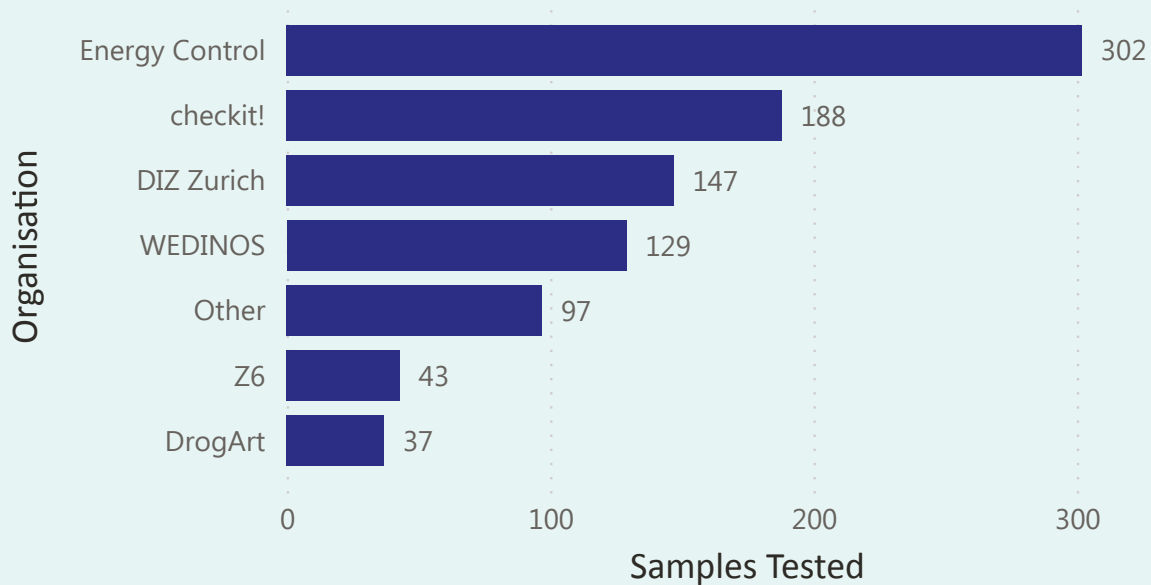**Total samples submitted**

85

Median Methamphetamine content: 84 %

The "median" Half of samples will have less than this, half will have more. The remainder of the content is impurities and added substances. Samples containing none of the drug are excluded from this calculation.
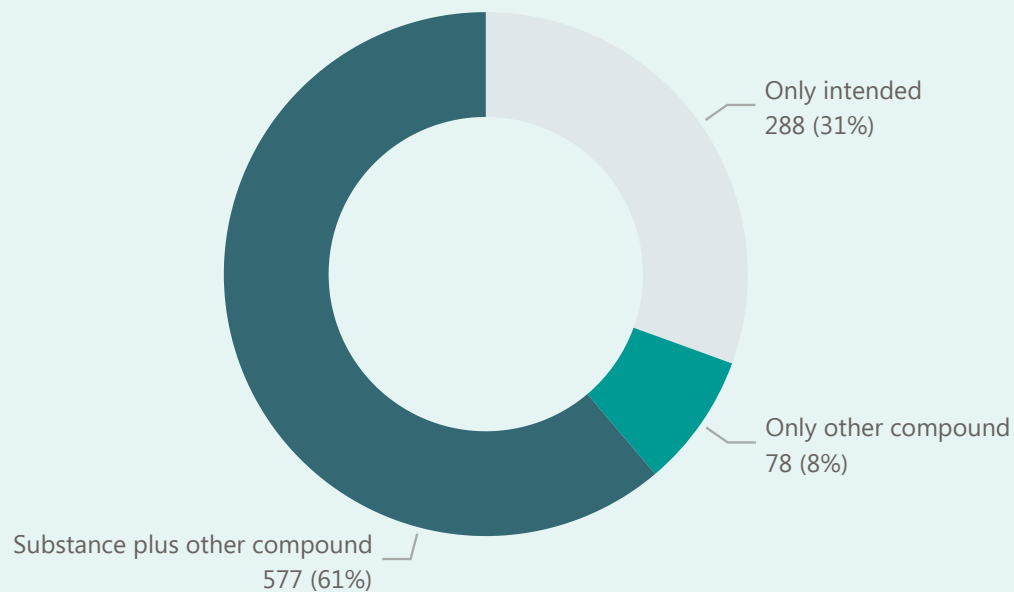
Adulterants detected in samples sold as Methamphetamine

Methylsulfonylmethane	Caffeine	3-CMC
7		1
Amphetamine	5	Ketamine
	Cocaine	
6	2	1
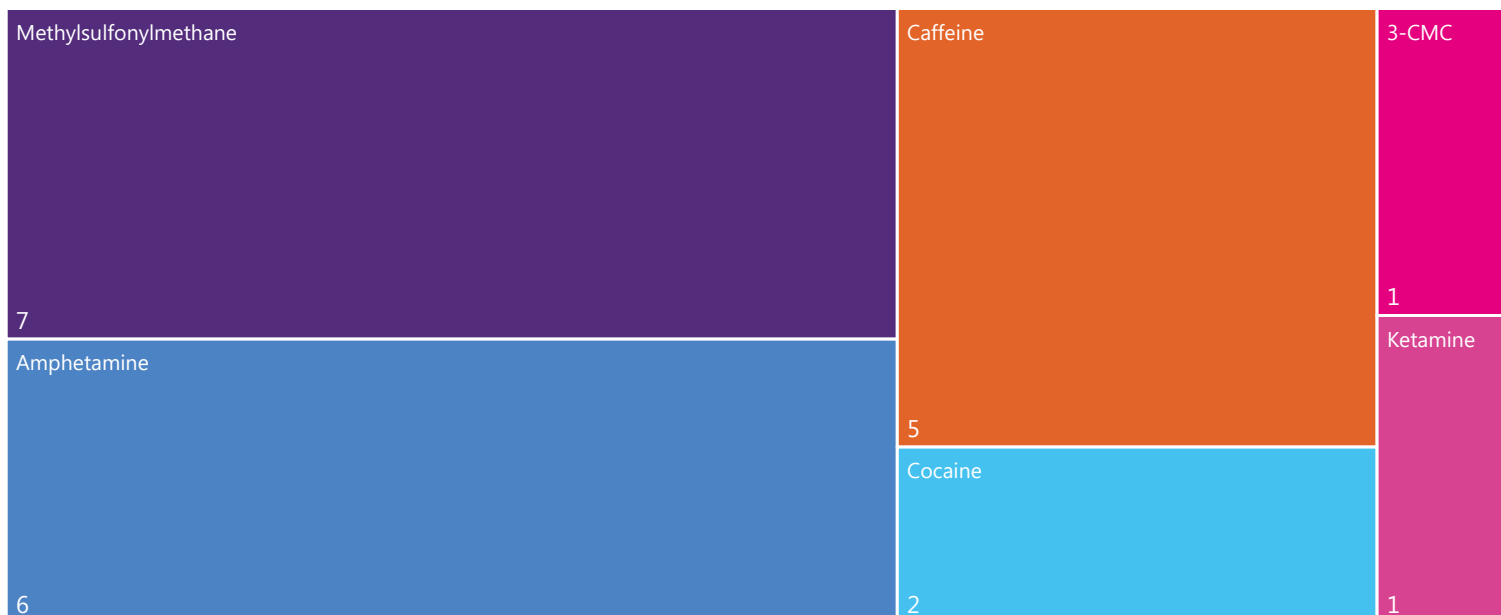
Number of samples by organisation

Sold-As ● Methamphetamine

Organisation	Samples Tested
Energy Control	38
DIZ Zurich	11
checkit!	10
A-Clinic Foundation	7
Other	6
DIBS Basel	5
Analyse ton Prod'	4
WEDINOS	4

Sample Adulteration Likelihood

Substance plus other compound
9 (11%)

Only other compound
12 (14%)
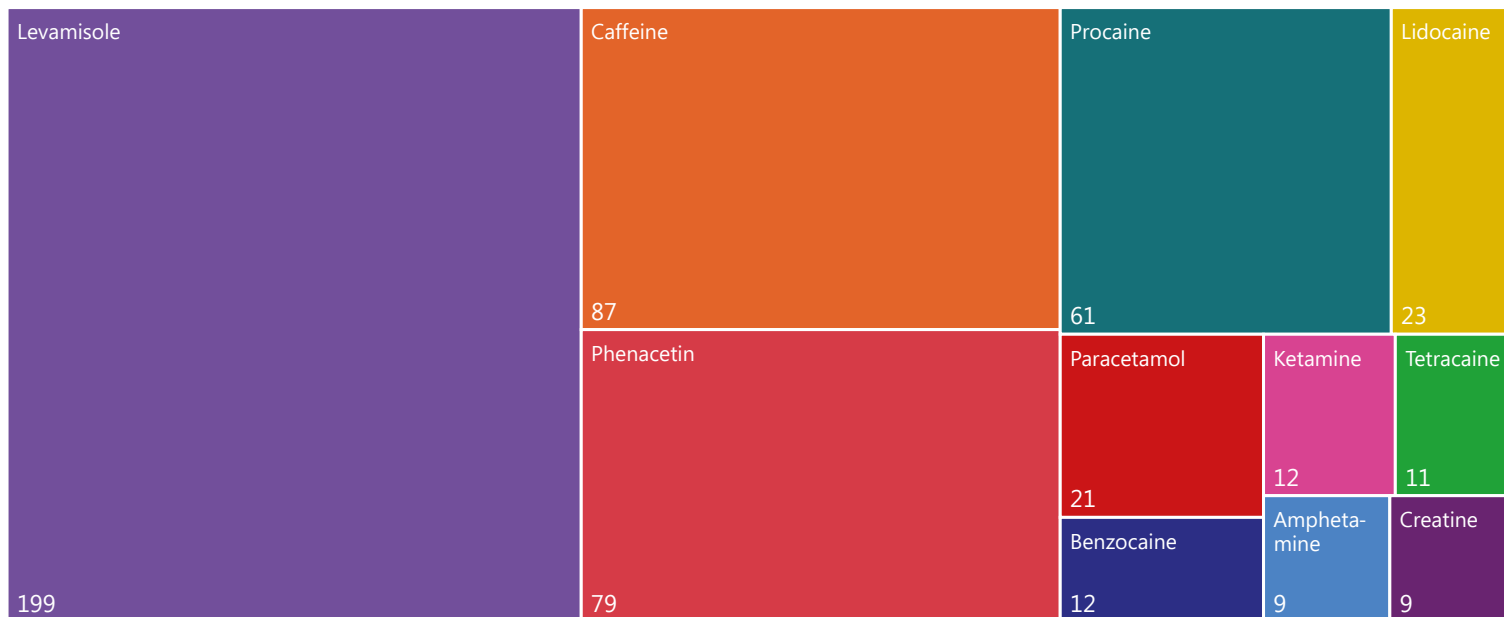
Only intended
64 (75%)
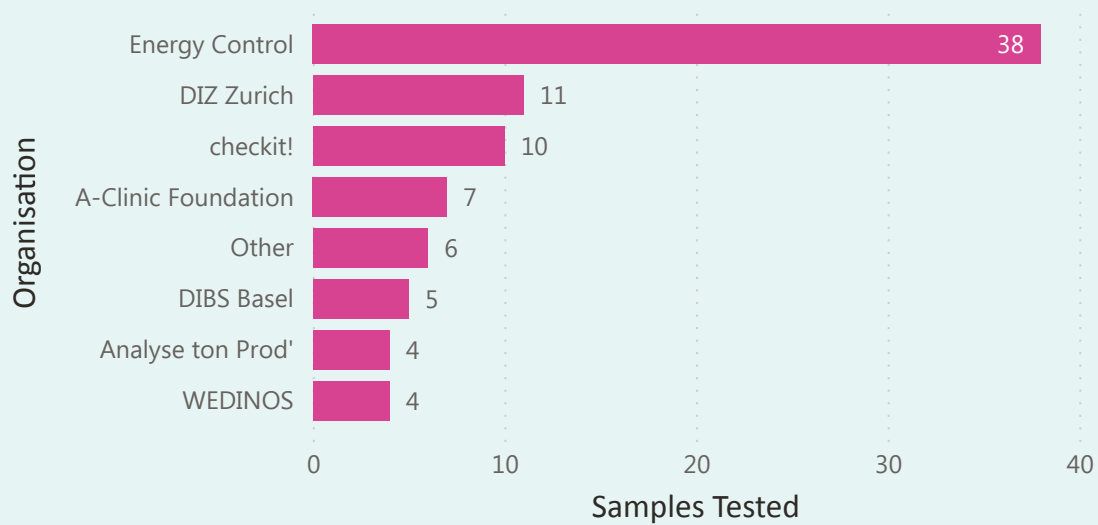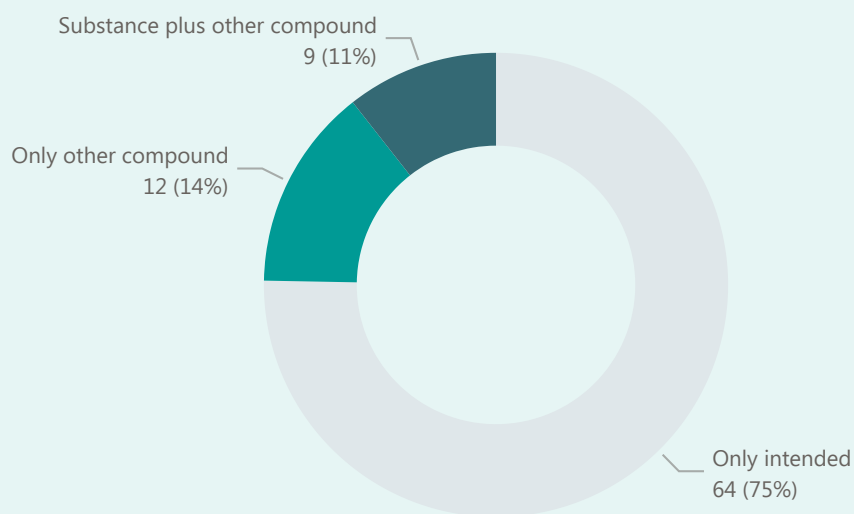
Heroin

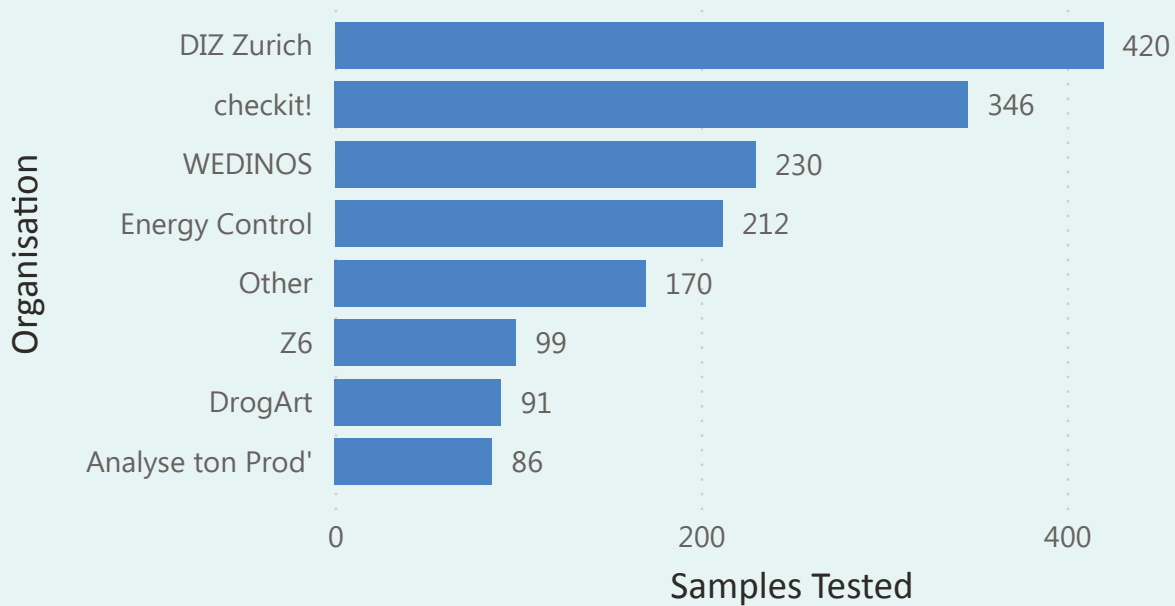**Total samples submitted**

199

Median Heroin content: 17 %

The "median" means that half of samples will have less than this, half will have more. The remainder of the content is impurities and aded substances. Samples containing none of the drug are excluded from this calculation

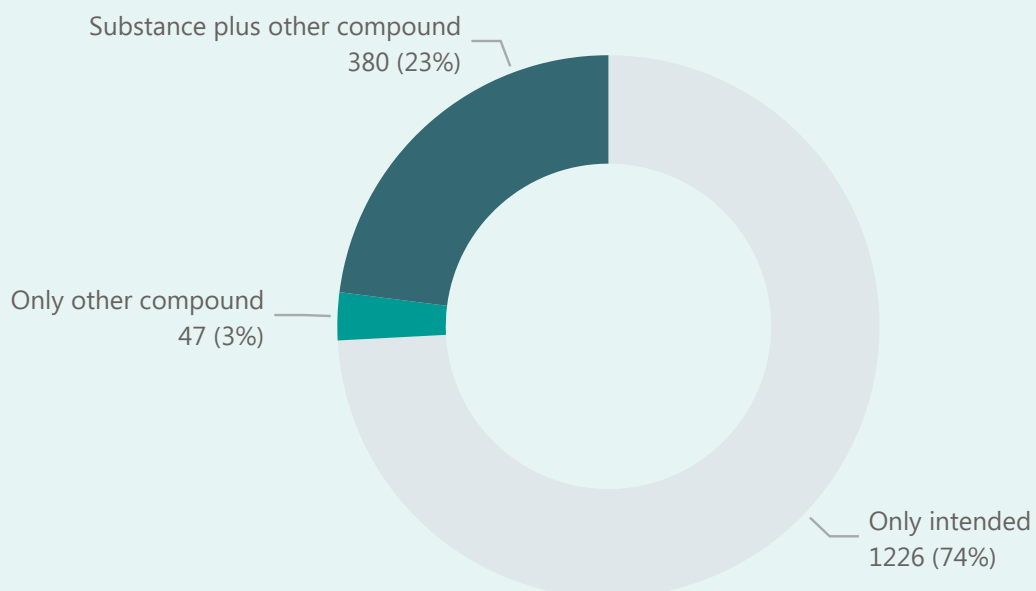## Adulterants detected in samples sold as Heroin

Caffeine	
148	

Paracetamol	
107	
Morphine	
32	

Piracetam	
30	
Dextromethorphan	
18	
Codeine	
11	

Meconine	
25	
Unknown	MDMB-4en-PINACA
10	9
	ADB-BUTINACA
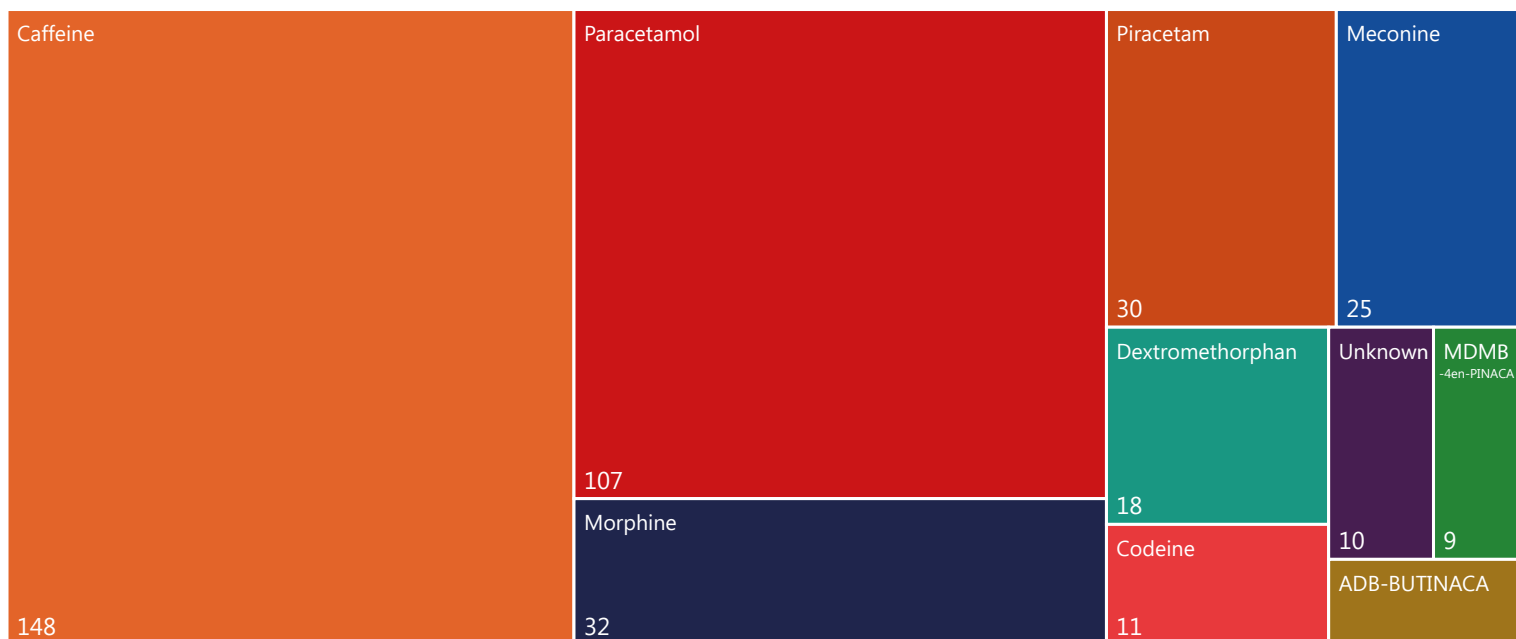
Number of samples by organisation

Sold-As ● Heroin

Organisation / Samples Tested

- Analyse ton Prod' — 59
- Energy Control — 55
- WEDINOS — 28
- DrogArt — 23
- DIZ Zurich — 13
- checkit! — 11
- Other — 10

Sample Adulteration Likelihood

Only intended 15 (8%)

Only other compound 33 (17%)

Substance plus other compound 151 (76%)
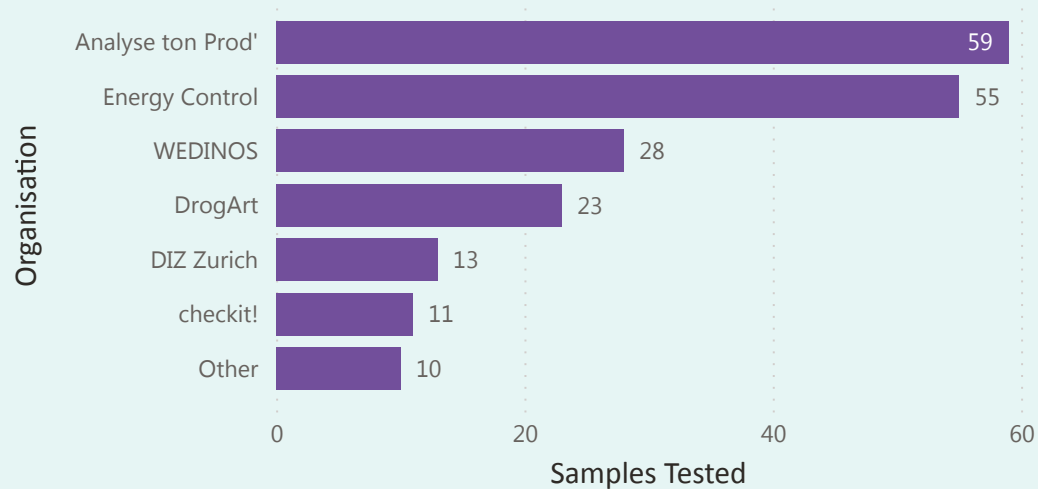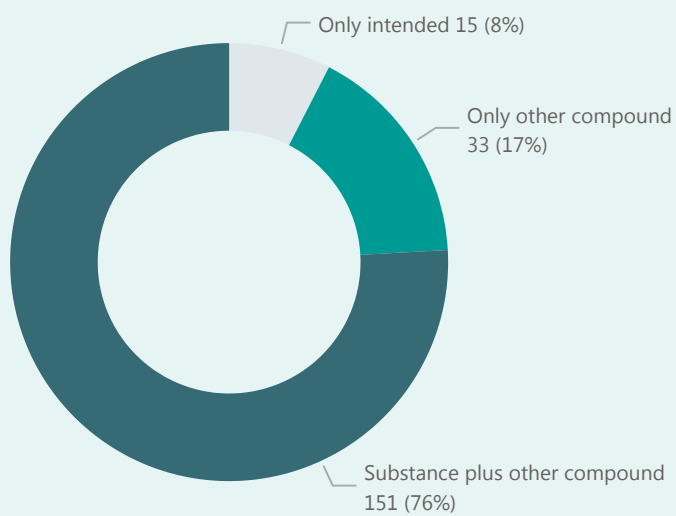
Samples sold as:

Most common intentionally bought drugs in the stimulant NPS category

Drug	Count
3-MMC	119
Mephedrone	111
Other	40
6-APB	15
3-CMC	12
2-FMA	6

When people deliberately buy stimulant NPS, what is the substance sold as?
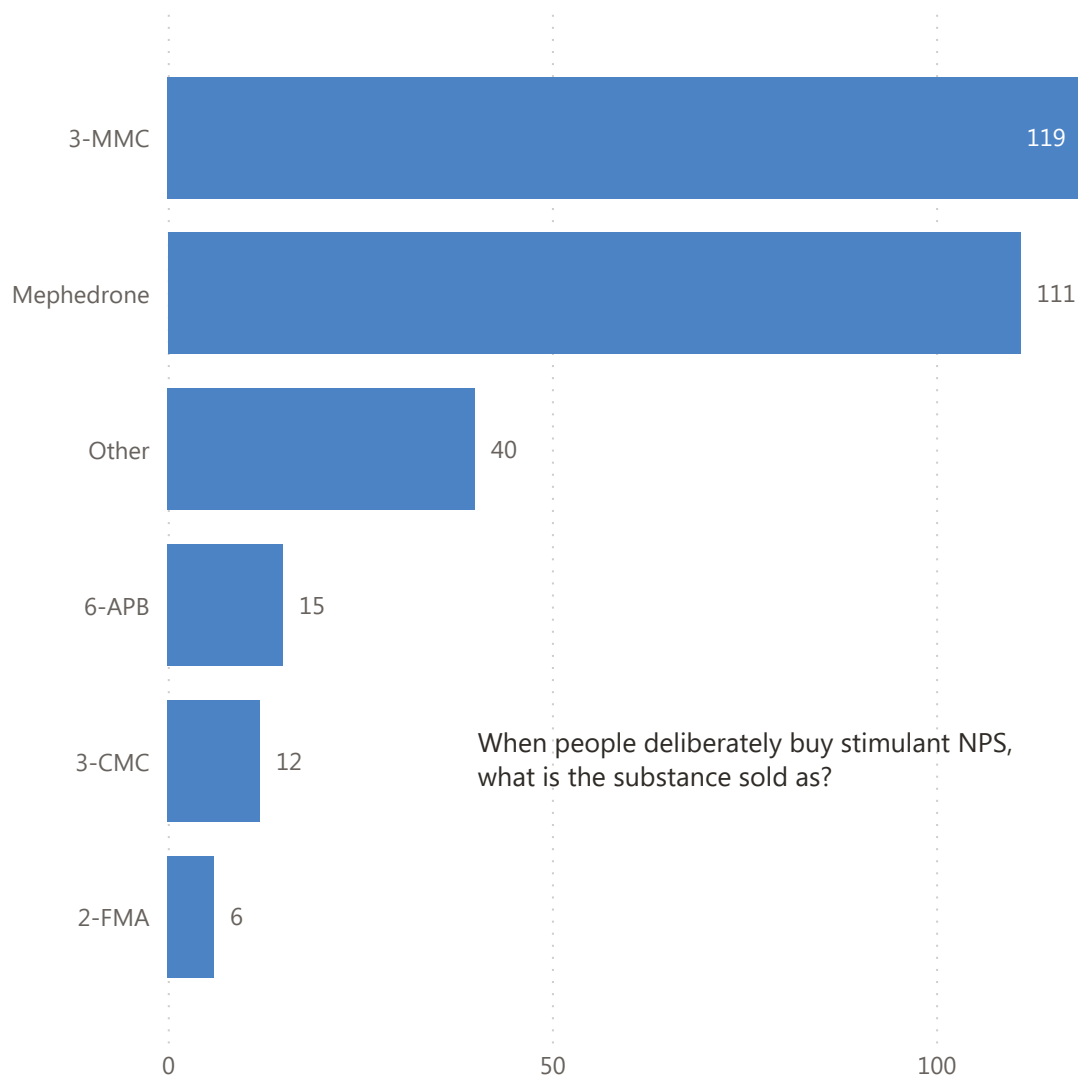
Stimulant NPS

Most commonly detected chemicals in samples intentionally bought as stimulant NPS

Substance Detected

Substance	Count
3-CMC	92
Mephedrone	66
Synthesis Byproducts	58
2-MMC	26
3-MMC	25
4-CMC	15
6-APB	15
Unknown	8
2-FMA	6
alpha-PVP	6
a-PiHP	5
dipentylone	5
Ketamine	5
MDMA	5
2-CMC	4

0   50   100

When people deliberately buy stimulant NPS, which substances are detected?

Adulteration Level

13 (4.29%)

127 (41.91%)

163 (53.8%)

Adulteration level
- Only other compound
- Only intended
- Substance plus other compound
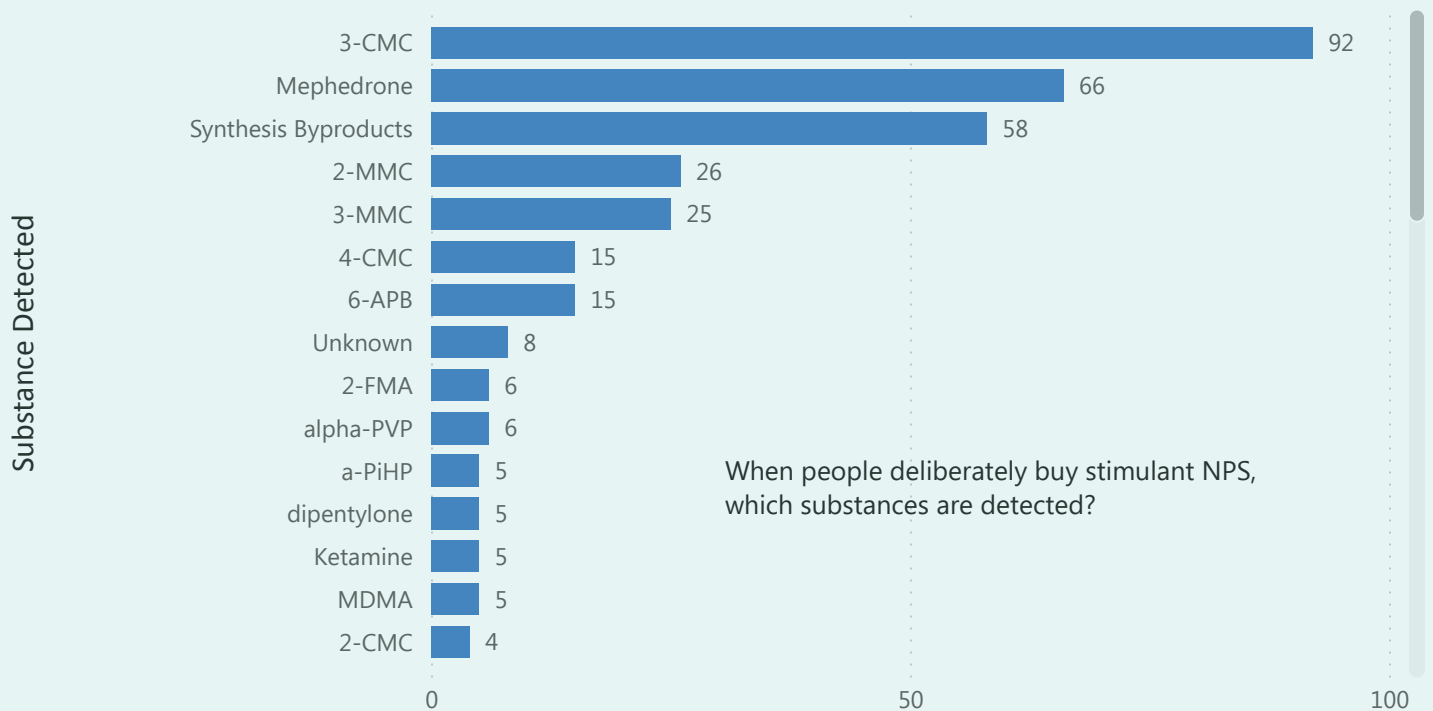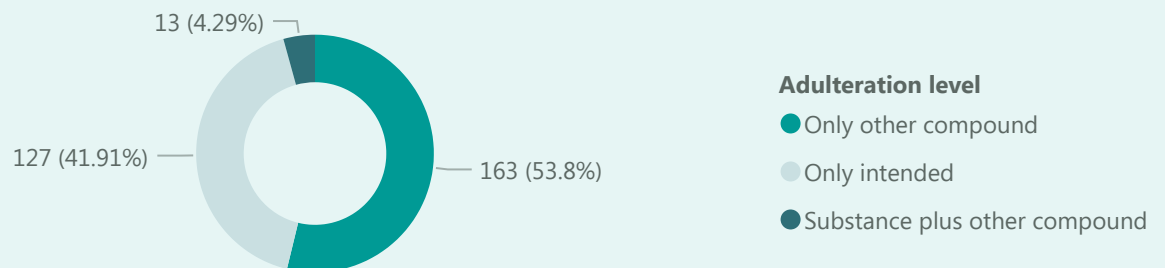
Detections of:

Most commonly detected Opioid NPS

Substance Detected	Count
Protonitazene	16
Metonitazene	12
Isotonitazene	1
Metonitazepyne	1
O-desmethyltramadol	1
Protonitazepyne	1
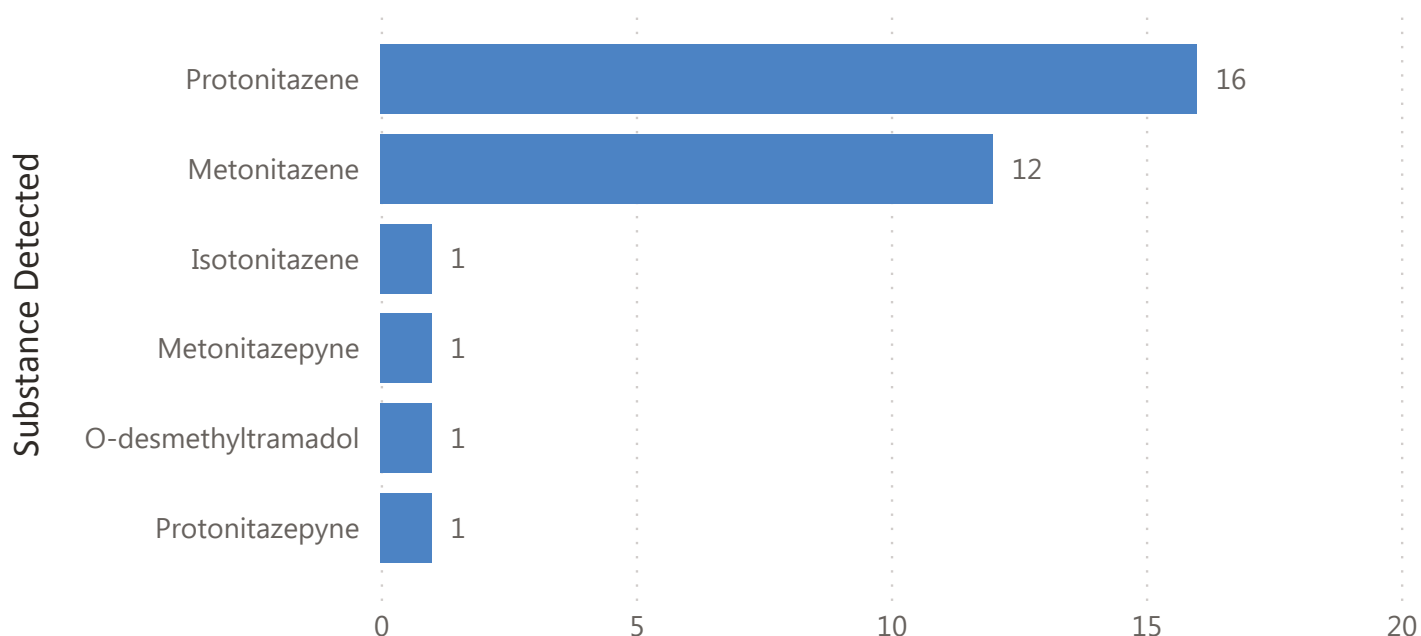
What are Opioid NPS sold as?

Sold-as category	Count
Other Opioids	18
Prescription Benzo	8
Opioid NPS	3
Cannabis Product	1
Heroin	1
Unknown	1

The "other opioids" category contains substances such as oxycodone, codeine, morphine and others.
For this chart, all Opioid NPS sold as "other opioids" category were sold as Oxycodone.
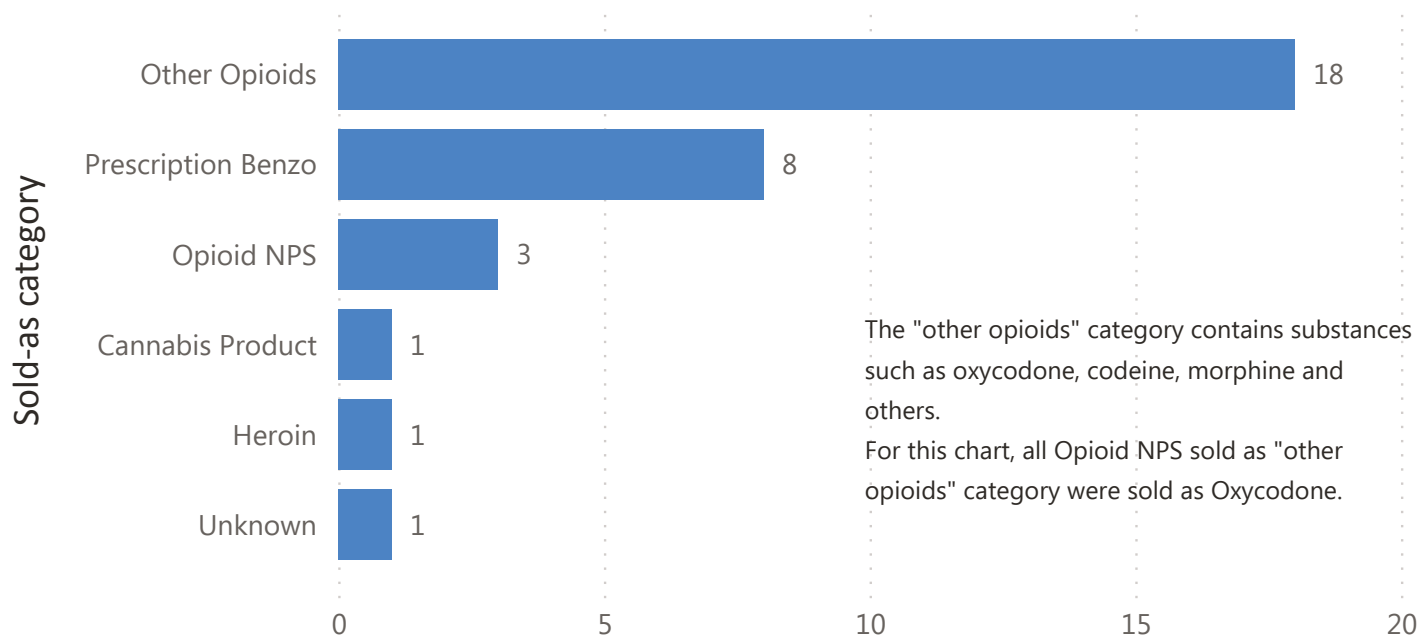
Opioid NPS

When substances are presented to the testing service *as* opioid NPS, do they match the presented substance identity?

Adulteration level

1 (25%)

3 (75%)

Adulteration level ● Only intended ● Only other compound

28 of 32

Detections of opioid NPS in substances where they were not expected by the service user.
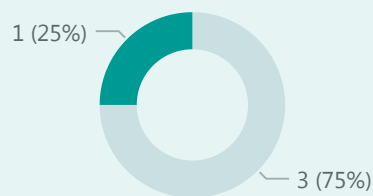
Prescription Benzo

Total samples submitted

1087

Unexpected substances detected in samples sold as any prescription benzo

Bromazolam				
	Etizolam 35	Flualprazolam 24		
	Flubromazolam 17	Diclazepam 12	Clonazolam 11	
	Flubromazepam 9		Caffeine 6	Parace-tamol 6
348	Phenacetin			

Substance Detected
- Bromazolam
- Caffeine
- Clonazolam
- Diclazepam
- Etizolam
- Flualprazolam
- Flubromazepam
- Flubromazolam
- Paracetamol
- Phenacetin
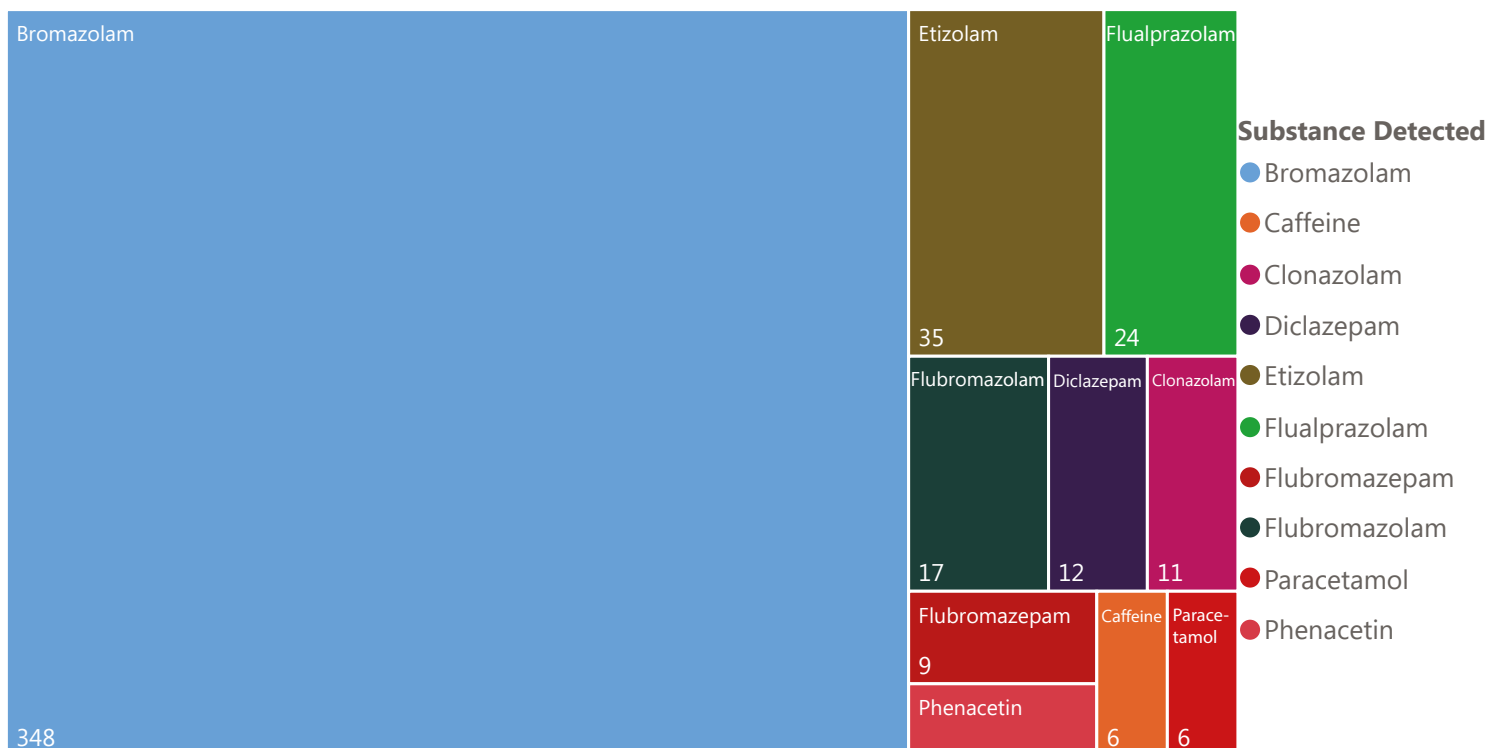
Number of samples by organisation

Sold-As ● Alprazolam ● Clonazepam ● Diazepam ● Lorazepam ● Xanax

Organisation	
WEDINOS	296 / 51 / 696
Other	
DrogArt	
DIZ Zurich	
checkit!	
Z6	

WEDINOS tests a very large number of benzodiazepines. It is not clear why the proportions of benzos tested by WEDINOS are vastly higher than other services.

Samples Tested: 0 — 500 — 1,000

Sample Adulteration Likelihood

Substance plus other compound
4 (0%)

Only other compound
508 (47%)

Only intended
575 (53%)