

VICTORIA'S DRUG CHECKING SERVICE

SERVICE REPORT

Hardmission

Single day festival
8 February 2025

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Partnership of



The Loop
Australia



YSAS

Funded by



Overview

On 8th February 2025, the Victorian Drug Checking Service operated at **Hardmission music festival** in Werribee, Victoria from 2-7pm.

Patrons often arrived in groups. Upon arrival, one person in each group filled out an anonymous demographics survey (the 'respondent'). They then entered a private booth. A chemist tested their sample(s) in front of them. A member of the health/harm reduction team then took individuals or groups to another private booth to explain their results and discuss harm reduction information.

We analysed **80 samples**.

We had health and harm reduction conversations with **103 people**.

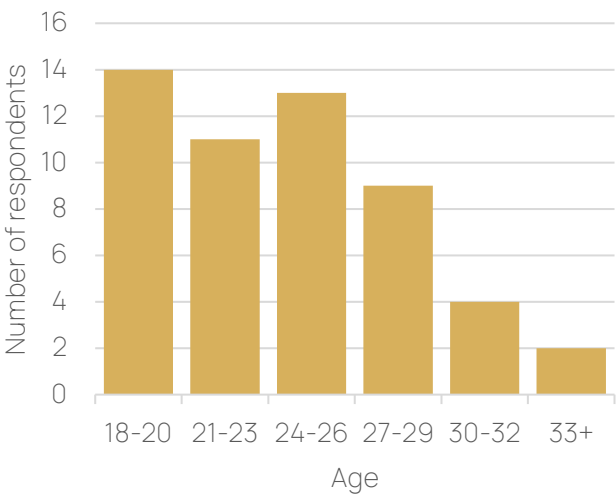
55 respondents consented to us sharing aggregate demographic information.

Age

Respondents ranged from 18-45 years of age.

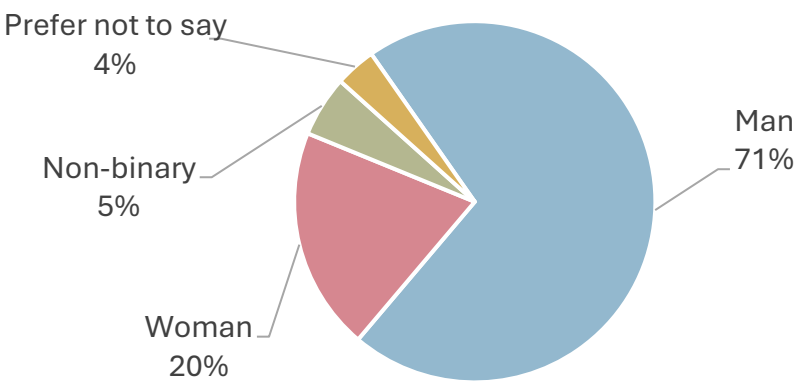
62% of respondents were aged 25 years or younger.

Two people reported 'prefer not to say'.



Gender

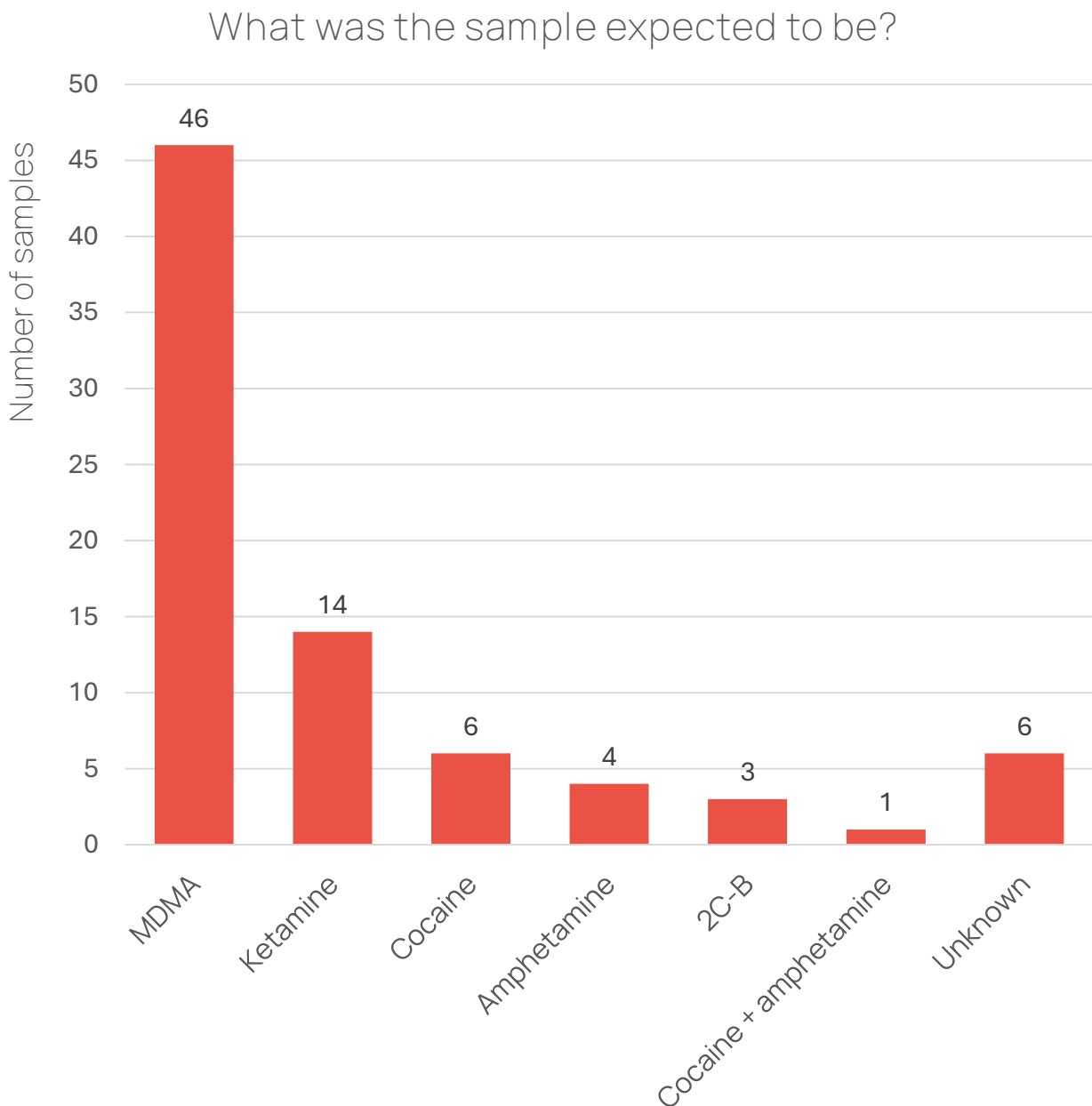
Most respondents reported their gender as male.



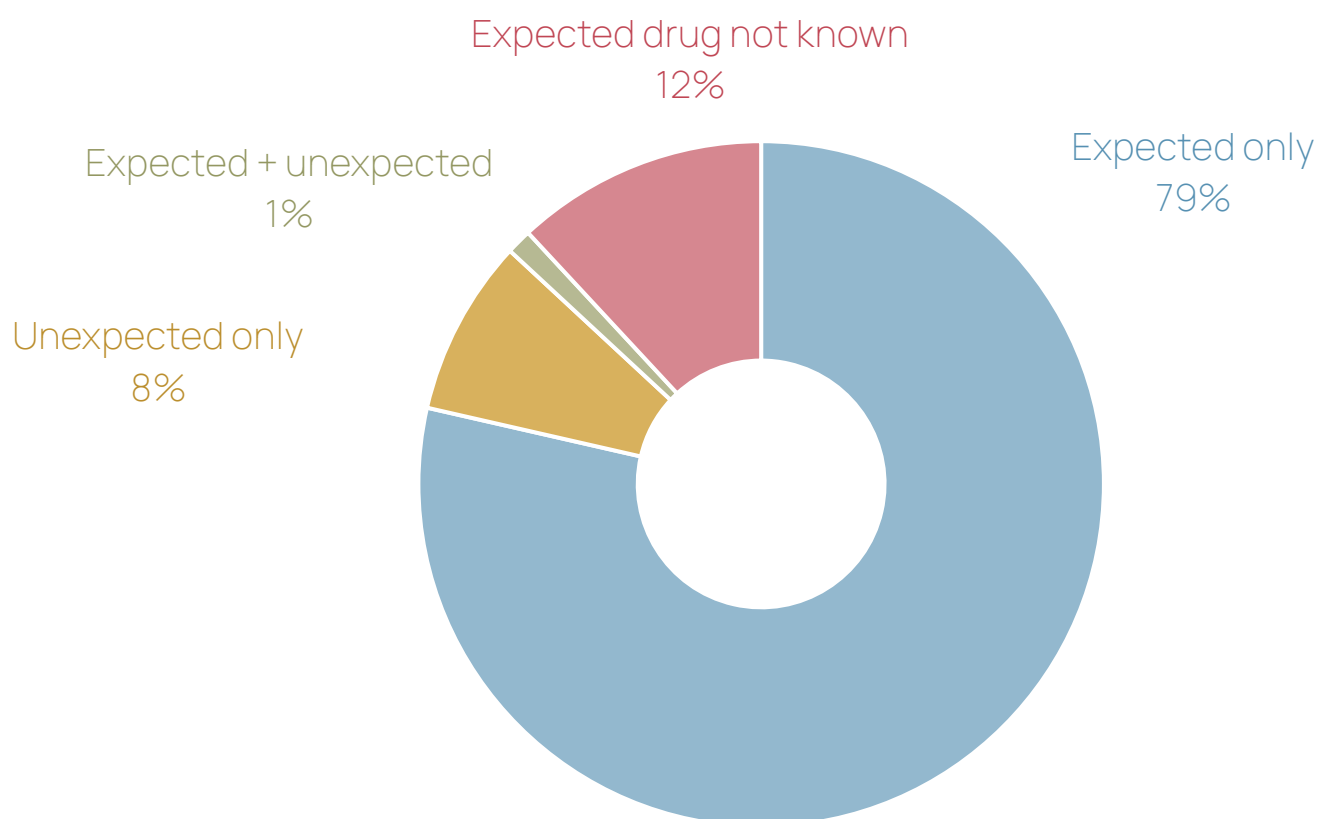
We tested 80 samples.

We asked people what drugs they expected in samples.

Most samples were expected to be MDMA (58%), ketamine (18%), and cocaine (8%). The expected drug was unknown for six (8%) samples (including ground finds).



In 79% of samples, we detected only the drug that was expected.



'Expected only': the only psychoactive drug/s we detected matched what the person submitting them expected.

'Expected + unexpected': we detected the psychoactive drug that was expected, but we also detected another (unexpected) psychoactive drug.

'Unexpected only': we did not detect the drug/s expected by the person submitted, but we did detect one or more different (unexpected) psychoactive drug/s.

'Expected drug not known': when the person brought in their sample, they didn't know or tell us what they expected (e.g. they might have 'found' the substance).

MDMA

Total samples expected to be MDMA	46
Expected psychoactive only	44
MDMA	31 31x non-pill
MDMA + filler Filler: 6x cellulose, 3x inositol, 1x MSM, 2x starch, 1x sucrose	13 11x pill, 2x non-pill
Expected + unexpected psychoactives	0
-	-
Unexpected psychoactive only	2
MDA + filler Filler: 2x cellulose	2 2x pill

- Information comparing MDA and MDMA is [available here](#).
- Harm reduction for MDMA is [available here](#).

Ketamine

Total samples expected to be ketamine	14
Expected psychoactive only	13
Ketamine	9
Ketamine + filler Filler: 2x sucrose, 1x creatine, 1x MSM	4
Expected + unexpected psychoactives	0
-	-
Unexpected psychoactive only	1
2F-NENDCK (2-FXE; 2'-fluoro-2-oxo-PCE; CanKet)	1

- 2F-NENDCK is a novel ketamine analogue. Ketamine analogues are designed to mimic the effects of ketamine, but they have different chemical structures. Unlike ketamine, these analogues are not well-researched and they can have different effects and potency. 2F-NENDCK has been reported to have a faster and stronger onset than ketamine, sometimes with more intense visual distortions. More information [here](#).
- Harm reduction for ketamine is [available here](#).

Cocaine

Total samples expected to be cocaine	6
Expected psychoactive only	6
Cocaine	3
Cocaine + filler Filler: 1x creatine, 1x inositol, 1x lactose	3
Expected + unexpected psychoactives	0
-	-
Unexpected psychoactive only	0
-	-

- Harm reduction for cocaine is [available here](#).

Amphetamine

Total samples expected to be amphetamine	4
Expected psychoactive only	0
-	-
Expected + unexpected psychoactives	0
-	-
Unexpected psychoactive only	4
Methamphetamine + filler Filler: 3x MSM, 1x starch	4

- In Australia, substances sold as 'amphetamines' are more likely to be methamphetamine, which is a stronger compound than amphetamine (i.e. a bump of methamphetamine has stronger effects than a bump of amphetamine).
- Harm reduction for amphetamine is [available here](#).
- Harm reduction for methamphetamine is [available here](#).

2C-B

Total samples expected to be 2C-B	3
Expected psychoactive only	3
2C-B	1
2C-B + filler Filler: 1x cellulose, 1x MSM	2 1x pill, 1x non-pill
Expected + unexpected psychoactives	0
-	-
Unexpected psychoactive only	0
-	-

- Harm reduction for 2C-B is [available here](#).

Cocaine + amphetamine

Total samples expected to be cocaine + amphetamine	1
Expected psychoactive only	0
-	-
Expected + unexpected psychoactives	1
Cocaine + methamphetamine + filler Filler: creatine + MSM	1
Unexpected psychoactive only	0
-	-

Expected drug not known

Total samples in which expected substance was unknown	6
Contained MDMA psychoactive	3
MDMA	2
MDMA + filler Filler: MSM	1
Contained ketamine psychoactive	1
Ketamine	1
Contained cocaine psychoactive	1
Cocaine + filler Filler: creatine	1
Contained MDA + MDMA psychoactive	1
MDA + MDMA + filler Filler: cellulose	1

FILLER GLOSSARY

Cellulose: found in plant cell walls. It's a common pharmaceutical filler. It can come in powdered and microcrystalline forms.

Creatine: often used as a supplement for muscle development.

Methylsulfonylmethane (MSM): often used as a supplement, with anti-inflammatory properties.

Inositol: a sugar.

Lactose: a sugar derived from milk.

Starch: a carbohydrate used in cooking and found naturally in foods such as wheat, potatoes corn and rice.

Sucrose: sugar.

VICTORIA'S DRUG CHECKING SERVICE IS A PARTNERSHIP OF



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THIS SERVICE IS FUNDED BY THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

