



LOCAL DRUG SAMPLE TESTING UPDATE

Legend: (O) Opioids (B) Benzos
(S) Stimulants (C) Cannabinoids
(A) Other
Active Cut

testRI is a two-year study to find out what is in the drug supply in Rhode Island and how changes to the supply are impacting people who use drugs in our community. We are testing used equipment, like pipes and syringes, that are collected from the community or donated by individuals or local organizations. Samples are tested using advanced confirmatory toxicology testing (LC-QTOF-MS).

Data below are from three samples collected in September.

*Data here only represent a sample of the local drug supply in Rhode Island. Because of that, the samples we have collected and tested may not represent the broader drug supply in the state. Samples are also not being tested in relation to overdose so outcomes from use, like overdose, are unknown.

Sample date & origin

Sold as (name or appearance):

What we found:

* indicated substances that make up most of a sample

September 2022
Providence



Crack
(white rock)

Cocaine* (S)

September 2022
Providence



Cocaine
(baggie with white powder)

Cocaine* (S)
Levamisole (A)

September 2022
Providence



Cocaine
(white powder)

Cocaine*(S)
Trazodone (A)
N,N-Dimethyltryptamine (DMT)
(A)

See back page for more info about each substance.

Visit testri.org for full results from all samples tested.

Why does this matter?

The drug supply is volatile and continuously changing. The mixing of drugs with or without the knowledge of people who are using drugs creates higher risk for overdose.

The local stimulant supply is also variable, so it is important to have naloxone, use fentanyl test strips, and go slow to reduce risk of adverse effects, including overdose risk.

What we found:

Cocaine is a stimulant that can cause elevated blood pressure and fast heart rate. In overdose it can cause heart problems, seizure, stroke, and muscle and/or kidney injury.

Levamisole is a medication used to treat worm infections. It is a frequent cut found in cocaine. It can cause problems with blood cells, blood vessels, and/or lead to rashes.

N,N-dimethyltryptamine (DMT) is a short-acting hallucinogen structurally related to serotonin. DMT occurs naturally in some plants, can be prepared synthetically, and is also a component of ayahuasca. Toxic effects include hallucinations, anxiety, agitation, seizure, perceptual distortions, dilated pupils, and high blood pressure. Psychosis has also been reported.

Trazodone is an antidepressant that has anxiolytic and sedating properties. The most common side effect is sedation. In large doses can cause nausea, vomiting, muscle twitching, lethargy, coma. Rare reports of abnormal heart rhythms and priapism (unwanted persistent erection) can occur.

How to reduce risk

Because the drug supply is always changing, it can be hard to know what you are buying. Testing your drugs first with fentanyl test strips can be a good first step.

Having naloxone (Narcan) with you is always important so you can respond to an overdose. It is also important to try not to use alone so someone can help you if you experience an overdose.

Start slow and go slow. Using a little bit of your drug at a time can be helpful to test the strength and keep track of your doses.

Try to avoid mixing depressants or downers, like benzos, opioids, and alcohol when you use. Mixing these can increase your risk of an overdose.

