



LOCAL DRUG SAMPLE TESTING UPDATE



Legend:

(O) Opioids	(B) Benzos
(S) Stimulants	(C) Cannabinoids
(A) Other	(H) Hallucinogen/ Dissociative
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 two samples collected in November.

*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:
November 2022 Providence	 <p>MDMA (capsule with white powder)</p>	<p>* indicated substances that make up most of a sample</p> <p>MDMA* (H) MDDMA (H) Ketamine (H) Methamphetamine (S) Cocaine (S) DMT (H) MDA (H)</p>
November 2022 Providence	 <p>MDMA (baggie)</p>	<p>MDMA* (H) Cocaine (S) MDDMA (H) Psilocin (4-OH-DMT) (H) Bufotenine (5-OH-DMT) (H) Hydroxyzine (A)</p>

Why does this matter?

In November 2022 we tested multiple samples reported to be sold as MDMA that contained a variety of hallucinogenic amphetamines as well as other stimulants and hallucinogens.

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.

See back page for more info about each substance.
For more info visit: testri.org

What we found:

MDMA (3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine) is a hallucinogenic amphetamine. Adverse effects include dizziness, hyperactivity, decreased appetite, pupillary dilation, headache, anxiety, and disorientation. Rare severe toxic effects include low sodium, seizures, elevated body temperature, and muscle and kidney injury.

MDDMA (3,4-Methylenedioxy-N,N-dimethylamphetamine) is a hallucinogenic amphetamine, similar to MDMA. Data on adverse effects are limited, but likely similar to MDMA and other hallucinogenic amphetamines. Based on chemical structure it is thought to have reduced activity compared to MDMA.

MDA (3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine) is a hallucinogenic amphetamine, similar to MDMA. Adverse effects similar to MDMA and other hallucinogenic amphetamines. The compound has mostly stimulant effects with lesser hallucinogenic properties. It is also a minor metabolite of MDMA.

DMT (N,N-dimethyltryptamine) 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.

Ketamine is an anesthetic that is similar to PCP. Ketamine is often used for its hallucinogenic effects. Ketamine can cause hallucinations, confusion, abnormal behavior, nausea or vomiting, and hypertension. Depending on the dose, it can also cause breathing changes, sedation, abnormal heart rate, seizures or abnormal heart rhythm. Chronic use has been associated with bladder and urinary tract problems.

Psilocin (4-OH-DMT) is an alkaloid found in psychedelic mushrooms (*Psilocybe*). Effects include hallucinations, thought disorders, and mood changes. This compound is currently being explored as a psychotherapy adjunct.

Bufotenine (5-OH-DMT) is an alkaloid, closely related to psilocin, that is found in the skin secretions of genus *Bufo* toads and in certain South American plants. It is most often used for hallucinogen effects.

Methamphetamine is a stimulant. Risks include heart problems (e.g., abnormal heart rhythm or rate, heart attack, heart failure), high blood pressure, hallucinations, psychosis, and kidney and/or muscle injury.

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.

Hydroxyzine is an allergy medication sometimes used as a sleep aid that can cause sedation.

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.

