

VICTORIA'S DRUG CHECKING SERVICE

# SERVICE REPORT

## Ultra Australia

Single day festival  
12 April 2025

Report dated 22 May 2025

Partnership of



**The Loop**  
Australia



## YSAS

Funded by



# Table of contents

INFORMATION	PAGE
Overview	3
Demographics	4
Samples summary	5-6
Sample results guide	7
MDMA	8-9
Ketamine	10
Cocaine	10
2C-B	11
GHB	11
Unknown expected substance	12
Filler glossary	13

# Overview

On 12 April 2025, Victoria's drug checking service operated at Ultra Australia music festival at Flemington Racecourse from 1.30pm-7.30pm.

We analysed **81 samples**.

We had **57 harm reduction conversations**  
with 112 people.

**47 respondents** consented\* to us sharing  
aggregate demographic information.

## HOW IT WORKED

Patrons often arrived in groups.\*\* Upon arrival, one person in each group filled out an anonymous demographics survey (the 'respondent') and received an identification number.

They then entered a private booth, in which a chemist tested their sample(s) in front of them. A member of the health/harm reduction team then took people (individuals or groups) to another private booth to explain their results and **discuss harm reduction information**.

\* 57 respondents filled out the survey but 10 did not provide consent for their data being used for research/service evaluation/reporting.

\*\* Group sizes ranged from 1-7 people, with a median of 2 people per group.

# Demographics

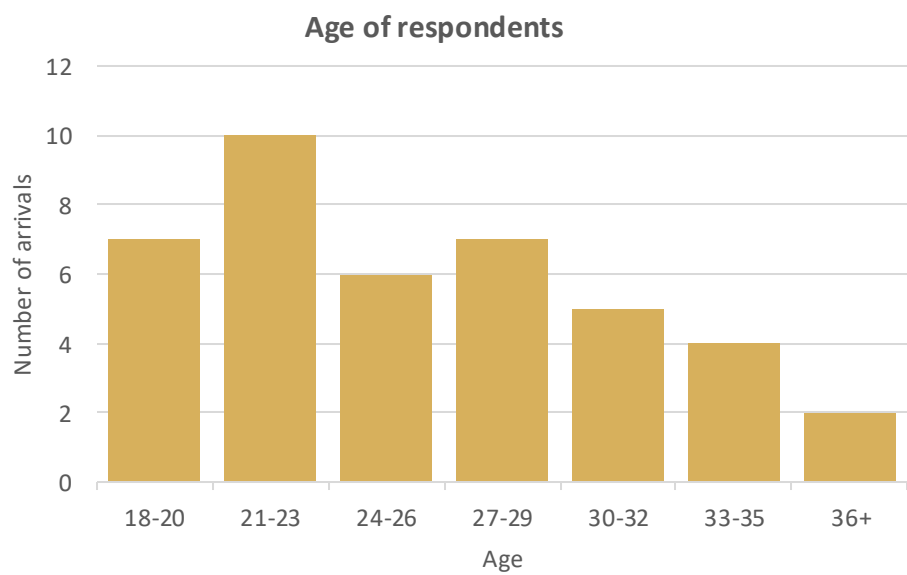
## AGE

Respondents ranged from 19-51 years of age.

47% of respondents were 25 years or younger.

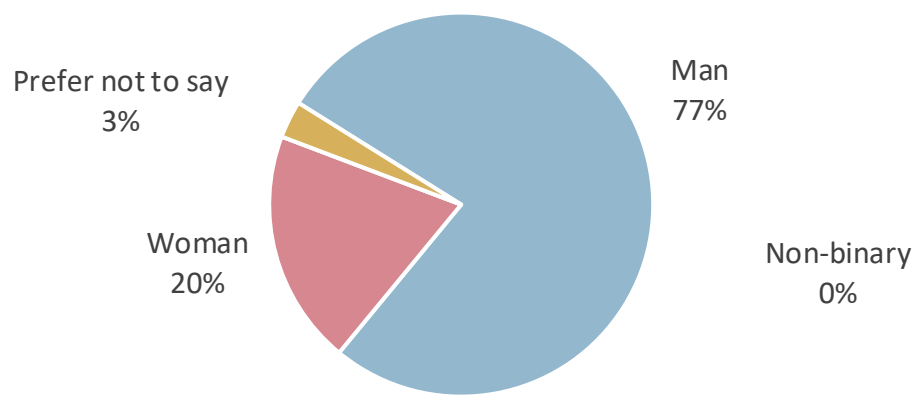
74% of respondents were 30 years or younger.

3 people did not report their age.



## GENDER

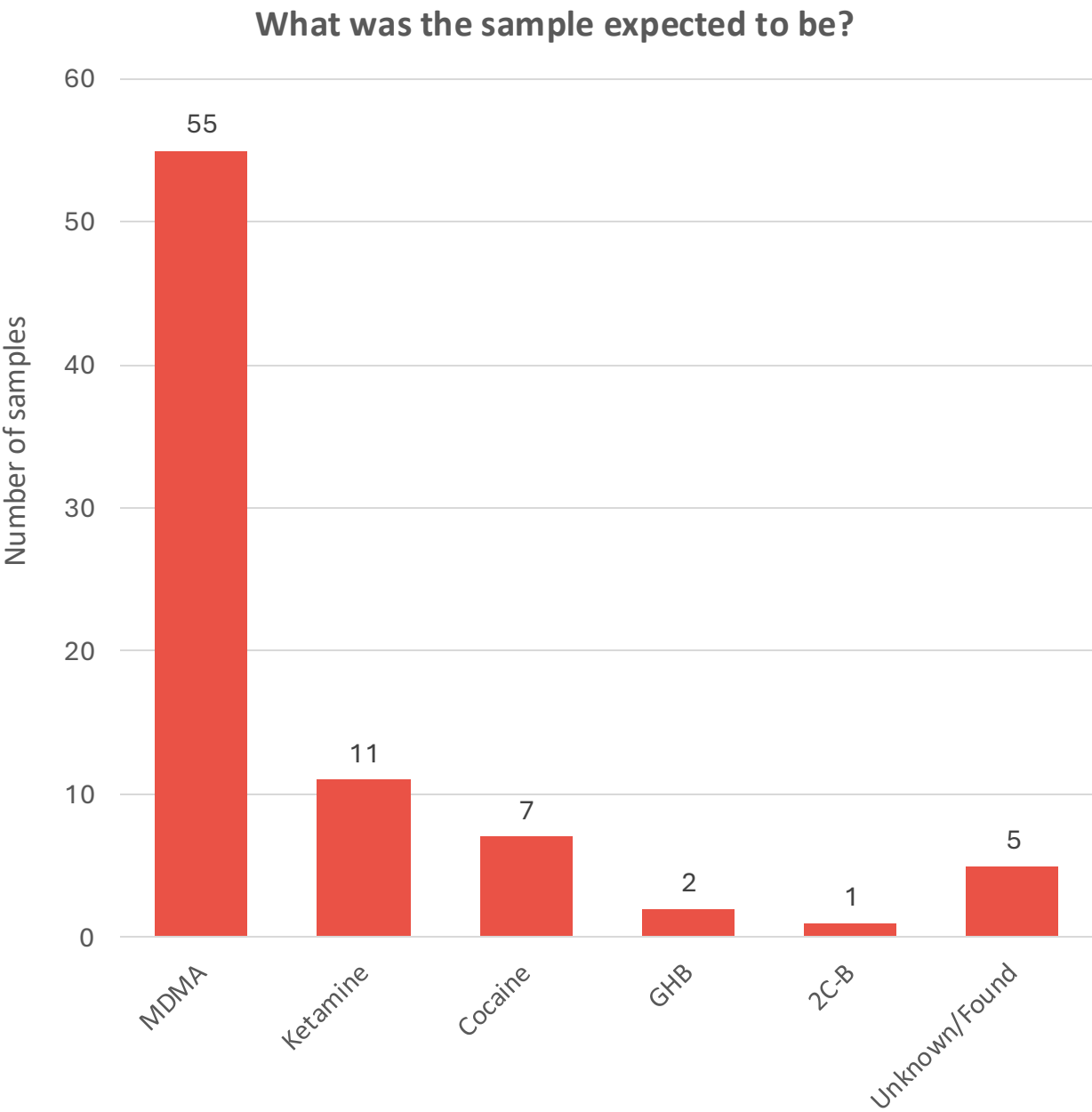
Most respondents reported their gender as man (77%).



# We tested 81 samples.

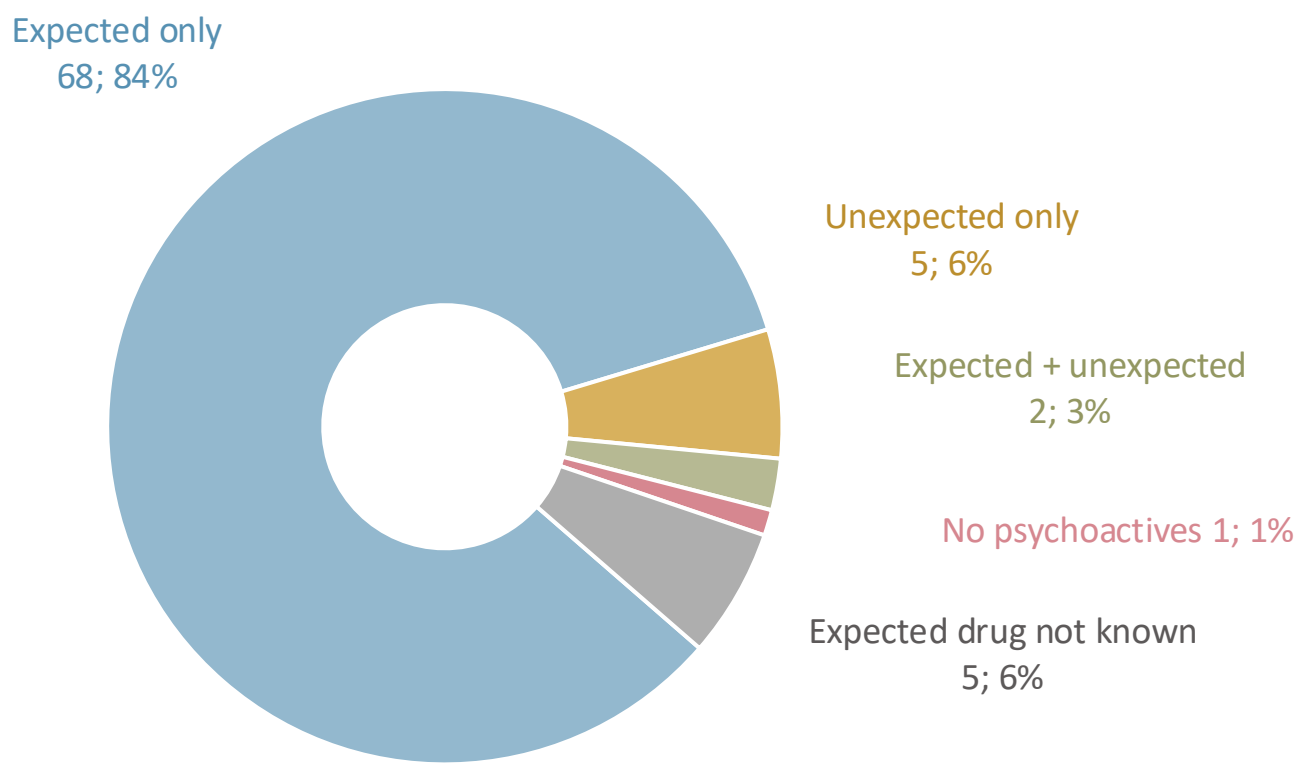
We asked people what drugs they expected in samples.

Most were expected to be MDMA (67.9%), ketamine (13.6%), and cocaine (8.6%). The expected drug was unknown for 6.2% of samples (including ground finds).



We also disposed of 2 samples (not included in the total number of tested samples).

# In 84% 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 to be in there.
- ‘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.
- ‘No psychoactives detected’:** we did not detect any psychoactive drugs.
- ‘Expected drug not known’:** when the person brought in their sample, they didn’t know or tell us what they expected to be in there (e.g. they might have ‘found’ the substance).

# Sample results guide

The rest of this section presents chemical analysis results, including unexpected psychoactive substances and fillers.

## Fillers

A glossary of ‘fillers’ is provided on the last page of this section.

Fillers are expected in pills and tablets (as they bind pills and tablets together).

## Sample images

Images of MDMA samples that contained unexpected psychoactives are provided in this report.

# MDMA

	Pill	Non-pill
<b>Total samples expected to be MDMA = 55</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>42</b>
Expected psychoactive only	8	40
MDMA	1	37
MDMA + filler Fillers: 6x cellulose, 2x MSM, 1x starch, 1x sucrose	7	3
Expected + unexpected psychoactives	1	1
MDMA + MDA + filler Fillers: 1x cellulose	1	0
MDMA + MDA	0	1
Unexpected psychoactive only	3	1
MDA + filler Fillers: 3x cellulose	3	0
4-CMC (4-Chloromethcathinone)	0	1
No psychoactives detected Fillers: 1x aspirin + cellulose	1	0

- Harm reduction for MDMA is [available here](#).
- Information comparing **MDA** and MDMA is [available here](#).
- **4-CMC:** 4-CMC is a synthetic cathinone. Synthetic cathinones usually have stimulant effects but can be unpredictable: the dose, duration, and toxicity varies. Cathinones like 4-CMC carry an increased risk of cardiac events (heart attack) and increase your risk of serotonin syndrome if taken with MDMA. You may experience minor or delayed effects, so our advice is to avoid taking more if you don't feel effects when you're expecting MDMA.

Images of MDMA that contained unexpected psychoactives



Capsule: 4-CMC



Capsule: dark brown crystal  
MDMA + MDA



Pressed pill: red Netflix  
MDA + cellulose



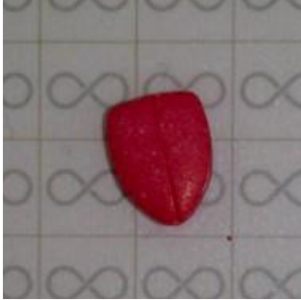
Pressed pill: purple Tesla  
MDA + cellulose



Pressed pill: pink Anonymous mask  
MDA + cellulose



Pressed pill: orange Squid Game mask  
MDA + MDMA + cellulose



# Ketamine

Total samples expected to be ketamine	11
Expected psychoactive only	11
Ketamine	8
Ketamine + filler Fillers: 2x MSM, 1x MSG	3
Expected + unexpected psychoactives	0
Unexpected psychoactive only	0
No psychoactives detected	0

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

# Cocaine

Total samples expected to be cocaine	7
Expected psychoactive only	7
Cocaine	6
Cocaine + filler Fillers: 1x boric acid	1
Expected + unexpected psychoactives	0
Unexpected psychoactive only	0
No psychoactives detected	0

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

## 2C-B

Total samples expected to be 2C-B	1
Expected psychoactive only	1
2C-B + filler Fillers: 1x inositol	1
Expected + unexpected psychoactives	0
Unexpected psychoactive only	0
No psychoactives detected	0

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

## GHB

Total samples expected to be GHB	2
Expected psychoactive only	1
GHB	1
Expected + unexpected psychoactives	0
Unexpected psychoactive only	1
GBL	1
No psychoactives detected	0

- Harm reduction for **GHB** is [available here](#).
- **GBL** is a pro-drug of GHB, which means that it converts to GHB in the body. It is usually reported as feeling stronger than GHB, with a faster onset.
- Find out more about the difference between GHB, and the pro-drugs GBL and 1,4-BD [here](#).

# Unknown expected substance

Total samples in which expected substance was unknown	5
One psychoactive detected	3
MDMA	2
Ketamine	1
Multiple psychoactives detected	1
DXM + caffeine	1
No psychoactives detected	1
Filler Filler: 1x sugar alcohol (either inositol, mannitol or sorbitol)	1

# Filler glossary

<b>Aspirin:</b>	Anti-inflammatory drug used for pain relief.
<b>Boric acid:</b>	Often used as an antiseptic, insecticide, or preservative. It is found in pharmaceutical products.
<b>Cellulose:</b>	The chemical that makes paper. It's a common pharmaceutical filler. It can come in powdered and microcrystalline forms.
<b>Methylsulfonylmethane (MSM):</b>	Often used as a supplement, with anti-inflammatory properties.
<b>MSG:</b>	A flavour enhancer often used in cooking.
<b>Starch:</b>	A carbohydrate used in cooking and found naturally in foods such as wheat, potatoes, corn and rice.

## SUGARS

<b>Inositol:</b>	A sugar naturally found in many foods, available as a supplement and used in films as a prop for cocaine.
<b>Mannitol:</b>	A sugar used as both a sweetener and as a diuretic medication (it makes you absorb less water and sodium). Excess consumption may have a laxative effect.
<b>Sucrose:</b>	Table sugar.

VICTORIA'S DRUG CHECKING SERVICE IS A PARTNERSHIP OF



**YSAS**

THIS SERVICE IS FUNDED BY THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

