

VICTORIA'S DRUG CHECKING SERVICE

# SERVICE REPORT

## The Warehouse Project

Single day event  
25 April 2025

Report dated 22 May 2025

Partnership of



**The Loop**  
Australia



**YSAS**

Funded by



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# Overview

On 25 April 2025, the Victorian Drug Checking Service operated at The Warehouse Project at The Timber Yard from 4.30pm–8.30pm.

We analysed **51 samples**.

We had **36 harm reduction conversations**  
with 67 people.

**33 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**.

\* 36 respondents filled out the survey but 3 did not provide consent for their data being used for research/service evaluation/reporting.

\*\* Group sizes ranged from 1-3 people, with a median of 2 people per group.

# Demographics

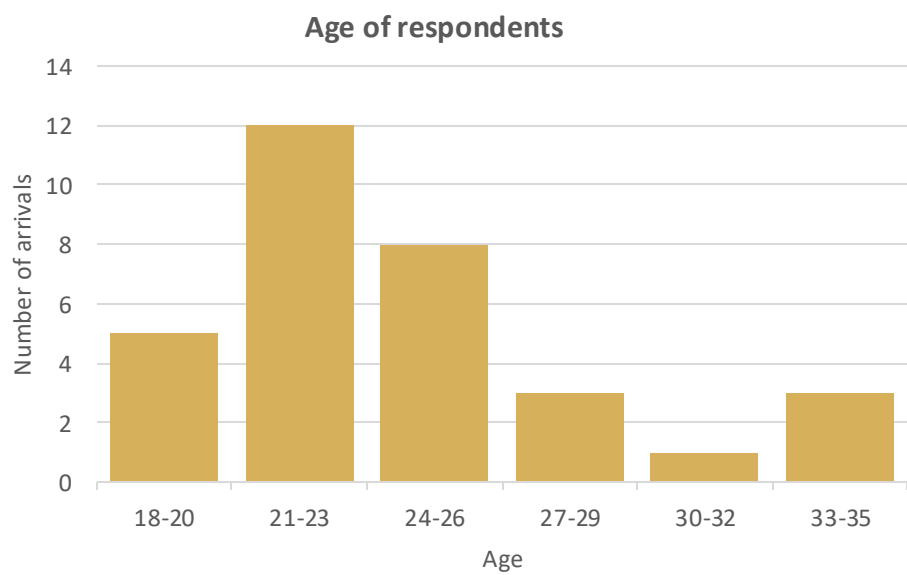
## AGE

Respondents ranged from 18-35 years of age.

69% of respondents were 25 years or younger.

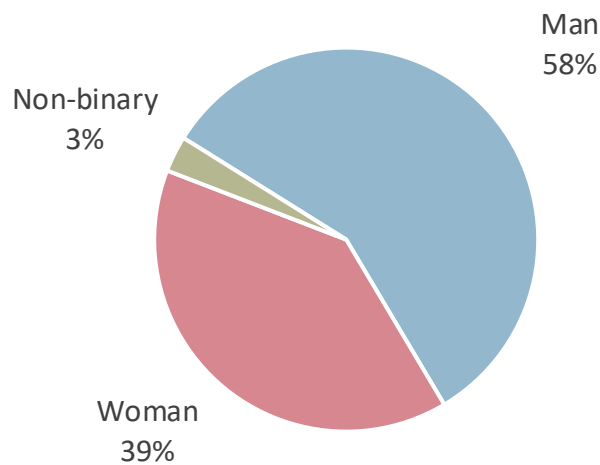
22% of respondents were 30 years or younger.

1 person did not report their age.



## GENDER

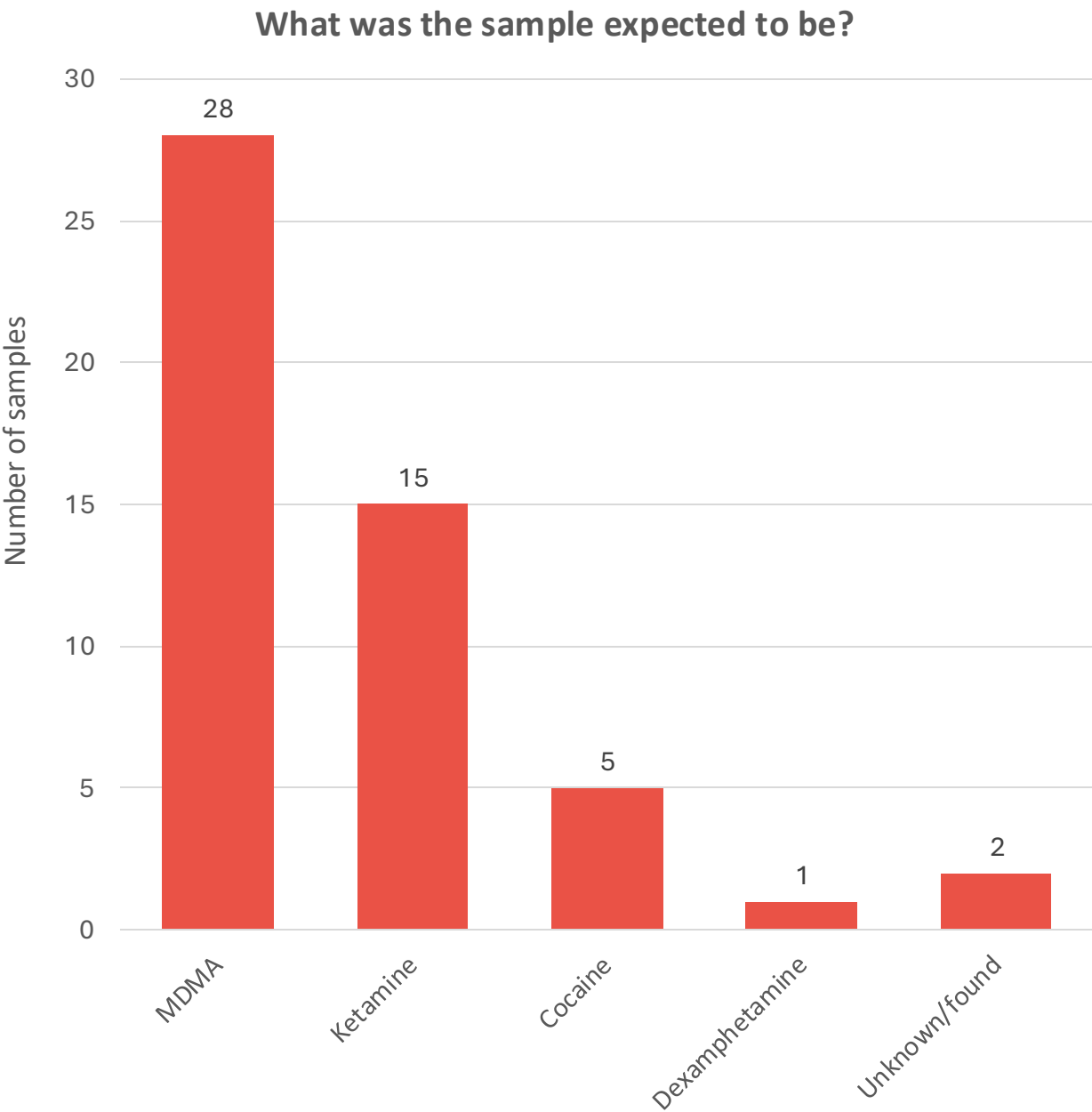
Most respondents reported their gender as man (58%).



# We tested 51 samples.

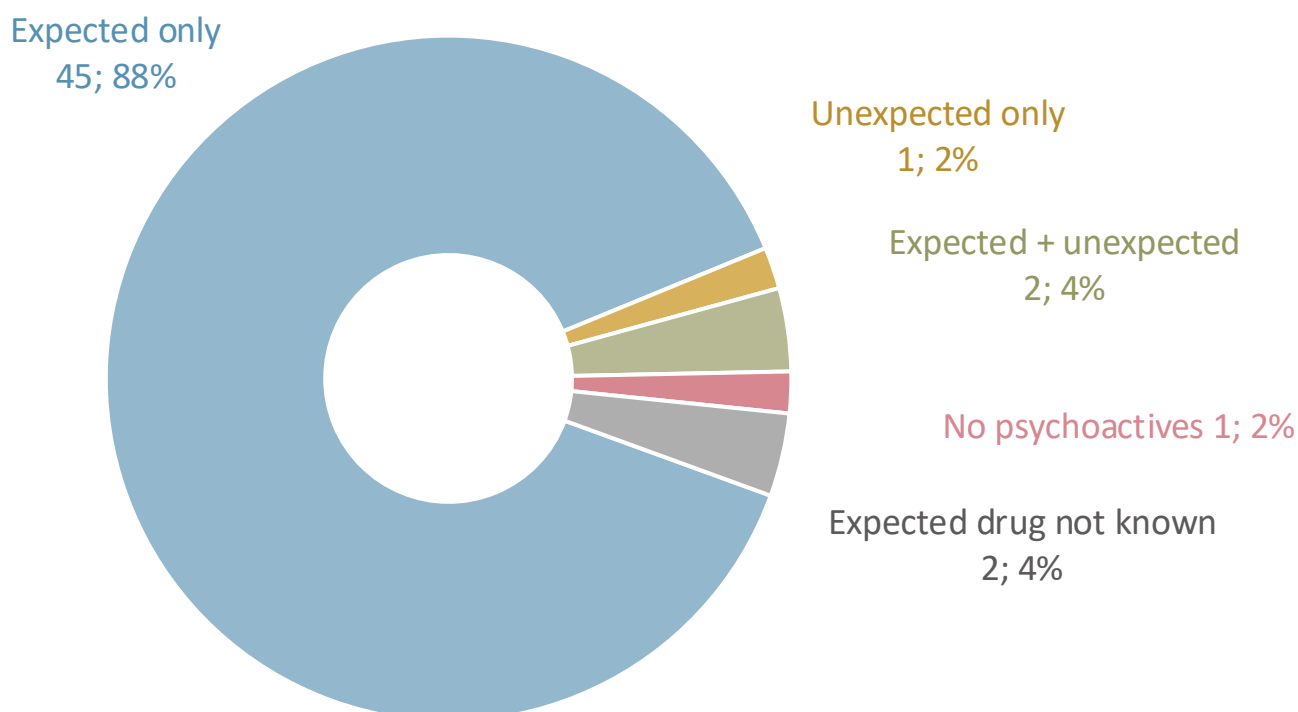
We asked people what drugs they expected in samples.

Most were expected to be MDMA (54.9%), ketamine (29.4%), and cocaine (9.8%). The expected drug was unknown for 3.9% of samples (including ground finds).



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

## In 88% 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
Total samples expected to be MDMA = 28	10	18
Expected psychoactive only	9	18
MDMA	3	17
MDMA + filler Fillers: 4x cellulose, 1x wax, 1x inositol, 1x unidentified binder	6	1
Expected + unexpected psychoactives	1	0
MDMA + MDA + filler Fillers: 1x cellulose	1	0
Unexpected psychoactive only	0	0
No psychoactives detected	0	0

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

Image of MDMA pill that contained unexpected psychoactives



Pressed pill: red Netflix

MDA + MDMA + cellulose



# Ketamine

Total samples expected to be ketamine	15
Expected psychoactive only	14
Ketamine	11
Ketamine + filler Fillers: 2x creatine, 1x MSM	3
Expected + unexpected psychoactives	1
2F-NENDCK + filler Fillers: 1x MSM	1
Unexpected psychoactive only	0
No psychoactives detected	0

- Harm reduction for ketamine is [available here](#).
- 2F-NENDCK (2-FXE; 2'-fluoro-2-oxo-PCE; CanKet) 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](#).

# Cocaine

Total samples expected to be cocaine	5
Expected psychoactive only	4
Cocaine	3
Cocaine + filler Fillers: 1x lactose	1
Expected + unexpected psychoactives	1
Cocaine + phenacetin	1
Unexpected psychoactive only	0
No psychoactives detected	0

- Harm reduction for cocaine is [available here](#).
- **Phenacetin** used to be a pain medication – it's no longer sold or used for health treatments because it can cause health problems including bladder and urinary tract cancers, and damage to the kidneys and liver. You're more likely to experience adverse effects (e.g. heart problems, hallucinations) if you take cocaine and phenacetin together, compared to cocaine by itself. More info on [phenacetin here](#).

# Dexamphetamine

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

**NOTE:**  
Pharmaceutical drugs (or counterfeit pharmaceutical drugs) usually contain a very small amount of the active ingredient. This is because the potency of these drugs means you only need a miniscule amount in a relatively large tablet. That means it’s unlikely that we would detect these substances in our portable laboratory.

Our initial testing method (FTIR) did not detect dexamphetamine. The sample provider opted not to undertake further GCMS testing, which would take longer but be more likely to detect small amounts of dexamphetamine.

# Unknown expected substance

Total samples in which expected substance was unknown	2
One psychoactive detected	2
Cocaine + filler Fillers: 1x glutamine	1
Ketamine	1
Multiple psychoactives detected	0
No psychoactives detected	0

# Filler glossary

<b>Cellulose:</b>	The chemical that makes paper. It's a common pharmaceutical filler. It can come in powdered and microcrystalline forms.
<b>Creatine:</b>	Often used as a supplement for muscle development.
<b>Glutamine:</b>	An amino acid that is often taken as a supplement for muscle repair.
<b>Methylsulfonylmethane (MSM):</b>	Often used as a supplement, with anti-inflammatory properties.
<b>Stearic acid:</b>	Often used as a thickening agent, emulsifier and stabiliser in skincare products.

## SUGARS

<b>Inositol:</b>	A sugar naturally found in many foods, available as a supplement and used in films as prop for cocaine.
<b>Lactose:</b>	A sugar derived from milk.



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