

Factsheet – drug checking in New Zealand 2016/17

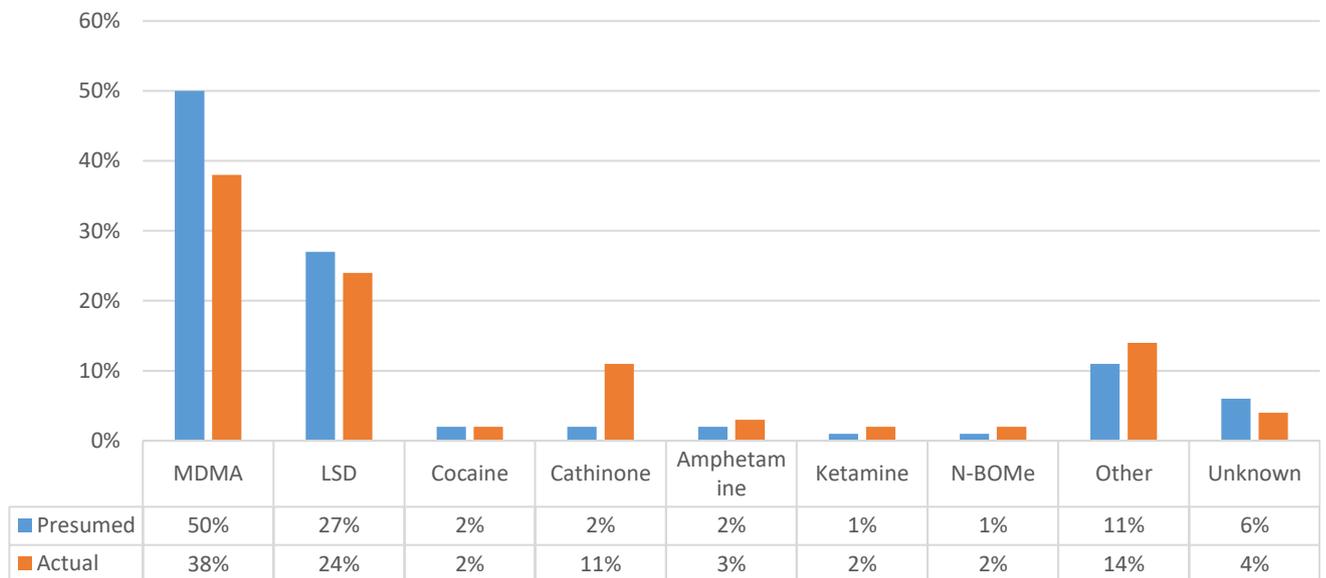
- Over 330 samples were tested at 8 festivals¹
- 39 psychoactive substances were identified

Over three quarters of people thought they had MDMA or LSD.

In reality this only about two third of samples were MDMA or LSD with significantly higher results of:

- cathinones (30 more samples than presumed)
- piperazine [BZP family] (5 samples)
- pharmaceuticals (4 samples)
- non psychoactive (4 samples)
- N-BOMe (4 more samples than presumed)

The difference between what people thought they had and what they actually had

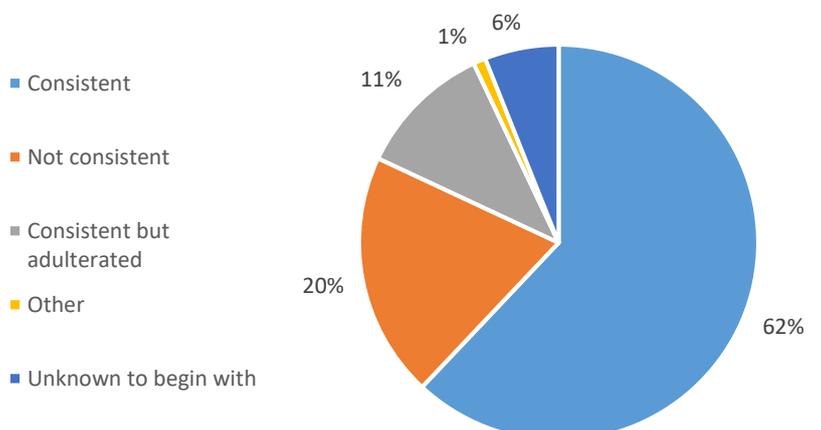


38% of samples were not exactly what people thought they were.

When a samples was not what people thought it was (20% of all samples), it was most likely to be a cathinone (29 of 66 samples).

A lot of adulterated samples had inert fillers or impurities with only 10 of 34 adulterated samples having an additional psychoactive.

How often was a sample what people thought it was?



¹ Three festivals had both reagent and FT-IR testing and five had just reagent testing

Behaviour change

The impact on people's behaviour was significant with more considered and safer decisions being made.

63% of people were not actively intending to take the drug when it was not what was expected (66 samples)

- 52% did not intend to
- 11% were undecided

Reasons given for still intending to take the sample when it was not what was expected were:

- I have already tried it and it was fine
- I have used that substance before

People often commented that they intended to be more cautious based on the new information they had.

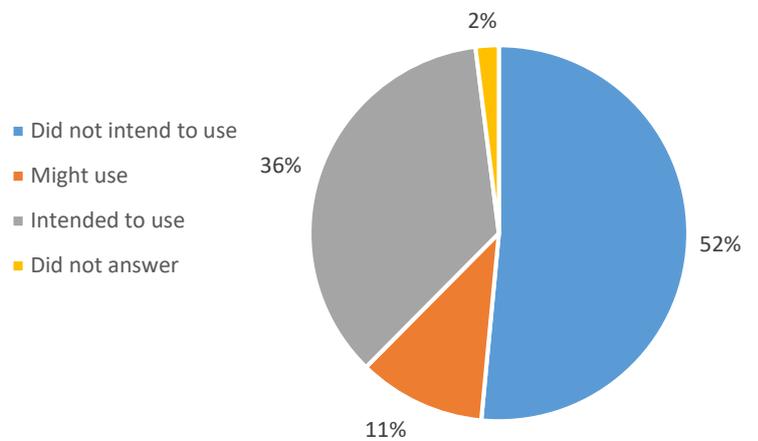
Adulterated samples

Behaviour change was less significant when a sample was adulterated. This was only 36 of the samples and often were not adulterated with things that would change the experience (see above graph).

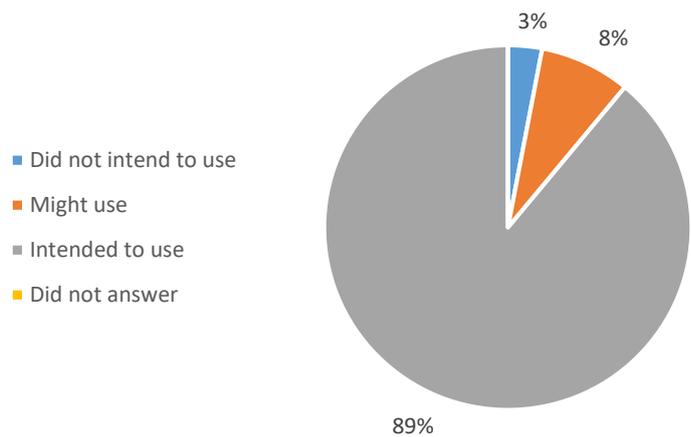
Sample matches expectation

Most people intended to take the substance when it was what they expected it to be. The unexpected 'no' and 'maybe' were often related to people not wanting to take that specific substance at that event

Intention to use when the sample was **not** what people thought it was



Intention to use when the sample was adulterated



Intention to use when the sample was consistent with what they thought it was

