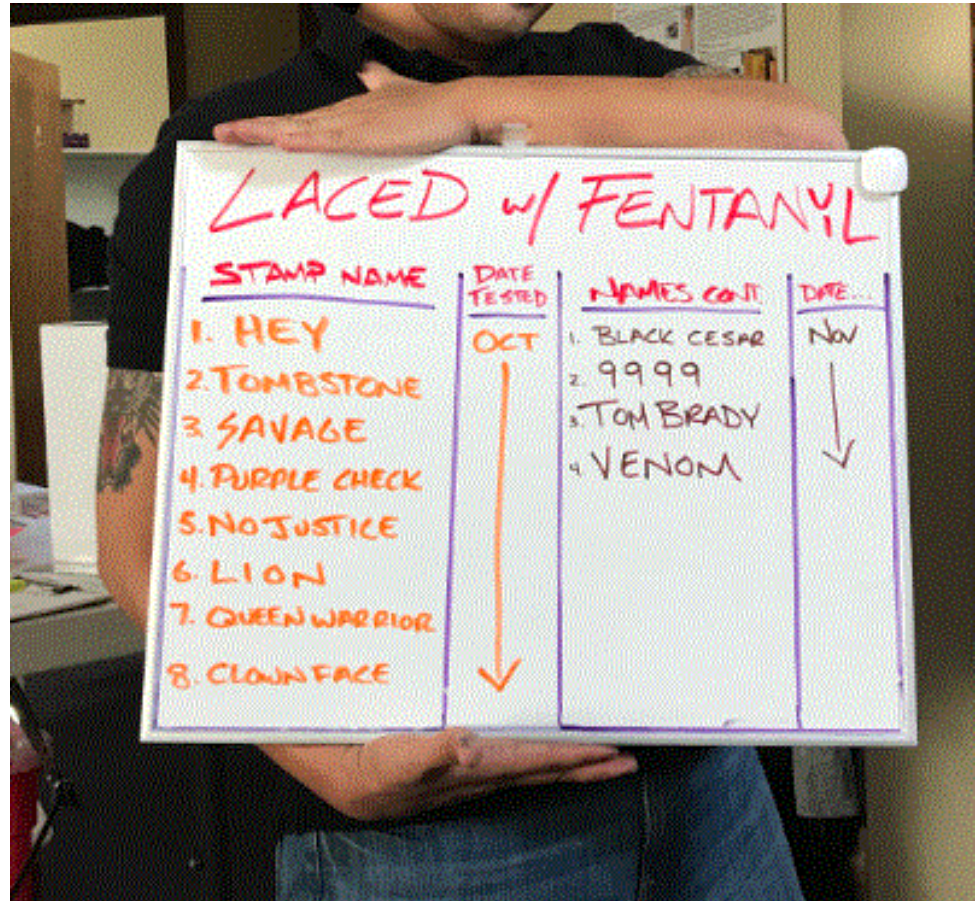


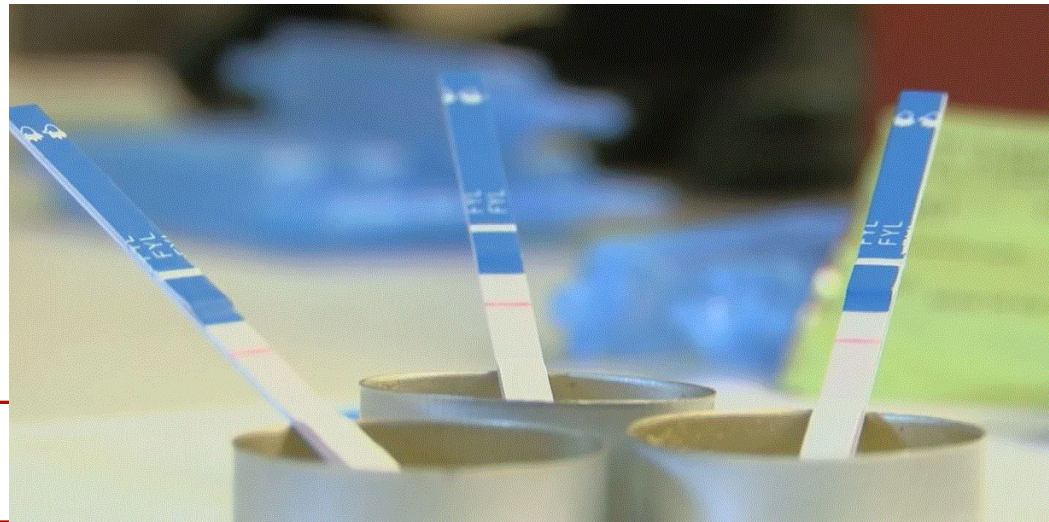
Drug Checking with Fentanyl Test Strips

Robert Childs, MPH



Overview

- The concept of drug checking
- What are FTS and how does one use them?
- What does the research say?
 - Insight/Dope Project/Focus Study
- Data collection
- Including FTS in programming
- Legal issues



- “Drug checking” is a service that chemically analyzes drug samples and provides results to people who use drugs so that they can take steps to protect themselves.
 - The results are also available to organizations or agencies to inform understanding of the drug supply.
- **Analysis**
 - Home use with immediate results
 - Test strips
 - On-site with immediate results
 - Mass spectrometer
 - On-site checking with test strips
 - Mail-in
 - People who use drugs leave a small sample of drugs for testing and retrieve the results online or by phone using a code

The Concept of “Drug Checking”



- The inconsistency of the drug supply and the lethality of fentanyl have increased interest in drug checking
 - In recent years, Dance Safe, several SSPs in the United States, as well as Insite, the supervised consumption site in Vancouver, B.C., have distributed testing strips, to people who use drugs.
 - This technology was originally developed to test the presence of fentanyl in urine samples

Fentanyl Test Strips

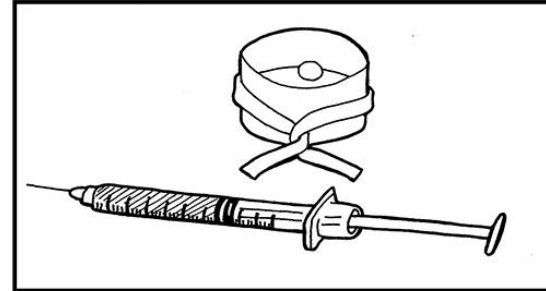
- **Urine test strips, very sensitive**
- **Detects 10 analogues including: carfentanil, acetyl fentanyl, furanyl fentanyl, ocfentanil, sufentanil**
- **3.2% false negative rate, but always risk of missing analogues**
- **Add water to residue in cooker, dip in test strip, wait 30 seconds**
- **Made by BTNX in Canada**
 - **\$.70-\$1.00 Pricing per unit**
 - <https://www.btnx.com/Product?id=16940>
 - <https://thehup.org/product/fentanyl-test-strips/>
 - ***BTNX contact: Mike Sunderani***
 - Michael@btnx.com



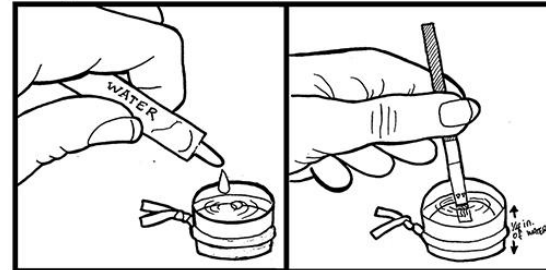
How to Use FTS

Directions

1. Prepare drugs in a fresh, clean cooker
2. Set prepared drugs aside:

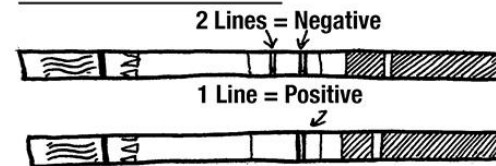


3. Add 1/4 inch clean water to drug residue
4. Dip end of test strip in water for 15 seconds



5. Check the strip after 5 minutes. One line means fentanyl, 2 lines means no fentanyl

After 5 Minutes:

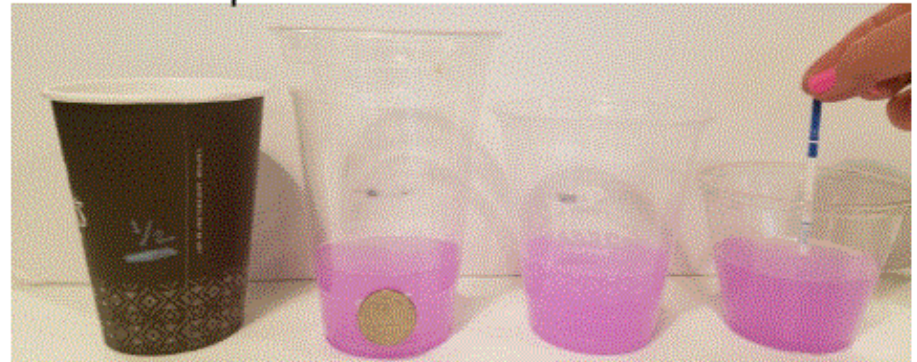


- *Test may also be used with baggie residue.
- *Check any street drug, benzos, crack, meth, etc, as well as all opioids.
- *If test doesn't result in 1 or 2 lines it's invalid

New Methamphetamine Testing Instructions

To get the most accurate results with the fentanyl test strips, a meth sample must be **heavily diluted**!

Dilute ONLY RESIDUE in about HALF A CUP of water (referenced below). Don't test full shards, or even pieces of shard. JUST residue.



Remember that the street drug supply is inconsistent and unpredictable. Test your drugs when you're able, and if that's not an option, assume fentanyl, and know the signs of an opioid overdose.

Carry naloxone, and know how to use it!

How to Use FTS
with
Methamphetamine



Insite Study (2017)



- When able to test their drugs before use, people who discovered the presence of fentanyl were **10 times more likely to reduce their doses** and **25% less likely to overdose.**

Fentanyl Overdose Reduction Checking Analysis Study (FORECAST) Study

FINDING 1

Fentanyl testing strips had the lowest detection limit and the highest sensitivity and specificity for fentanyl of the technologies assessed.

TECHNOLOGY	DETECTION LIMIT	SENSITIVITY		SPECIFICITY	
		Rhode Island Lab	Baltimore Lab	Rhode Island Lab	Baltimore Lab
BTNX Fentanyl Testing Strips (immunoassay)	0.13 micrograms/ml	96%	100%	90%	98%
TruNarc (Raman Spectroscopy)	25 micrograms/ml	4% (61% with SERS kit)	4% (39% with SERS kit)	100% (92% with SERS kit)	98% (92% with SERS kit)
Bruker Alpha (FTIR Spectroscopy)	3-4% weight, which is comparable to TruNarc	83%		90%	

FINDING 2

The vast majority of people who use drugs have a high degree of concern about fentanyl in the drug supply.

84% of respondents were concerned about the drugs they use having fentanyl in them. Of 256 respondents who thought they had consumed fentanyl, 85% said they wished they had known beforehand. Contradicting the idea that people who use drugs are actively looking for fentanyl, only about one in four (26%) stated a preference for drugs with fentanyl.

Forecast Study

Of all respondents, 85% desired to know about the presence of fentanyl before using drugs, with 73% expressing moderate to high interest. Drug checking was viewed as an important means of overdose prevention, with 89% agreeing that it would make them feel better about protecting themselves from overdose. Interest in drug checking was associated with having witnessed an overdose and recently using a drug thought to contain fentanyl. In addition to the presence or absence of fentanyl, a large majority of respondents were interested in knowing the amount of fentanyl (86%) and the presence of other substances (87%).

FINDING 3

The vast majority of people who use drugs are interested in fentanyl checking as a product safety measure.

FINDING 4

The majority of people who use drugs would modify their drug use behaviors if their drugs tested positive for fentanyl.

Across all sites, 70% of respondents reported that knowing that their drugs contained fentanyl would lead them to modify their behavior. This could include not using the drugs, using the drugs more slowly, or using the drugs with others who have naloxone. It could also include changing their purchasing behaviors.

FINDING 5

Key informants support the concept of drug checking with the goals of providing needed information to people who use drugs and serving as a point for greater engagement in services, including syringe services programs and treatment for substance use disorder.

FINDING 6

Key informants have questions about the legality and logistics of drug checking.

Key informants identified additional issues about the implementation of drug checking services, including the potential legal liability and possible security risks of performing the drug checking (such as attracting law enforcement), especially at the point of service.

FORECAST Study Recommendations

- 1. Public health and harm reduction agencies should address logistical questions and implement anonymous drug checking**
- 2. Harm reduction counseling, health education, and connection to services including SUD treatment should be part of any drug checking program**
- 3. Research, philanthropic, syringe service programs, and overdose prevention agencies should support pilot programs seeking to test, evaluate, and scale-up drug checking services as part of a comprehensive approach**
- 4. Entities in the private sector should continue to develop mobile technologies for effective drug checking**
- 5. Public health surveillance efforts should include information about local trends in the drug supply, such as those available through drug checking, to inform timely and accurate responses**

Fentanyl Test Strip Pilot

DOPE Project and Syringe Access Collaborative, August - December 2017, San Francisco

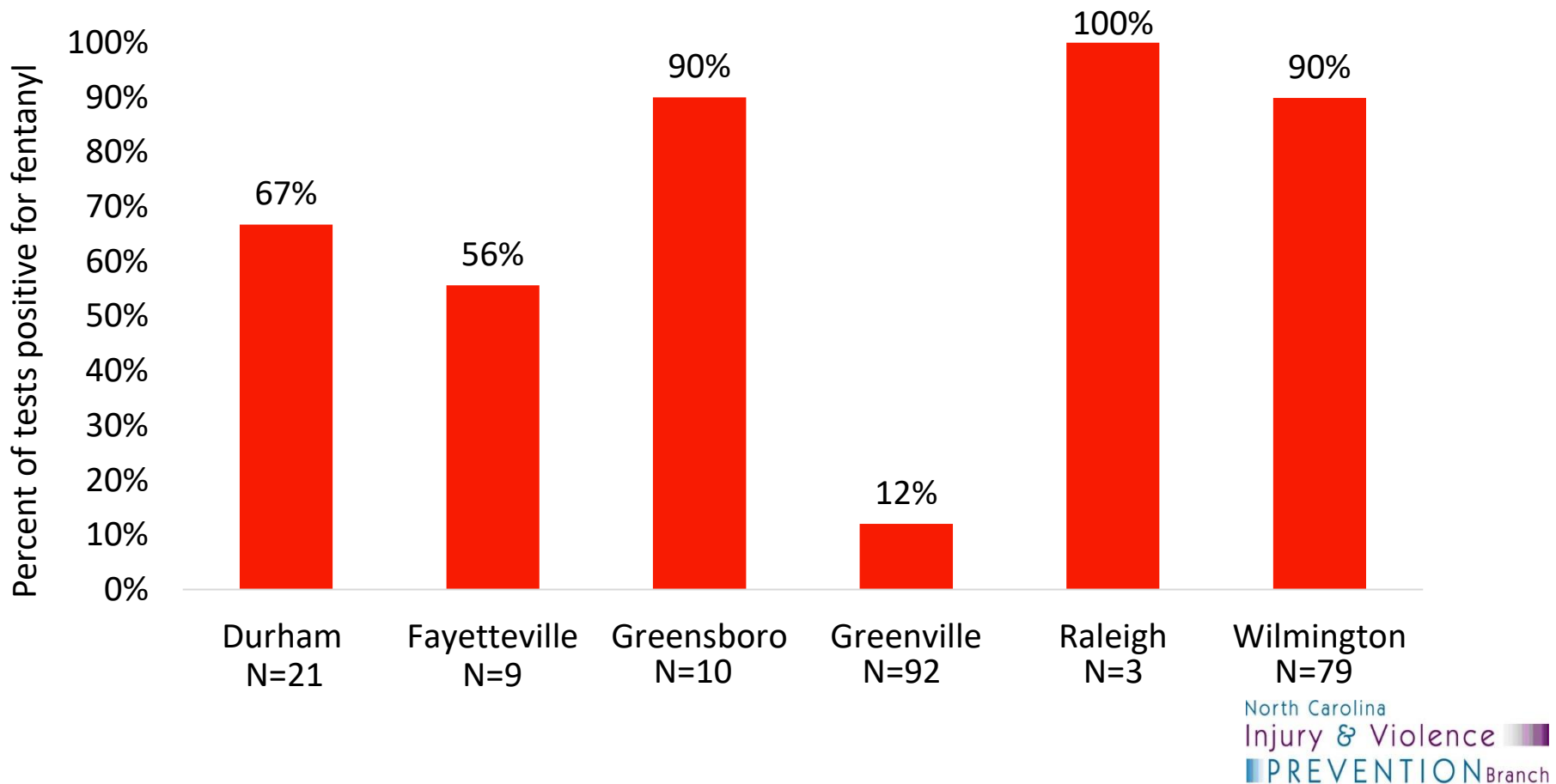
- **Variety of testing scenarios: often residue in cookers or empty bags**
- **Variety of drugs tested:**
 - crystal meth/speed (32.2%)
 - black tar heroin (37.2%) other types of heroin (14.1)
 - other drugs included crack cocaine, powdered cocaine, Xanax, ecstasy, unmarked pills, and meth/heroin mixes.
- **68.2% of all tests were positive**
- **51.8% tested before using, 48.2% after using**
- **58.8% shared results of the test with their community, regardless of whether the result was positive or negative.**
- **User responses: using less, test shots, friend monitoring while using, smoking instead of injecting.**


Data Collection for Public Health and PWUD

“Keep it Simple”

Fentanyl Positive Test Strips by Test Site, 9/1/2017-2/28/2018

- Source: North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition, March 2018
- Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit



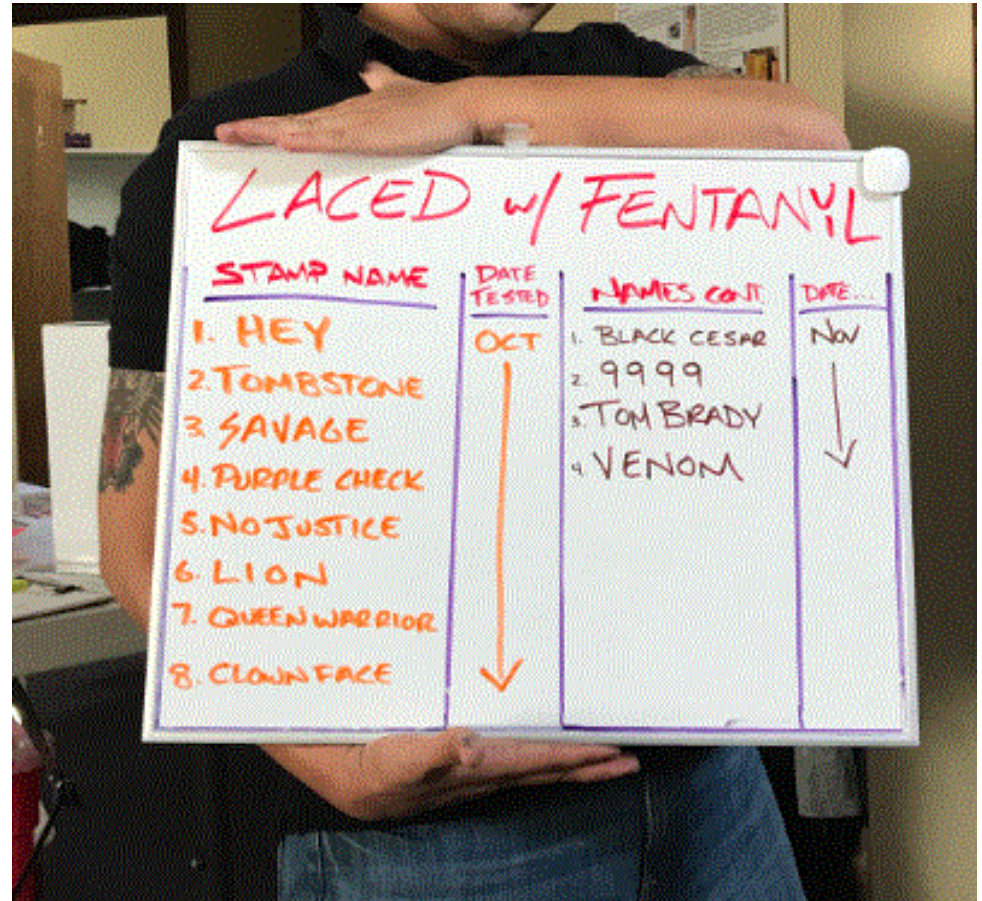
Georgia Fentanyl Test Strip Distribution Log				Name of Distributer		Distribution Site	
				Date		Distribution County	
Distribution of Strips							
Person #	Date	County	FTS Out				
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
Report Back Data							
FTS Results Event #	Date	County	Item Tested (Heroin, Oxy Pill, Meth, Speedball, Crack etc.)	Drug Baggie Name/ Color/Description (put UK if not known, or there wasn't one)	Result (+, -, inconclusive, UK)	Person Reporting: User, Friend of User, Family Member, Other	 <u>Change in Consumption Behavior With Result?</u> Y, N, UK
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
Put UK (Unknown) if information is not known				Email completed logs to: lauriefugitttrn@gmail.com			

“The most important
measure for us is the
behavior change to
reduce overdose risk”

SSP Director, Colorado

Drug User Information Sharing:

Wilmington SSP
FTS Results 2017



Awareness and Education

Washington Heights Corner Project, New York



DANGEROUS HEROIN BATCH ALERT

Washington Heights, NY -- Friday September 15th

Be extra cautious of the baggie/brand shown below. It has tested positive for **fentanyl**:

COCA-COLA BRAND



OD PREVENTION ADVICE

DO NOT USE ALONE

ALWAYS HAVE NARCAN WITH YOU WHEN YOU USE

TEST YOUR DOSE, and PRACTICE STAGGERED USE

and remember to look up your local harm reduction agency for resources!

(WHCP provides these services in Washington Hts, NY. Call us: 212.923.7600)

FTS in Programing



- Focus on people who actively use drugs
- Program Distribution Priorities:
 - Drug user health hubs
 - SSPs
 - Sterile pipe/bubble/sterile straw access programs
 - Groups focused on justice involved people
 - Sex workers
 - MOUD providers who serve active users

Legal Issues

- **State paraphernalia laws**
 - SSP exceptions
 - NC and Colorado passed unique legislation to decriminalize test strips
- **Immunity for possession at an overdose**
- **Law enforcement practice**



Questions?