

MONTH 1 REPORT

19 Apr to 17 May 2024

CheQpoint is a voluntary, free, and confidential drug checking service funded by Queensland Health, operated by QuiHN, QuiVAA and The Loop Australia. Drug checking (also known as pill testing) is a harm reduction service that allows anyone who uses drugs to submit samples for chemical analysis and get reliable information about the contents of products they are intending to use.

CheQpoint offers optional health and harm reduction conversations with results to help people make more informed decisions about the drugs they are intending to use. For more information go to <https://www.quihn.org/cheqpoint/>.

CheQpoint (Brisbane) opened on 19th April, 2024. We are open from 12:30pm - 6:00pm every Friday. The service can analyse a small amount taken from pills, powders, crystals, liquids and blotters while people wait. We cannot analyse plants or fungus (e.g. cannabis or mushrooms), confectionery (e.g. gummies and cookies) or used drug paraphernalia (e.g. 'baggies' or injecting equipment).

Steroids cannot be analysed onsite, but people who use steroids and other performance or image enhancing drugs can submit samples for analysis as part of a research project conducted in partnership with Griffith University

In our first month, we had **37 presentations** (occasions where a person came to have their drugs tested) and **tested 80 samples** expected to be either 'psychoactive drugs' (n=51) or 'steroids' (n=29). Below is a summary of data from our first month of service delivery.

Table 1. Service delivery overview (all presentations)

Service delivery overview		
Visits to CheQpoint (N=37 presentations)	n	% (or range)
Total number of psychoactive drug presentations*	32*	86%
Total number of steroid presentations	5	14%
Total number of visitors (all presentations)	45 people**	Range: 1-2 people
Service delivery times (excl. steroid presentations)	Time (mins)	Range
Average wait time (arrival to drop-off)	19 mins	0-45 mins
Average time spent with client/s	28 mins	10-54 mins
Samples presented for testing (N=80)	n	Range
Substances expected to be psychoactive drugs*	51	-
Average number of samples per presentation	2	Range: 1-4 samples
Steroids and other performance / image enhancing drugs#	29	-
Average number of samples per presentation	6	Range: 3-14 samples

* One case excluded from further analyses (consent could not be obtained from the person intending to use the substance).

** Total number of visitors includes friends / others who present along with the primary client

Steroids were analysed off-site as part of a research project to understand what methods are best to detect performance or image enhancing drugs (results pending).

Table 2. Summary of results by expected drug type

All samples analysed on-site (N=51)		Psychoactive substances detected (onsite FTIR / reagent testing)	
Expected drug type	n	Expected drug only (n)	Other substances detected (e.g. unexpected psychoactive substances)
MDMA	12	11	1x MDMA + 4-CMC (a synthetic cathinone) + MSM (methylsulfonylmethane)
Alprazolam tablets	6	-	All results were inconclusive and require further laboratory testing. Alprazolam and similar benzodiazepines occur at low concentration in tablets and may not be detected by FTIR. We did get 1x low quality match for bromazolam (a novel benzodiazepine).
LSD	6	6	Note: Reagent tests could only indicate that an indole consistent with LSD was present.
Ketamine	5	5	
Cocaine	4	3	1x dimethylpentylone (DMP) - a synthetic cathinone - no cocaine detected
2C-B	3	1	1x mixture of ketamine + MDMA (consistent with 'tusi') - no 2C-B detected 1x MDMA - no 2C-B detected
Methamphetamine	2	1	1x no psychoactive substance detected (magnesium sulphate also known as epsom salts)
Bromazolam (novel benzodiazepine)	2	2	
4-AcO-DMT	1	1	
2F-NENDCK (aka Can Ket)	1	1	
3-MMC (synthetic cathinone)	1	0	1x dimethylpentylone (DMP) - a synthetic cathinone - no 3-MMC detected
Modafinil	2	2	
Fluorenol (also known as Hydratril)*	1	1	Confirmed by off site laboratory testing
PRL-8-53**	1	1	Confirmed by off site laboratory testing
Expected drug unknown	4	n/a	1x methamphetamine 1x inconclusive result (possible ketamine) - requires further laboratory testing 2x no psychoactive substance detected, 1x vitamin B + cellulose, 1x starch + caffeine + paracetamol

* **Fluorenol** (also known as hydratril) was originally patented as an insecticide, and has been studied as a possible alternative to modafinil in animal studies.

** **PRL-8-53** has been reported to have some non-stimulant nootropic effects in a single double-blind trial (eg. improved memory) however this effect has not been widely replicated.