

Drug checking services at festivals and user behaviours



Drug checking services (DCS) combine rapid chemical analysis with health consultations to reduce drug-related harm by

- Directly engaging with drug users to inform them of the content and strength of submitted substances, with individually tailored advice
- Alert stakeholders & wider drug-using communities to substances of concern
- Monitor drug trends

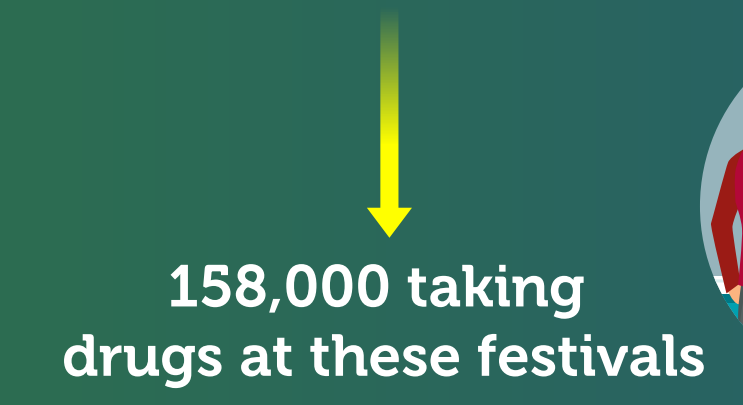
Can DCS offered at festivals help drug users?



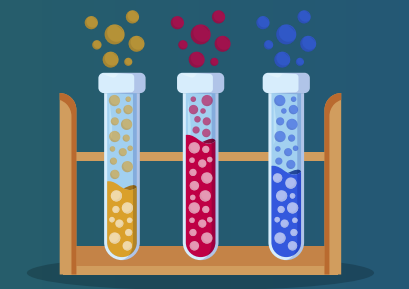
7 music festivals in the UK (2018)



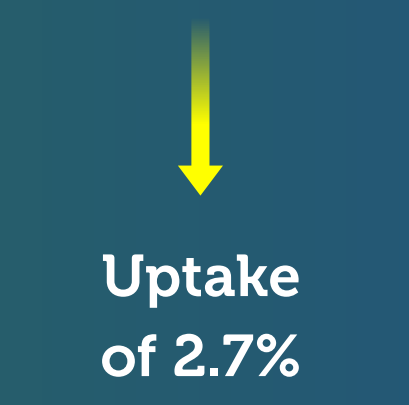
253,000 attendees



158,000 taking drugs at these festivals



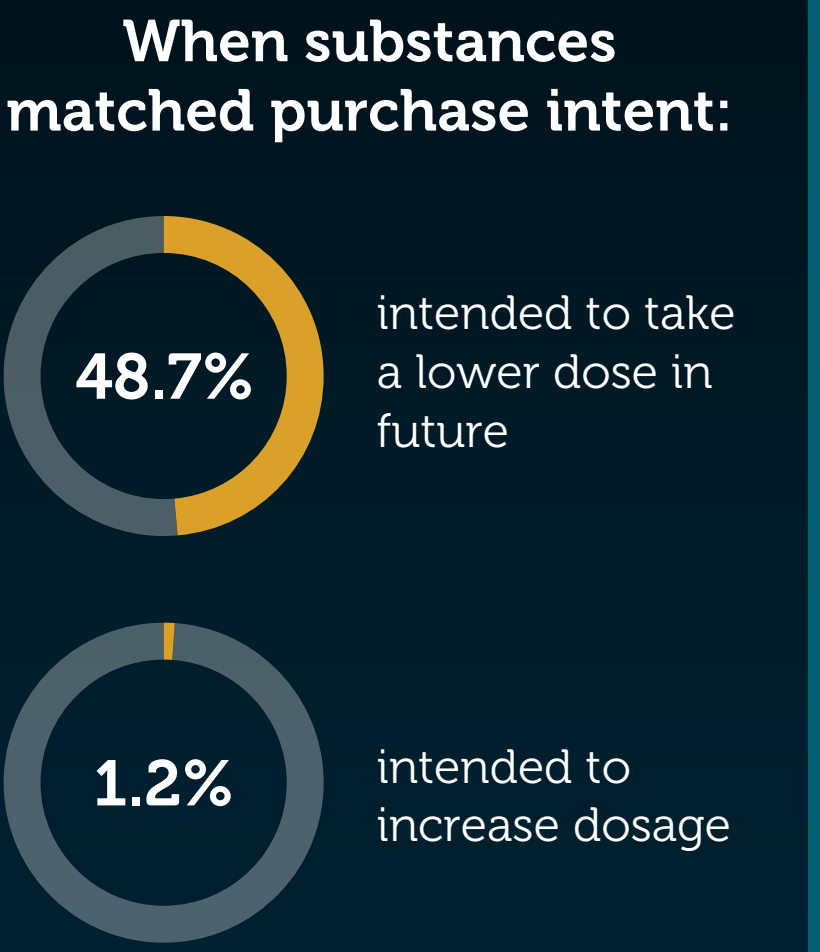
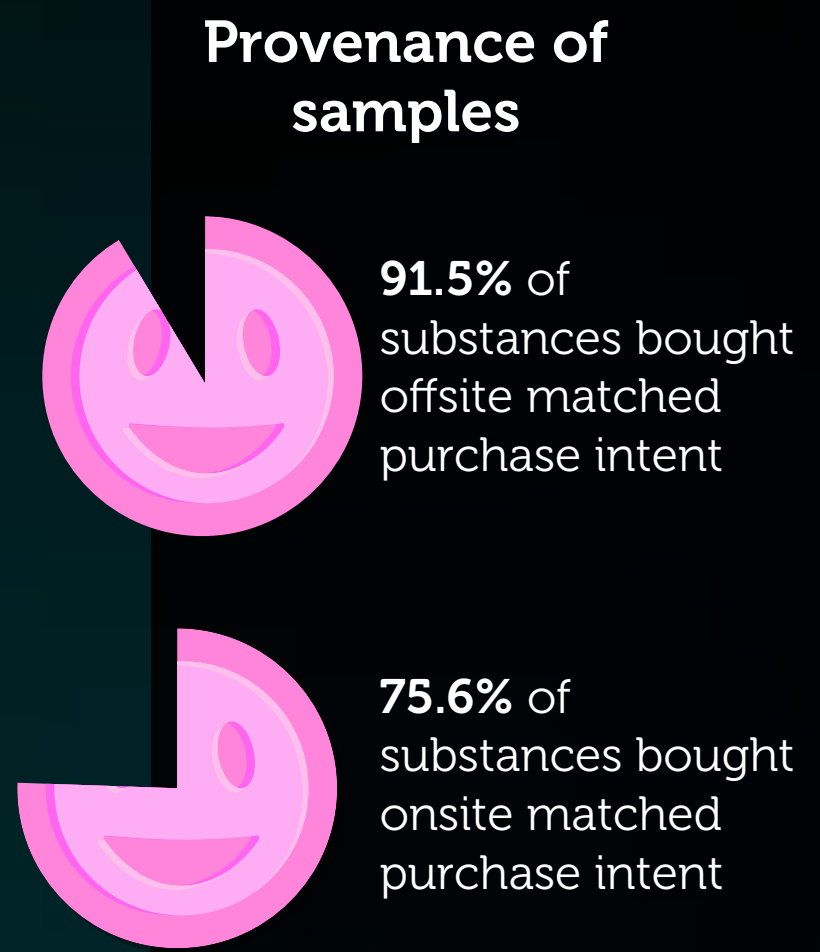
DCS delivered by professionals



Uptake of 2.7%



2,672 substances of concern tested

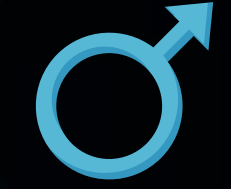


4,240 attendees received tailored health care

DCS users were more likely to:



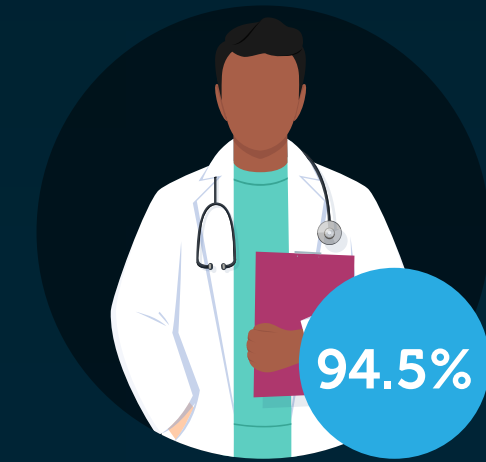
Be younger



Be male



Report having used multiple drugs in the past month



94.5%

Had never spoken with a health professional previously about their alcohol or other drug use



5.5%

Requested signposting or onward referral to health services

DCS delivered at festivals can serve as effective health interventions for young adults by reducing risks of poisoning or overdose and by providing access to healthcare support