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
- Alerting stakeholders and wider drug-using communities to substances of concern
- Monitoring drug trends

**Can DCS offered at festivals help drug users?**

**Drug checking services at festivals and user behaviours**

- **7 music festivals in the UK (2018)**
- **253,000 attendees**
- **26% of attendees taking drugs at these festivals**
- **4,240 attendees received tailored health care**
- **2,672 substances of concern tested**
- **91.5% of substances bought offsite matched purchase intent**
- **75.6% of substances bought onsite matched purchase intent**
- **36.2% intended to alert their friends to substances of concern**
- **48.7% intended to take a lower dose in future**
- **1.2% intended to increase dosage**

DCS users were more likely to:

- Be younger
- Be male
- Report having used multiple drugs in the past month

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.