

# Real Time, On-Site Drug Checking in Low-Threshold Housing Communities



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# What is Harm Reduction Housing?



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- Harm reduction supplies on-site: sterile syringes, pipes, cookers, etc.
- Harm reduction services on-site: wound care, overdose reversal, etc.
- Low-threshold: no sobriety or daily attendance requirements



# Why should real-time, on-site drug checking services be offered?

**“Yeah, [the syringe service program] you can go and bring your stuff to them and have it tested, but they don't sit there in the community and be like, ‘let me test this.’ I think there should be more of that because most people aren't gonna be like, ‘oh yeah, let's go to [the syringe service program] and have our stuff tested’.”**



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# How did we implement drug checking at Harm Reduction Housing Sites?

- Flexibility: adapt to the unique shelter environment
- Consistency: adhere to a schedule to build interest and trust
- Build Trust: provide consistent and compassionate services
- Ensure participants receive their results: use resources like online platforms, “bag boards”

## Drug Checking

w/ Brandeis Team

If you are curious what is in your drug supply, we will be back on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_. We use test strips and a machine to find out if your supply has fentanyl, xylazine, benzos, and more! Results in ~15 minutes.

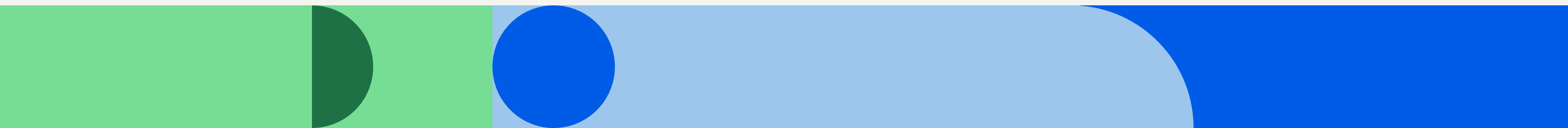
Sample #:	Contains:
.....	.....
.....	.....
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If you need results for a sample urgently, go to AHOPE on 774 Albany St.

# How do residents experience real-time, on-site drug checking services?

**“When you guys [tested] before, everyone was like, ‘holy shit.’ Nobody knew that all that dope had xylazine and everyone was kind of like, ‘oh my God, we gotta readjust here. We have to figure out how to get [dope] without [xylazine].”**

- Expressed desire to dispose of certain samples
- Encouraged others to utilize drug checking services
- Sought to shift community norms and the local supply
- Shared unique experiences with trusted research staff members



# Conclusions



- Co-locating drug checking services in low-threshold housing increases access to drug checking
- Communities should consider integrating these services into housing sites
- Future efforts in drug checking at low-threshold sites should examine their long term impact on harm reduction behaviors among residents