



HEALTHY
CHICAGO

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CDPH Drug Checking Program

Blair Turner, MPH
Epidemiologist

In Chicago, in 2018

Almost **793** people died from an opioid-related overdose. This total is more than those who died from gun-related homicide or traffic crashes combined.

Most (>90%) had **heroin** and/or **fentanyl** detected in their blood at the time of death.

In one year in Chicago (2017 to 2018) the number of opioid overdose deaths involving

fentanyl increased from **470** to **620**.

In 2018, more than 25% of deaths involved **fentanyl only**.

Drug Checking Program Goals:

- Quickly and reliably give costumers information on the content of their product
- Identify the presence of fentanyl and fentanyl analogs in products
 - Determine if the presence of fentanyl is changing.

Drug Checking Program

- Partnership with the Chicago Recovery Alliance (CRA)
- Customers can anonymously have a sample of their product tested on the CRA mobile van
 - Samples can also be dropped off at CRA facility
- Each sample is tested with three devices
 - Fourier-transform Infrared Spectroscopy
 - High-Pressure Mass Spectroscopy
 - Fentanyl test strips

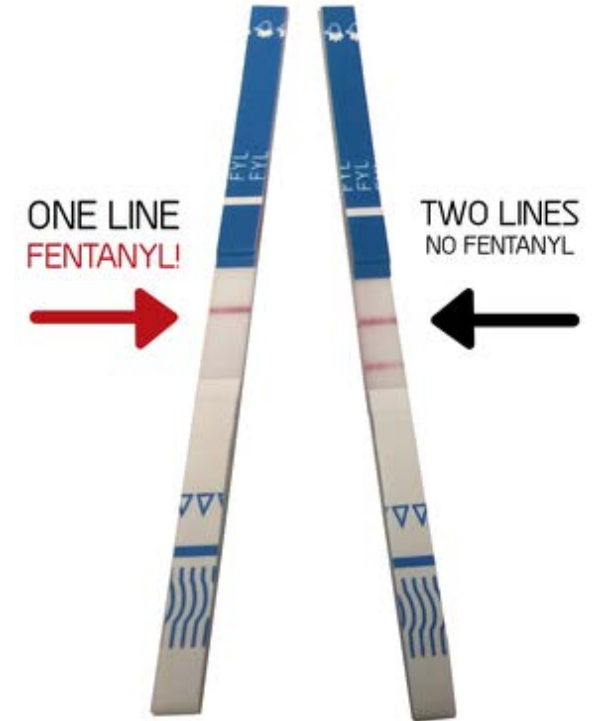
Step 1: FTIR



Step 2: HPMS



Step 3: FTS



Successes and Challenges

- Successes
 - Tested 83 samples from February-June
 - Created a short survey to go with each sample collected
- Challenges
 - People not waiting for their results
 - Can not determine quantity of fentanyl
 - Machines not always providing accurate results
 - COVID-19

Acknowledgements

