

# Drug Analysis Services

*Canada's Drug Strategy is the federal response to the harmful use of substances. These include illegal drugs, alcohol, pharmaceuticals, inhalants and solvents. The Strategy takes a balanced approach to reducing both the demand for, and the supply of, drugs and substances. It contributes to a healthier, safer Canada through prevention, treatment, enforcement, and harm reduction initiatives.*

## Drug Analysis Services

The Drug Analysis Service (DAS) is part of the Drug Strategy & Controlled Substances Program under the Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch of Health Canada. DAS was created in response to Canada signing the 1961 *Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*. The key objective of DAS is to support law enforcement agencies in the control of illegal drugs and other substances, including activities aimed at reducing the diversion of controlled drugs and other substances to illicit uses.

DAS provides scientific services across Canada through its four regional laboratories, located in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, by analyzing the content and quality of illicit drugs seized by Canadian law enforcement agencies. It also provides assistance and training to all federal, provincial and municipal police agencies in Canada in the investigation and dismantling of clandestine (chemical) drug laboratories.

## Main Activities

The three main functions of the Drug Analysis Service are: analysis of all illegal drugs and controlled substances seized in Canada; assisting police in the investigation and safe dismantling of clandestine drug laboratories; and, training law enforcement staff in drug related matters.

DAS has highly trained analysts working in laboratories providing drug analysis of suspected illegal drugs. The results of these analyses (approximately 100,000 samples per year) confirm the identity, and in some cases the purity of the controlled substances that are seized. These results are used as evidence for investigational, intelligence and sentencing purposes. When required, DAS analysts provide expert testimony in court.

DAS plays a significant role in assisting police with the investigation and safe dismantling of clandestine laboratories that make illegal drugs. Upon request of a law enforcement agency, DAS specialists arrive at the scene, advise on the safe dismantling of laboratory equipment, carry out safe shut down of chemical reactions, and take samples for evidence and further analysis.

DAS also provides expert advice and training to law enforcement agencies on drug sampling, trends identification, and health and safety issues related to the closure of clandestine laboratories.

*To learn more about Canada's Drug Strategy, please visit [www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cds](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cds)*

*Find out what governments, non-governmental organizations, and other partners are doing – National Framework for Action – Visit [www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cds-nfa](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cds-nfa)*

