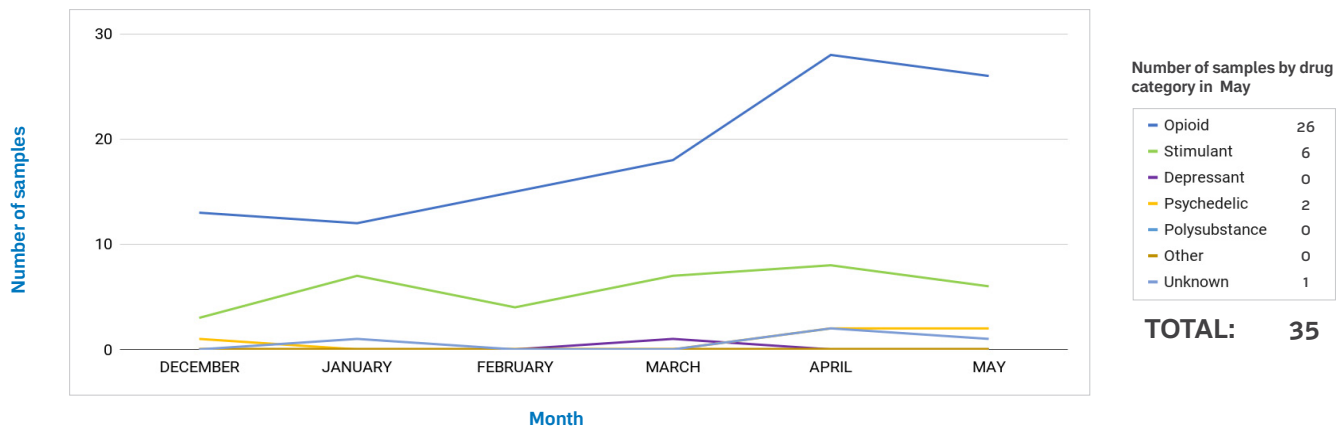


Key Findings

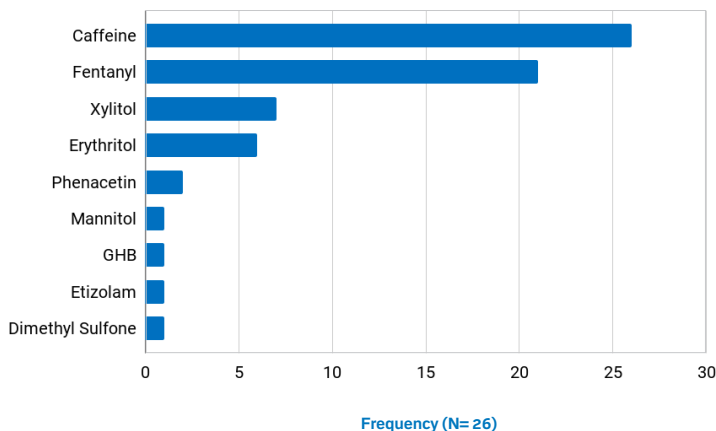
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines increased to 46% from 25%. Trends may be hard to infer due to the small number of samples.
- One sample of expected fentanyl contained GHB, a depressant. Combining sedatives (e.g., opioids, alcohol, benzodiazepines, GHB) increases the risk of overdose.
- Drug checking services have expanded to Thursdays and Fridays from 11:30am–3:30pm at 437 Wesley Street. Samples can also be dropped off any day of the week and results can be picked up during drug checking hours.
- The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project offers drug checking in Victoria. For information about their project and more drug checking sample results, please visit substance.uvic.ca.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Components found in drug samples in May

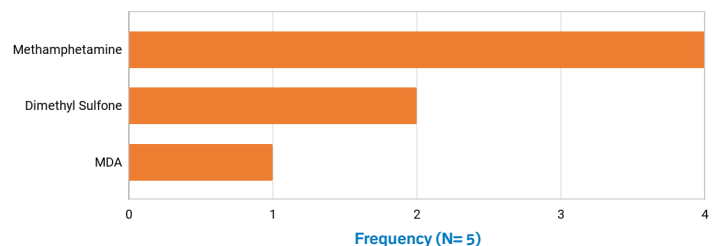
Components in opioids



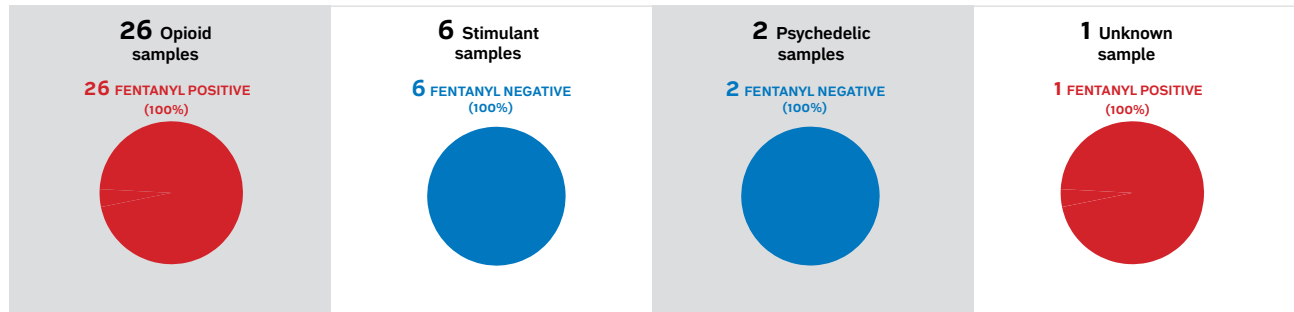
1 sample

of expected cocaine contained cocaine and benzocaine

Components in Methamphetamine



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

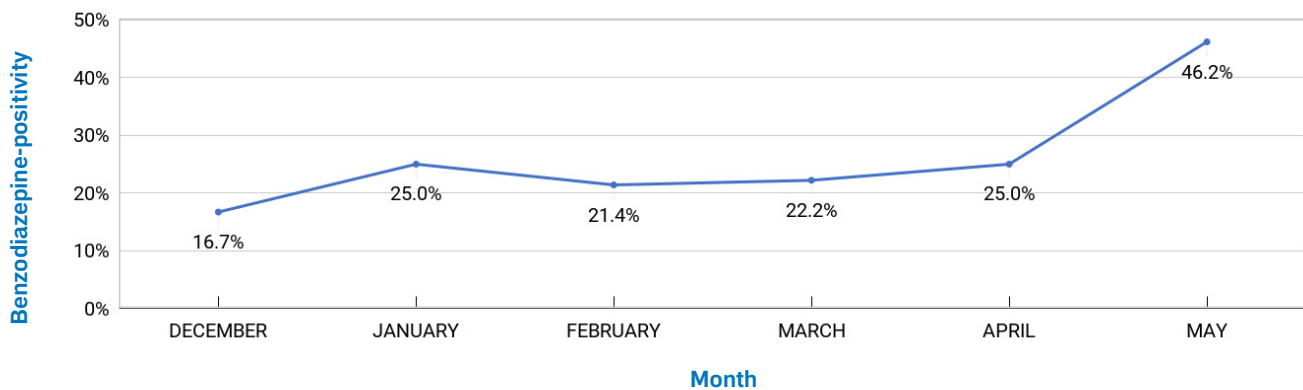


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

| Date & Location | Expected Drug | Drugs Detected | Fentanyl Strip | Benzo Strip | Alert Message |
|--|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| No alerts for Island Health this month | | | | | |

For information about current substances in the Island Health region: <https://substance.uvic.ca/>

Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the past 6 months



During the month of May, **46.2%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips or FTIR in our partner sites in the Vancouver Island region (**12 samples of 26 tested**). **These numbers should be taken with caution as this trend is based on low samples.*




Opioid samples are tested for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips. The results presented above are presumptive and tentative until confirmed by a laboratory.

Number of drugs checks at each site:

| Location | # of Drug Checks |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Wesley Street OPS (CMHA) | 35 |

Number of samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

| EXPECTED DRUG: Opioid 26 Samples Tested | EXPECTED DRUG: Stimulant 6 Samples Tested | EXPECTED DRUG: Psychedelic 2 Samples Tested | EXPECTED DRUG: Unknown 1 Samples Tested |
|---|---|---|---|
|  Matched: 21 Did not match: 5 |  Matched: 5 Did not match: 1 |  Match not determined: 2 |  Match not determined: 1 |

Total





35 Samples Tested



Matched: 26
Did not match: 6
Match not determined: 3

Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation

*using FTIR/test strip drug checking

| EXPECTED DRUG: Down 19 Samples Tested | EXPECTED DRUG: Heroin 4 Sample Tested | EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl 2 Sample Tested | EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl and Heroin 1 Sample Tested |
|--|--|--|--|
|  Matched: 19 |  Did not match: 4 |  Matched: 2 |  Did not match: 1 |

Total

26 Samples Tested



Matched: 21
Did not match: 5

Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents

Depressant may include:
benzodiazepines, etizolam,
GHB, hypnotics

Opioid may include:
"down," heroin, fentanyl,
pharmaceutical opioids

Polysubstance includes:
cross-category mixtures

Psychedelic may include:
MDMA and related,
2C-family, tryptamines,
ketamine, LSD

Stimulant may include:
methamphetamine,
"speed," cocaine and crack
cocaine, cathinones

Unknown includes:
samples where the individual
was unable to identify an
expected substance - this
includes found samples.

Data represented here are collected from our partner sites across the province. Drug samples are tested using the Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrometer in combination with fentanyl test strips and benzodiazepine test strips.

There is 5% fentanyl detection limit on the FTIR spectrometer (McCrae, 2019), and a drug check on any given sample consists of both the FTIR and BTNX fentanyl immunoassay test strip testing done in combination. When applicable, BTNX benzodiazepine immunoassay test strips are also used.

BCCSU gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following partners: