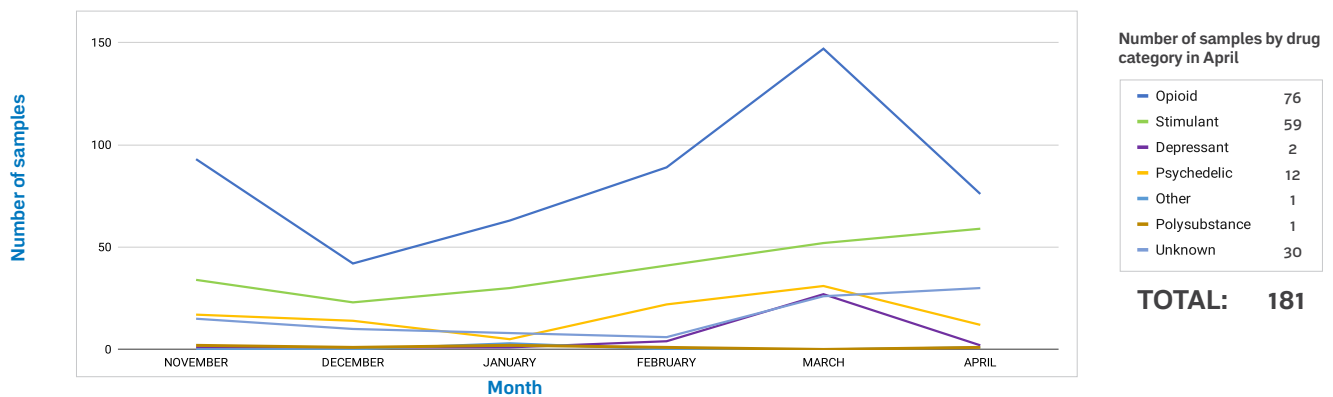


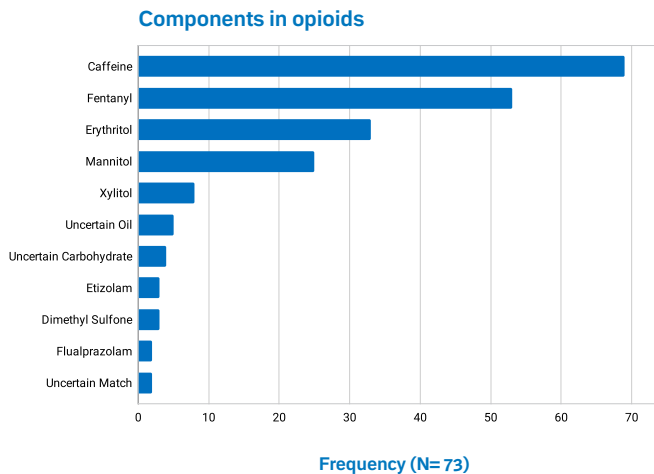
Key Findings

- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the region remained high (71.1%, 54 of 76 samples), but trends may be hard to infer due to the large geographic region. Etizolam, the predominant benzodiazepine in expected opioids, may be missed by drug checking technologies. This means that the true rate may be higher than reported here.
- Drug checking is available in many different communities in the Interior Health region. For updated times and locations, visit our [Interior Health's drug checking website](#).

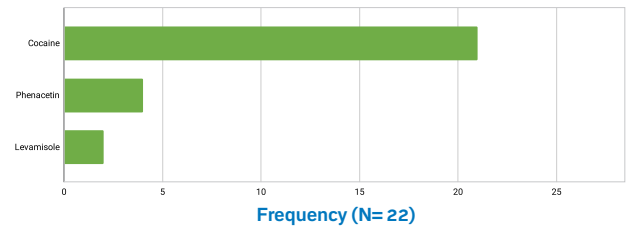
Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



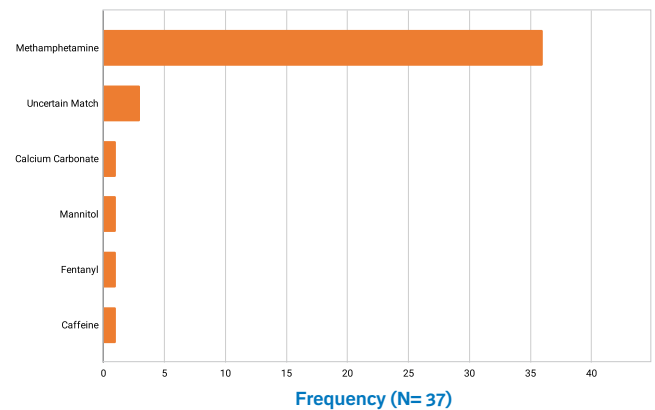
Components found in drug samples in April



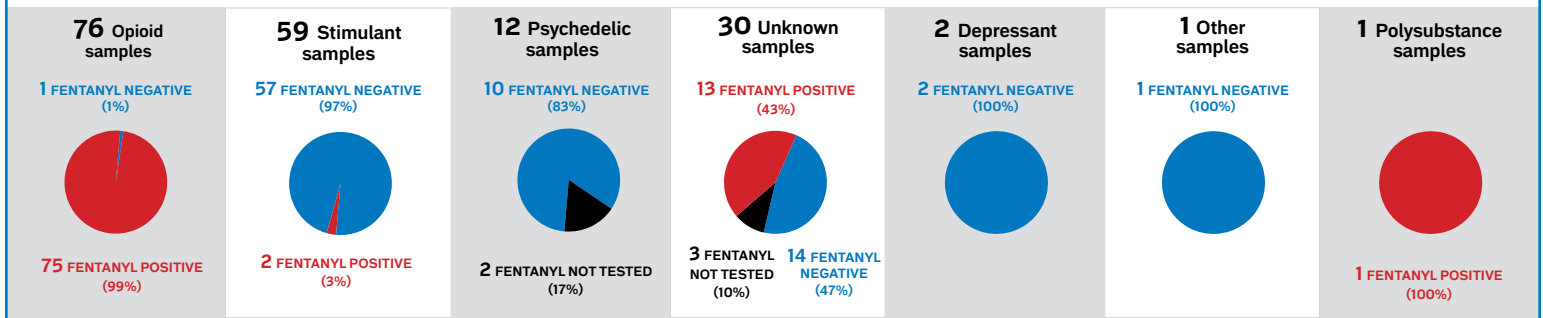
Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



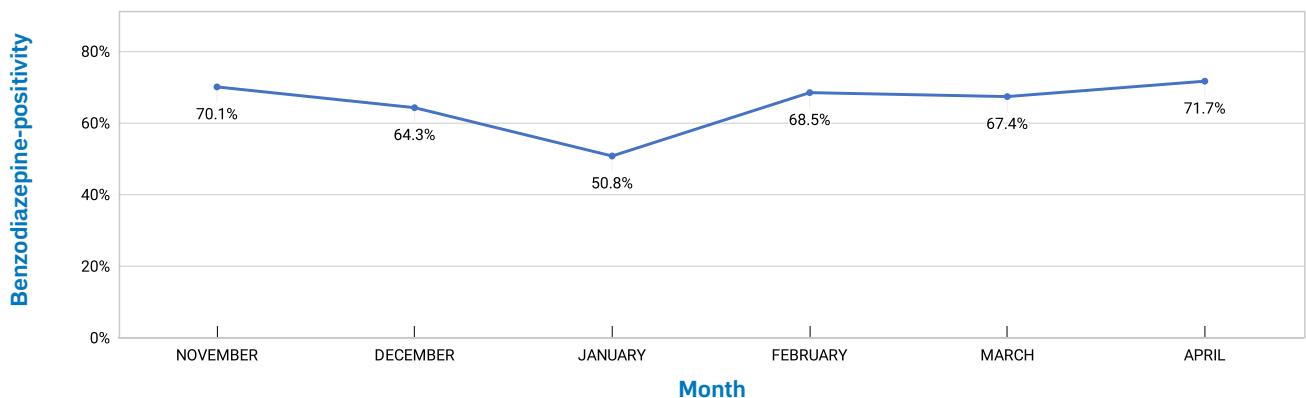
PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
April 8 2022 Interior Health Williams Lake	Down or fentanyl Yellow chalky powder	Caffeine, Fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Williams Lake	Higher than normal concentration of fentanyl in a sample adulterated with benzodiazepines poses a risk of opioid toxicity.
April 21 2022 ANKORS Nelson	Colourless crystals or powder	Methamphetamine, Caffeine, Mannitol, Fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Nelson	Fentanyl contamination of stimulants poses a significant risk of opioid toxicity, especially to those without an opioid tolerance.

Health authorities and community organizations issue further toxic drug alerts from sources other than drug checking. See their respective websites or social media accounts for more alerts.

For information about public health alerts in the Interior Health region, please visit:
<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/Leadership/MHQ/Pages/PHEmergency.aspx>

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









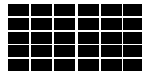
During the month of April, **71.1%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (**54 samples of 76 checked**). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are derived from both of these technologies and are presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory.

Number of drugs checks at each site

Organization	City/Town	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS	Nelson	30
	Trail	10
	Grand Forks	13
	Cranbrook	36
ASK Wellness	Kamloops	32
	Penticton	13
UBCO Hart	Kelowna	32
	Vernon	15
Total		181

Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Psychedelic 12 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 12</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Stimulant 59 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 55 Did not match: 4</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Depressant 2 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1 Did not match: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Other 1 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Opioid 76 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 70 Did not match: 4 Match not determined: 2</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Polysubstance 1 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Did not match: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Unknown 30 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Match not determined: 30</p>	

Total

181 Samples Tested



Matched: 139

Did not match: 10

Match not determined: 32

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.

Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Fentanyl

63 Samples Tested



Matched: 61

Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

Heroin

1 Samples Tested



Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

Down

9 Samples Tested



Matched: 9

EXPECTED DRUG:

Pharmaceutical

3 Samples Tested



Did not match: 2

Match not determined: 1

Total

76 Samples Tested



Matched: 70

Did not match: 4

Match not determined: 2

Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents. 'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

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: