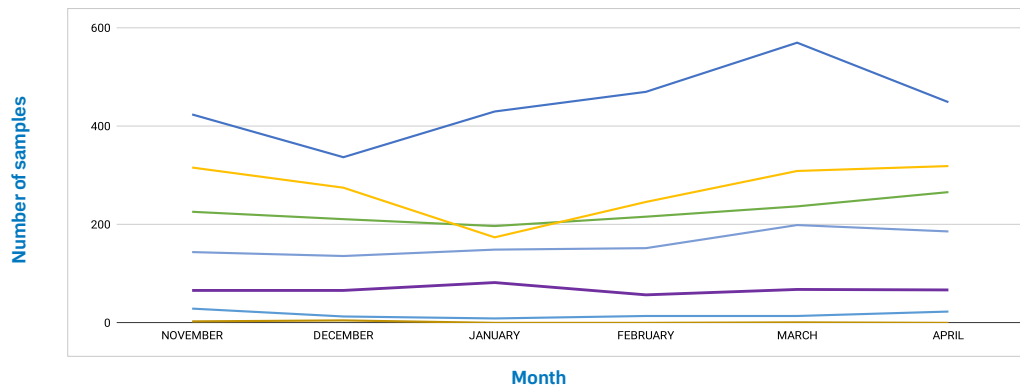


## Key Findings

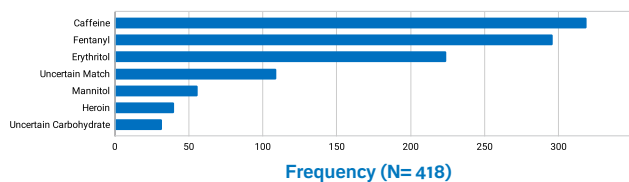
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines (27.2%, 122 of 449 samples) remained high. The true rate may be higher than reported here because etizolam, the predominant benzodiazepine in expected opioids, may be missed by drug checking technologies.
- The fentanyl analogue para-fluorofentanyl is appearing in down more frequently. Para-fluorofentanyl is believed to be less potent than fentanyl and is accurately detected with fentanyl test strips.

## Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months

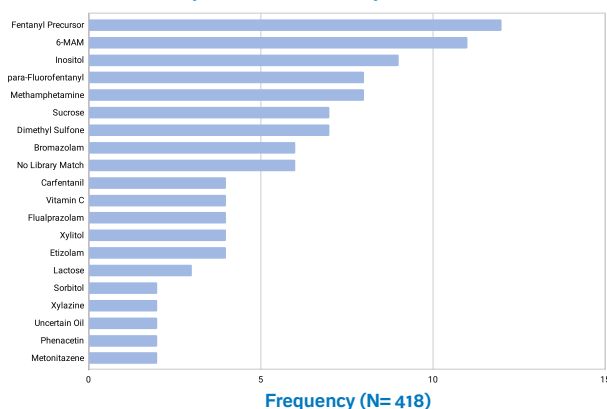


## Components found in drug samples in April

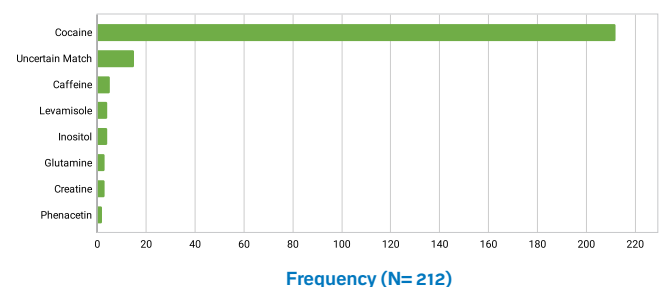
### Components in opioids



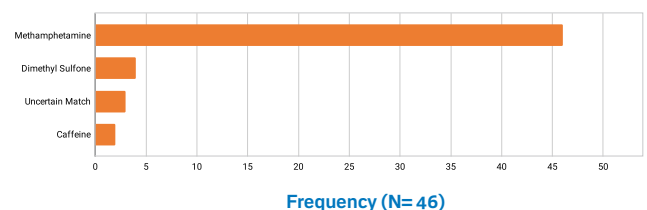
### Other components found in opioids



### Components in cocaine

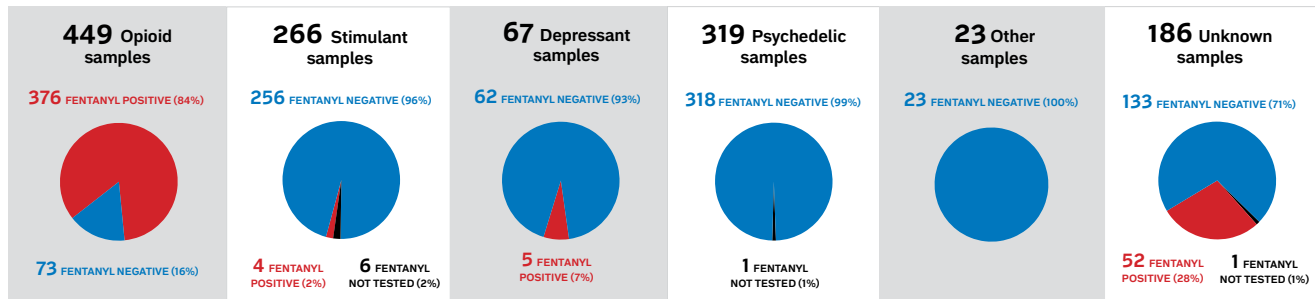


### Components in methamphetamine



There were additional compounds detected a single time each. To save space, they have been omitted from these charts. For the full list of compounds detected, visit our data dashboard at [www.drugcheckingbc.ca/dashboard/](http://www.drugcheckingbc.ca/dashboard/)

## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

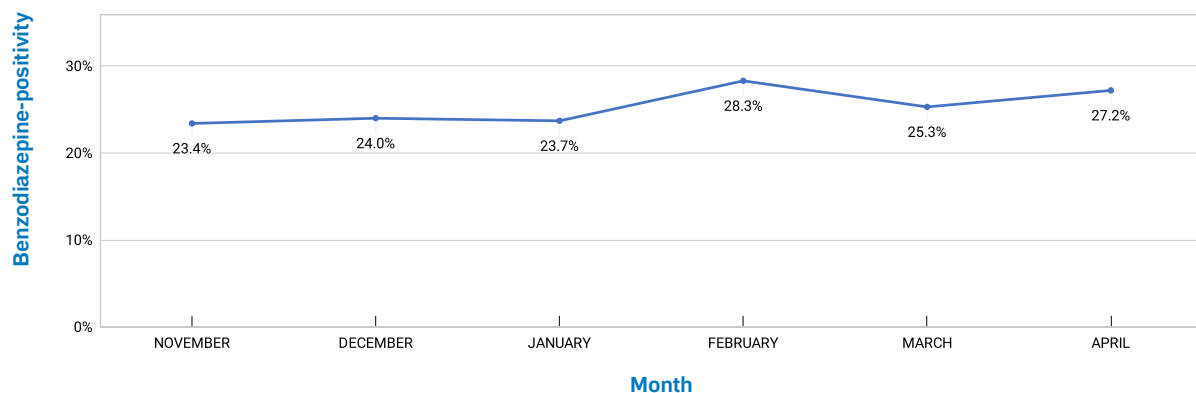


## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
April 30 2022 Insite Vancouver	Down or fentanyl Yellow powder	Caffeine, Erythritol, Fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Vancouver	Higher than normal concentration of fentanyl in a sample adulterated with benzodiazepines poses a risk of opioid toxicity.
April 30 2022 Get Your Drugs Tested Vancouver	Down or fentanyl	Caffeine, AMB-FUBINACA	Positive	Negative	Vancouver	Synthetic cannabinoids can cause psychosis and are associated with adverse events.

To receive drug contamination alerts, text "alert" to (236) 999-DOPE (3673)

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



During the month of April, **27.2%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Vancouver Coastal Health (**122 samples of 449 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 and hours at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Get Your Drugs Tested	1,077
Insite	150
Overdose Prevention Society	60
Molson OPS	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,310</b>

## Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

### EXPECTED DRUG: Depressant

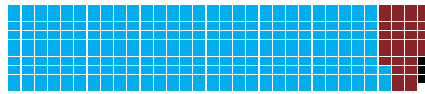
67 Samples Tested



Matched: 41  
Did not match: 25  
Match not determined: 1

### EXPECTED DRUG: Psychedelic

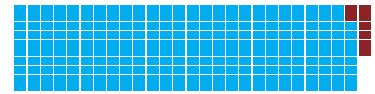
319 Samples Tested



Matched: 283  
Did not match: 33  
Match not determined: 3

### EXPECTED DRUG: Stimulant

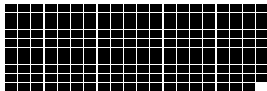
266 Samples Tested



Matched: 258  
Did not match: 8

### EXPECTED DRUG: Unknown

186 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 186

### EXPECTED DRUG: Opioid

449 Samples Tested



Matched: 406  
Did not match: 38  
Match not determined: 5

### EXPECTED DRUG: Other

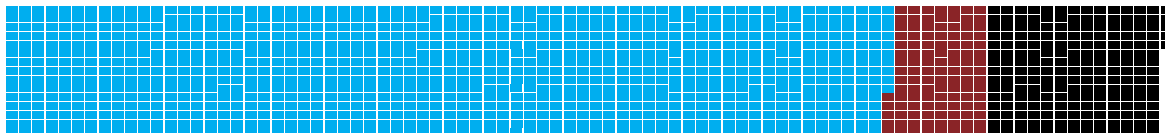
23 Sample Tested



Matched: 12  
Did not match: 6  
Match not determined: 5

### Total

1,310 Samples Tested



Matched: 1,000  
Did not match: 110  
Match not determined: 200

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

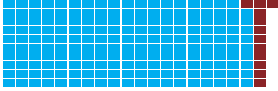


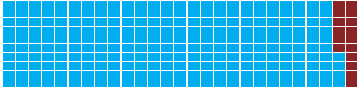


**Psychedelic may include:**  
MDMA and related,  
2C-family, tryptamines,  
ketamine, LSD

**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.

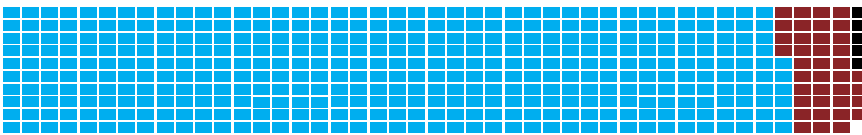
## Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Fentanyl</b> 201 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 189 Did not match: 12</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Heroin</b> 39 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 32 Did not match: 7</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Opium</b> 20 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 20</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Down</b> 204 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 191 Did not match: 12 Match not determined: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Pharmaceutical</b> 28 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 17 Did not match: 7 Match not determined: 4</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Other Opioid</b> 1 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>

### Total

449 Samples Tested



Matched: 406  
Did not match: 38  
Match not determined: 5

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:

