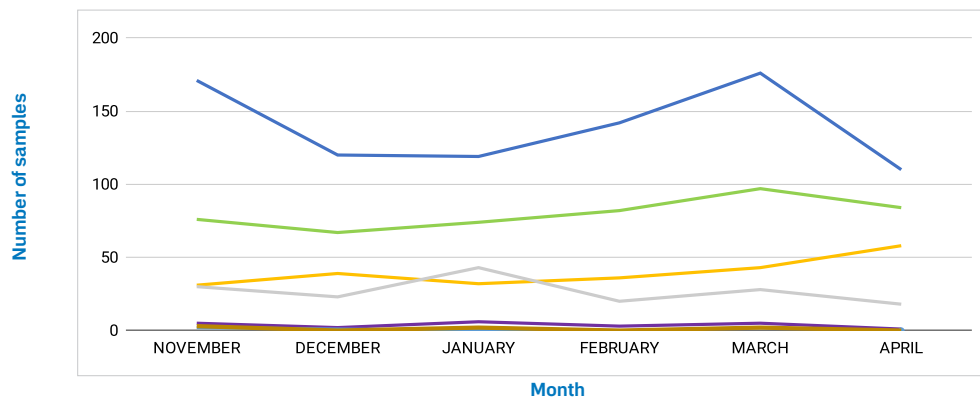


Key Findings

- In April, a total of 271 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines increased from 71.6% to 73.6% in April (81 of 110 samples). Trends may be hard to infer due the large geographic region.
- Two drug alerts were issued by Interior Health. Both pertained to down samples that contained high concentrations of fentanyl and bromazolam. One of these also contained a high concentration of xylazine.
- Drug checking is available in several communities across the Interior Health region. For updated times and locations, visit <https://drugchecking.ca/>

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



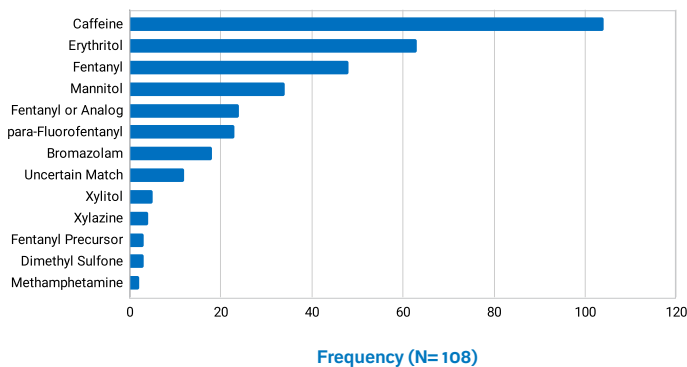
Number of samples by drug category in April

Opioid	110
Stimulant	84
Depressant	1
Psychedelic	58
Other	0
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	18

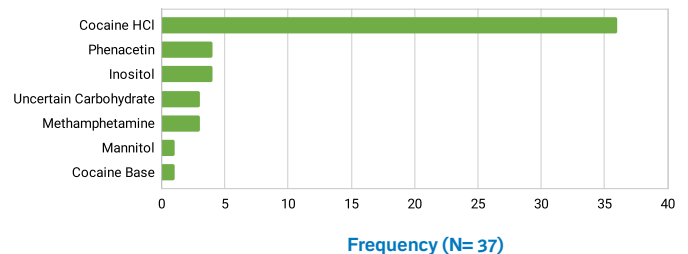
TOTAL: 271

Components found in drug samples in April

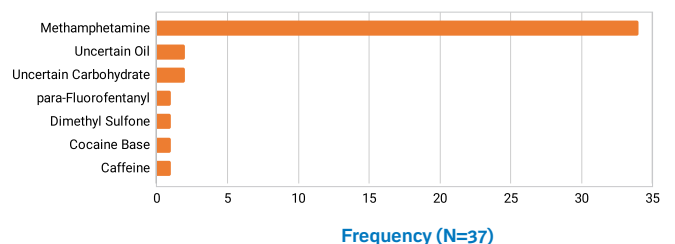
Components in opioids



Components in cocaine

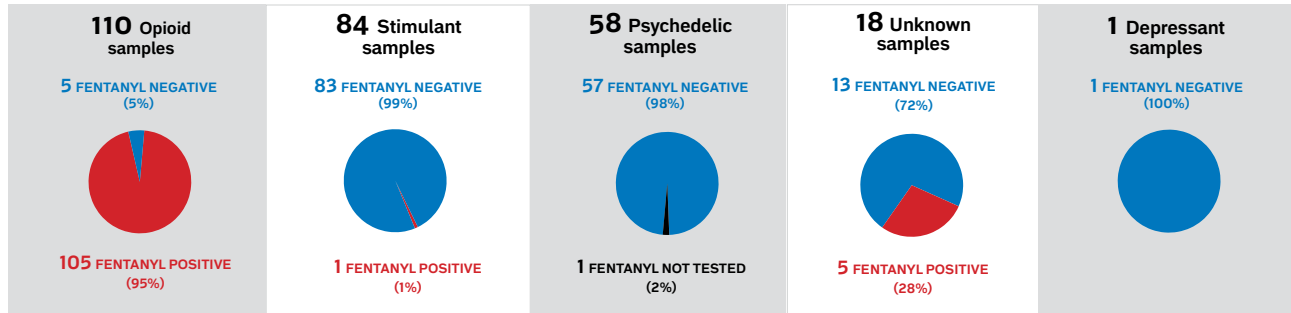


Components in methamphetamine



Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: desalkylgidazepam, diphenhydramine, etizolam, uncertain carbohydrate.

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



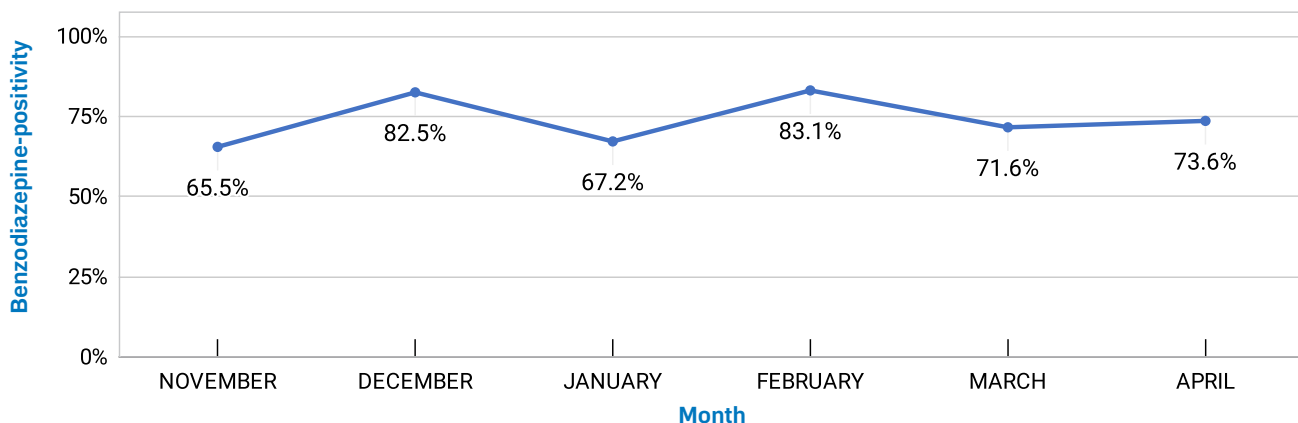
PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
April 6, 2023 Kelowna	Down/ Fentanyl	Fentanyl, Caffeine, Bromazolam	Positive	Positive	Kelowna	High concentrations of fentanyl and bromazolam (benzodiazepine) poses high risk of OD that may not respond to naloxone.
April 20, 2023 South Okanagan	Down	Caffeine, Xylazine, Fentanyl, Erythritol, Bromazolam	Positive	Positive	South Okanagan	Two samples (bright green chunks and grey chunks) sold as down posing high risk of OD that may not respond to naloxone.

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/alerts>

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



During the month of April, **73.6%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (**81 samples of 110 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

Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	61
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	19
ANKORS (Nelson)	45
ANKORS (Trail)	13
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	21
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	33
ASK Wellness (Princeton)	7
UBCO HaRT (Kelowna)	68
Total	271

Less than 5 samples were tested at each of the following locations, which are included in the total: ANKORS (Castlegar), ASK Wellness (Merritt), and UBCO HaRT (Vernon).

Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	105	5		110
Stimulant	78	6		84
Depressant		1		1
Psychedelic	54	4		58
Unknown			18	18
Total	237	16	18	271

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

Depressant include:
benzodiazepines, etizolam,
GHB, hypnotics

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

Polysubstance includes:
cross-category mixtures

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

Stimulant 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	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Fentanyl	55			55
Down	50	3		53
Pharmaceutical		2		2
Total	105	5		110

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:

