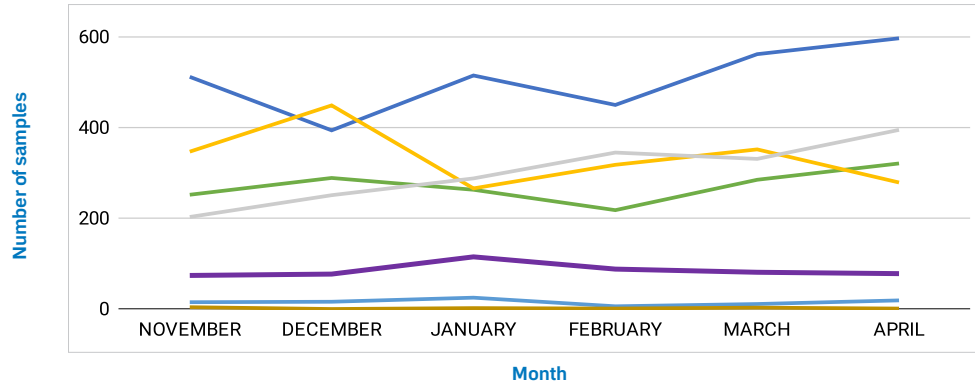


## Key Findings

- In April, a total of 1,690 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Vancouver Coastal region.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines increased from 29.9% to 31.7% in April (189 of 597 samples).
- Vancouver Coastal issued four drug alerts. Two pertained to samples in which fentanyl/fentanyl analogues were not expected (crack cocaine, Percocet), but were detected by FTIR. The sample sold as a Percocet also tested positive for benzodiazepines by test strip.
- Drug checking services in Vancouver Coastal Health are expanding! Services are now available at ʔajmæt Harm Reduction Circle, 5160 Highway 101 Tla'amin Nation, Powell River.

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



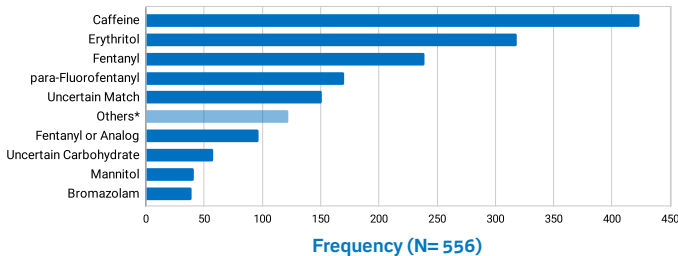
Number of samples by drug category in April

Opioid	597
Stimulant	321
Depressant	78
Psychedelic	279
Other	19
Polysubstance	1
Unknown	395

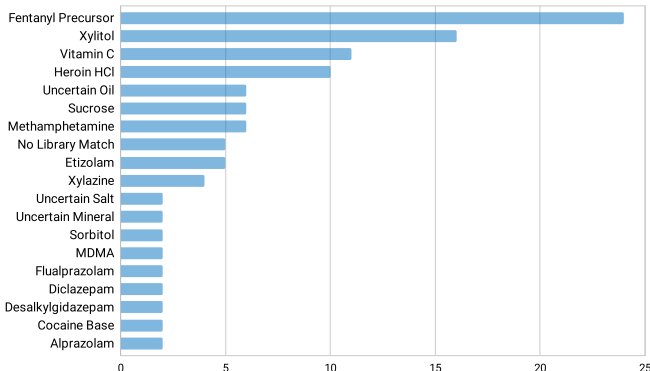
**TOTAL: 1,690**

### Components found in drug samples in April

#### Components in opioids

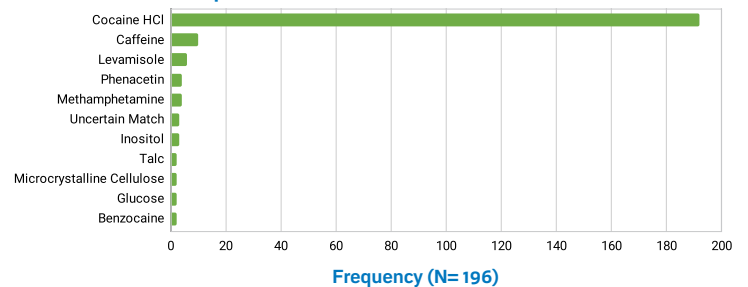


#### Other components found in opioids



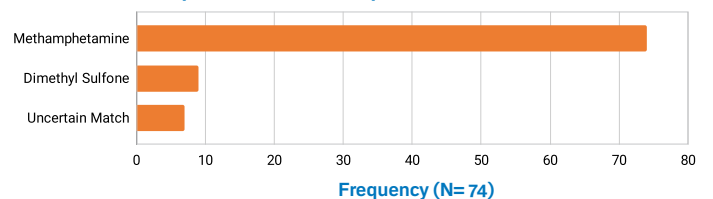
Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: 6-MAM, acetaminophen, diphenhydramine, ephedrine, glucose, heroin base, lactose, microcrystalline cellulose, noscapine, opium, phenacetin.

#### Components in cocaine



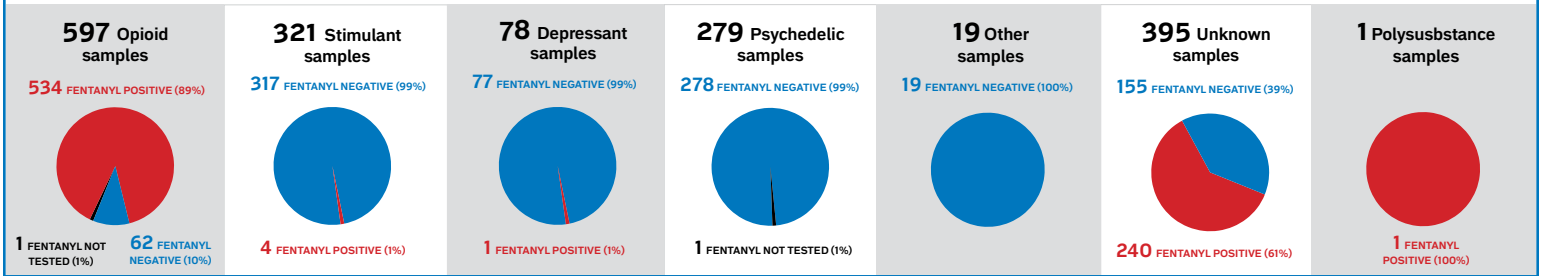
Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: cocaine base, creatine, glutamine, mannitol, procaine, sucrose, thiamine, uncertain carbohydrate, uncertain mineral.

#### Components in methamphetamine



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

## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



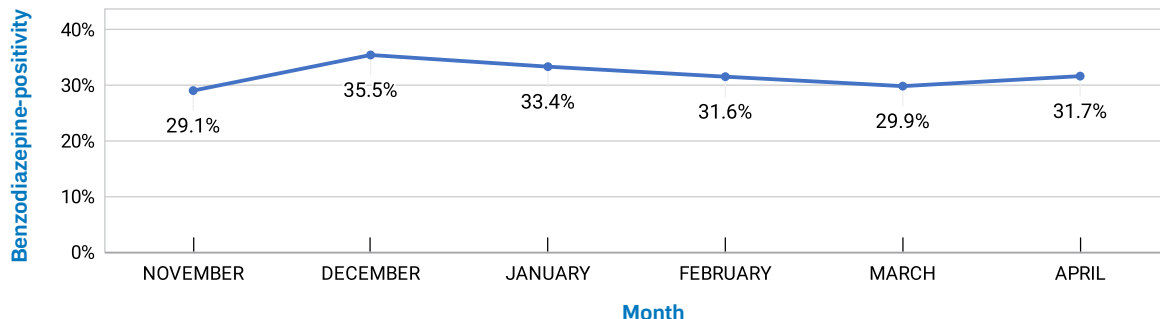
## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
April 11, 2023 Vancouver DTES	Acetaminophen and Oxycodone (Percocet)	Caffeine, Mannitol, Fentanyl, Bromazolam	Positive	Positive	Vancouver DTES	White chunks sold as Percocet tested positive for fentanyl and bromazolam, a benzo analog.
April 24, 2023 Qathet Region	Down	Erythritol, Caffeine, Fentanyl, Xylazine	Positive	Positive	Qathet Region	Orange chunks causing heavy sedation tested positive for fentanyl, xylazine, and benzos.
April 25, 2023 Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, Etizolam, Fentanyl, Erythritol	Positive	Positive	Vancouver	Pink powder sold as down tested positive for fentanyl and etizolam, a benzo analogue.
April 26, 2023 Vancouver	Crack Cocaine	Caffeine, Erythritol, Para-Fluorofentanyl	Positive	Negative	Vancouver	White chunks sold as crack cocaine tested positive for para-fluorofentanyl and negative for cocaine. Substance has caused OD.

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.

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, **31.7%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Vancouver Coastal Health (**189 samples of 597 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	1,442
Insite	219
Molson OPS	7
Tla'amin Nation	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,690</b>

## Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	563	23	11	597
Stimulant	309	12		321
Depressant	61	16	1	78
Psychedelic	256	19	4	279
Other	13	1	5	19
Polysubstance	1			1
Unknown			395	395
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>1,690</b>

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	257	10		267
Heroin	5	3		8
Other Opioid		1		1
Down	277	4		281
Pharmaceutical	18	5	11	34
Opium	6			6
<b>Total</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>597</b>

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:

