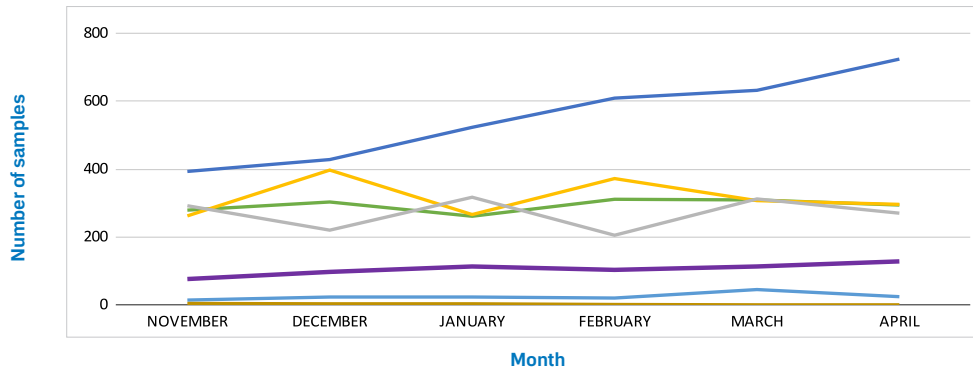


Key Findings

- In April, a total of 1,736 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Vancouver Coastal region.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased to 32.7% (237 of 724 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 9.0% of unregulated opioids (59 of 656 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations.
- Multiple fentanyl analogues have been detected in unregulated opioids. The most recent to emerge, ortho-Methylfentanyl, was detected by FTIR in 9.0% of samples (59 of 656). Fluorofentanyl was detected in 17.7% (116 samples).
- Xylazine detection by FTIR remained consistent with the previous month, detected in 1.1% of unregulated opioids (7 of 656 samples).
- Drug checking services are available at several locations in the Vancouver Coastal region. To find drug checking services near you, please see our [site locator](#)

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



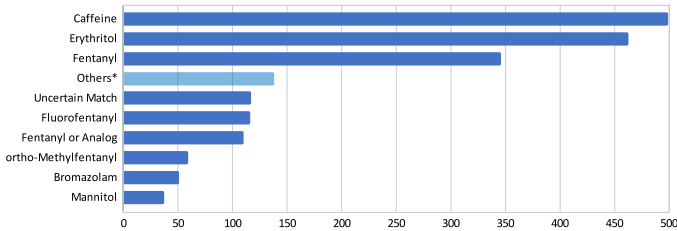
Number of samples by drug category in April

Opioid	609
Stimulant	311
Depressant	103
Psychedelic	372
Other	20
Polysubstance	1
Unknown	205

TOTAL: 1,736

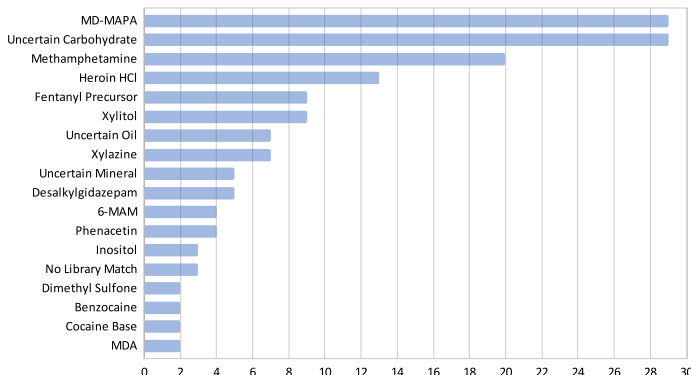
Components found in drug samples in April

Components in unregulated opioids



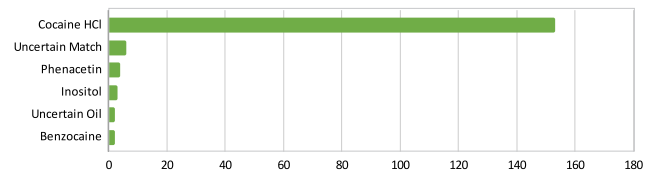
Frequency (N=656)

Other components in unregulated opioids



Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: THC, vitamin C, uncertain salt, cocaine hcl, deschloroetizolam, glucose, sucrose, polyethylene, etonitazepine, fentanyl base, flualprazolam, polypropylene

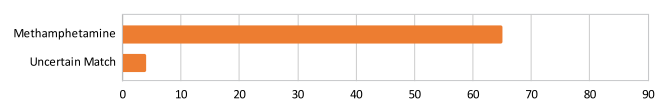
Components in cocaine



Frequency (N=155)

Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: 6-MAM, caffeine, cocaine base, heroin, ketamine, lactose, levamisole

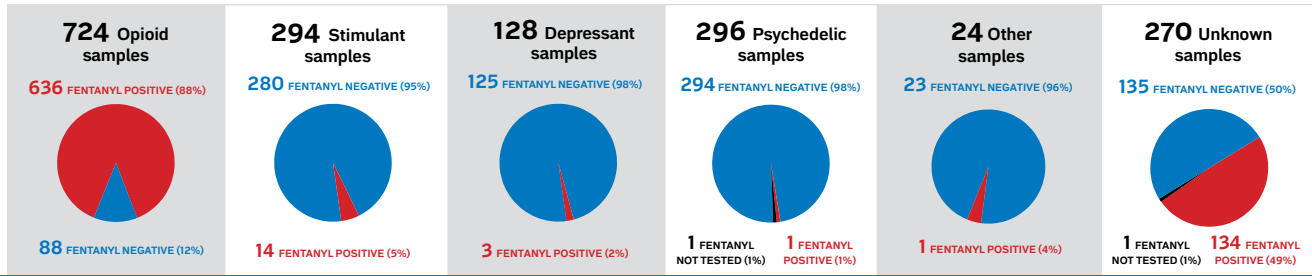
Components in methamphetamine



Frequency (N=69)

Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: cocaine base, MDMA, no library match, phenacetin

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

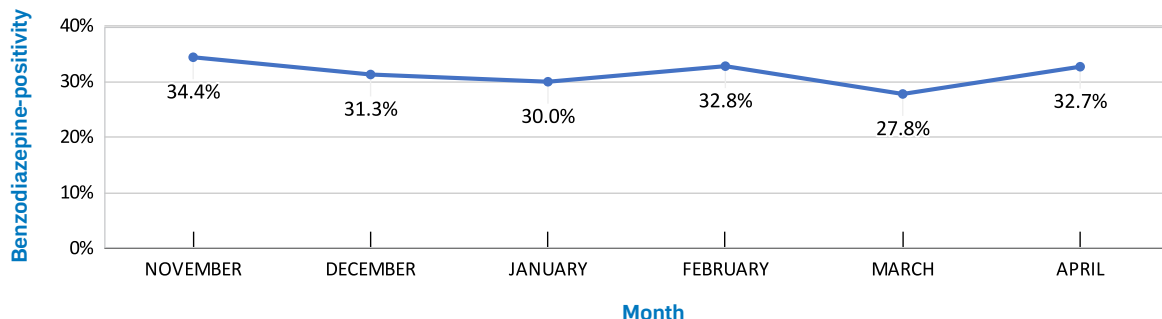
Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
April 8, 2024 Vancouver	Down	Xylazine, Ortho-Methylfentanyl, Deschloroetizolam, Uncertain Oil	Positive	Negative*	Brown pebbles sold as down in Vancouver tested positive for xylazine, fentanyl analog ortho-methylfentanyl, and benzo analog deschloroetizolam.
April 8, 2024 Vancouver	Oxycodone	Microcrystalline Cellulose, Acetaminophen, Calcium Stearate	Positive	Positive	Dark green pressed pill sold as oxycodone in Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl and benzos and negative for oxycodone.
April 8, 2024 Powell River/ Qathet	Fentanyl	Fentanyl, Bromazolam	Positive	Positive	Red, pink, and brown pebbles sold in Powell River tested positive for fentanyl and bromazolam, a benzo analog.
April 15, 2024 Vancouver	Down	Fentanyl, Caffeine, Bromazolam, Uncertain Carbohydrate	Positive	Positive	Orange and blue powders sold as down in Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl and bromazolam, a benzo analog. Substances caused overdose.
April 17, 2024 Vancouver	Down	MDA	Negative	Negative	White crystals sold as down in the DTES of Vancouver tested positive for 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) and negative for fentanyl and other opioids.
April 22, 2024 Vancouver	Acetaminophen and Oxycodone (Percocet)	Dicalcium Phosphate, Uncertain Mineral, Uncertain Carbohydrate, Uncertain Oil, Uncertain Match	Positive	Negative	White pressed pill with imprint "TEC" sold as Percocet (acetaminophen and oxycodone) in Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl and negative for acetaminophen and oxycodone.
April 24, 2024 Vancouver	Crack Cocaine	Caffeine, Erythritol, Fentanyl	Positive	Negative	Yellow chunks expected to be crack cocaine in the DTES of Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl and negative for cocaine.
April 30, 2024 Vancouver	Ketamine	Levamisole	Negative	Negative	Clear crystals sold as ketamine in Vancouver tested positive for levamisole, a veterinary drug that can cause adverse effects when taken by humans. Substance tested negative for ketamine.

*Note that etizolam and related benzodiazepine-like analogs do not consistently react to benzodiazepine test strips.

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, **32.7%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Vancouver Coastal Health (**237 samples of 724 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
Get Your Drugs Tested (Vancouver)	1291
Insite (Vancouver)	320
LIFT Community Services (Powell River)	94
Tla'amin Nation (Powell River)	5
WCSS (Whistler)	26
Total:	1736

Number of samples with expected drug present

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Present	Not Present	Presence Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	664	41	19	724
Stimulant	285	8	1	294
Depressant	111	16	1	128
Psychedelic	271	16	9	296
Other	16	2	6	24
Unknown	0	0	270	270
Total	1347	83	306	1736

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
(unregulated opioids), and
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 with expected drug present

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG		Present	Not Present	Presence Not Determined	Samples Tested
Fentanyl		121	7	0	128
Heroin		10	7	1	18
Down		498	12	0	510
Pharmaceutical		30	15	18	63
Opium		5	0	0	5
Total		664	41	19	724

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:

