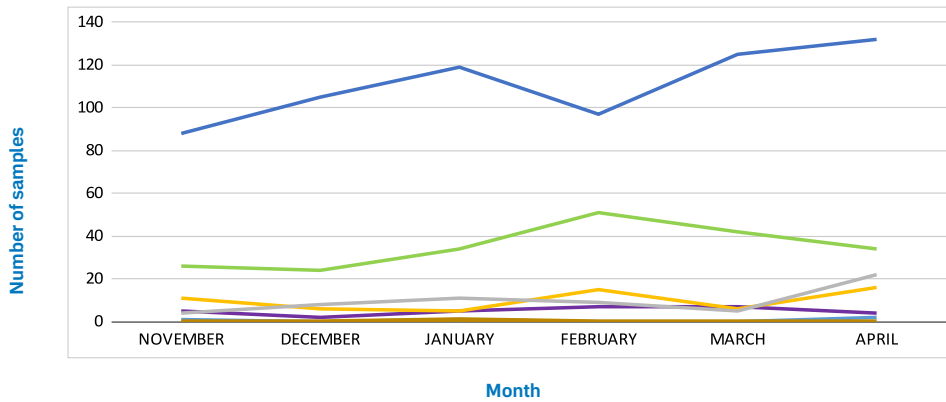


Key Findings

- In April, a total of 210 drug checks were performed at the CMHA Mid-Island Albert Street site in Nanaimo.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased to 71.2% (94 of 132 samples).
- Bromazolam, a benzodiazepine, was detected by FTIR in 9.4% of unregulated opioids (12 of 128 samples), indicating its presence in higher concentrations.
- Fluorofentanyl was detected by FTIR in 34.4% of unregulated opioids (44 of 128 samples), whereas fentanyl was detected in 42.2% (54 samples).
- Drug checking services are now operating 7 days a week from 11:00am–8:30pm at 250 Albert Street, Nanaimo. Samples can also be dropped off any day of the week and results can be picked up during drug checking hours. To find a drug checking service near you, please see our [site locator](#).
- Substance (The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project), offers drug checking in Victoria and communities across the Island. For more information about drug checking sample results in the Island health region, please visit www.substance.uvic.ca.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



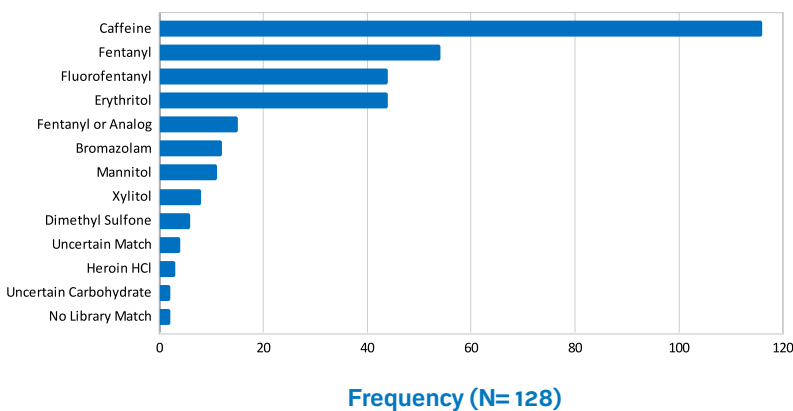
Number of samples by drug category in April

Opioid	132
Stimulant	34
Depressant	4
Psychedelic	16
Other	2
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	22

TOTAL: 210

Components found in drug samples in April

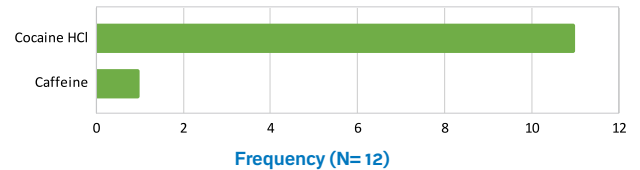
Components in unregulated opioids



Frequency (N=128)

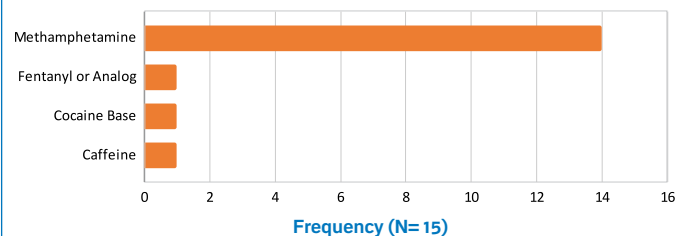
Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: heroin base, methamphetamine, opium, sodium bicarbonate, sucrose, uncertain oil

Components in cocaine



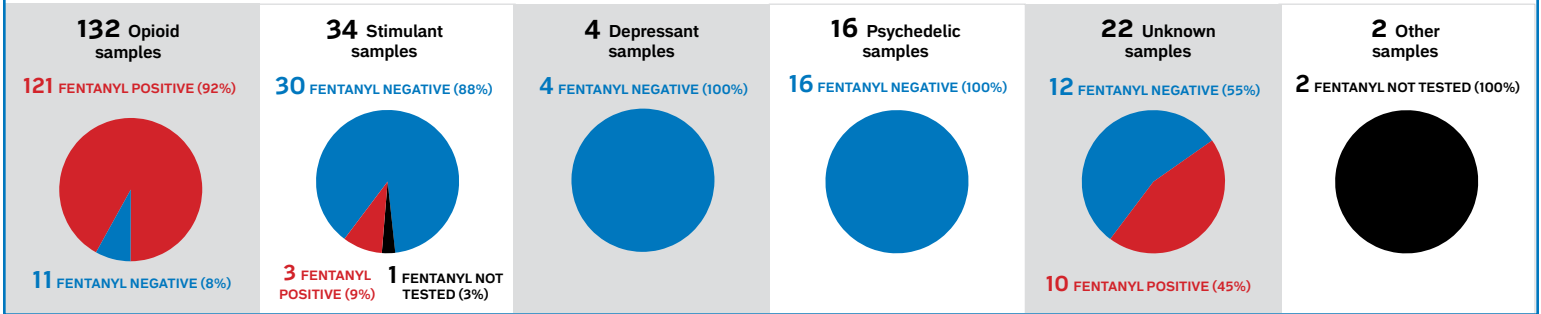
Frequency (N=12)

Components in Methamphetamine



Frequency (N=15)

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

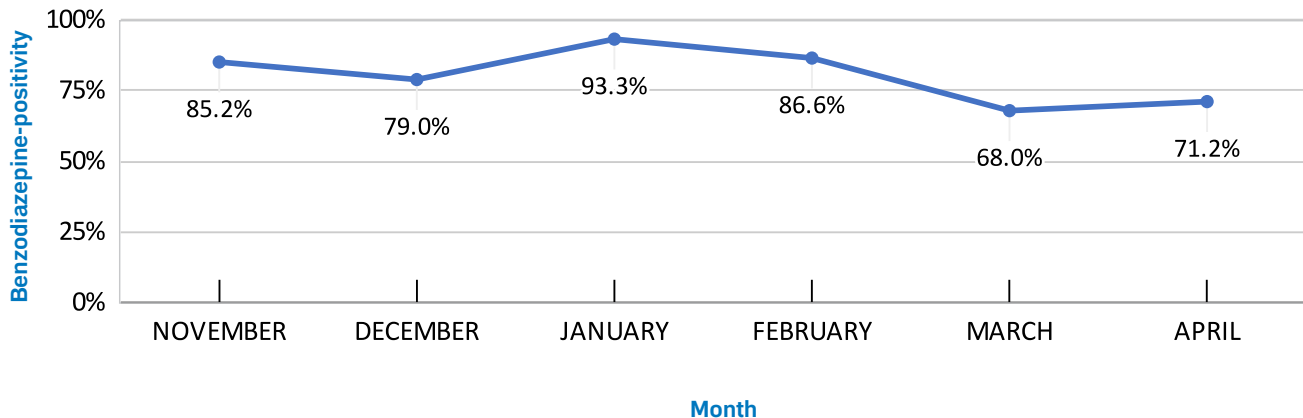


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts from drugs checked at Albert St. Drug Checking service this month					

For information about current substances in the Island Health region: <https://substance.uvic.ca/>

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



During the month of April, **71.2%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Island Health (**94 samples of 132 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 Drug Checks
Albert St. OPS (CMHA Nanaimo)	210

Number of samples with expected drug present

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Present	Not Present	Presence Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	123	3	6	132
Stimulant	30	4	0	34
Depressant	4	0	0	4
Psychedelic	15	1	0	16
Other	1	0	1	2
Unknown	0	0	22	22
Total	173	8	29	210

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	14	0	0	14
Heroin	3	1	1	5
Down	105	2	2	109
Pharmaceutical	1	0	3	4
Total	123	3	6	132

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.

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 benzodiazapine 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: