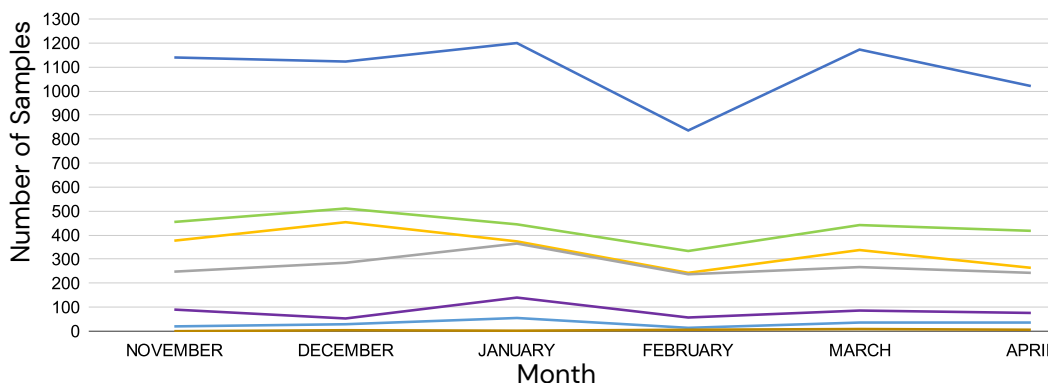




Key Findings

- In April, 2,064 drug checks were performed by community drug checking sites in BC (56 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased from the previous month to 40.5% (414 of 1021).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 20.0% of unregulated opioids (185 of 925), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified, and notably, flubromazepam detection increased (11 samples compared to 2 in March).
- Fluorofentanyl and fentanyl detection were on par for most common opioid detected this month (~33% each). Of note, carfentanil detection by FTIR decreased to 1 sample, compared to 7 last month.
- Veterinary tranquilizers were detected in 2.4% of unregulated opioids (22 of 925). Of these, xylazine was most common.
- The median fentanyl concentration of unregulated opioids was 16.6%. See page 3 for more detailed results.
- 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 Apr.

Opioid	1021
Stimulant	418
Depressant	76
Psychedelic	264
Other	36
Polysubstance	6
Unknown	243

Total: 2,064

Number of samples tested by region:

Vancouver Coastal Health region: 1178 (57%)

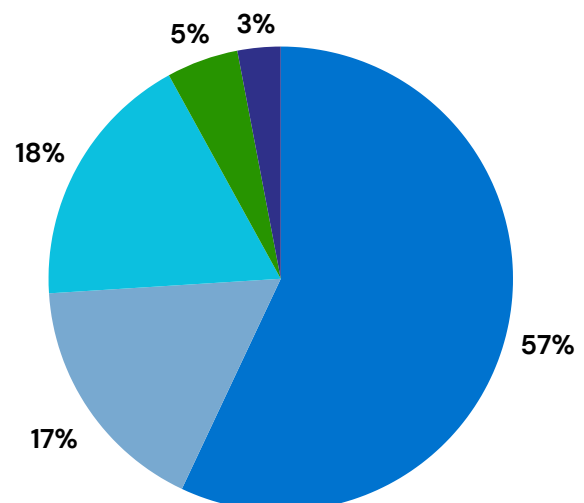
Fraser Health region: 350 (17%)

Interior Health region: 365 (18%)

Vancouver Island Health region: 113 (5%)

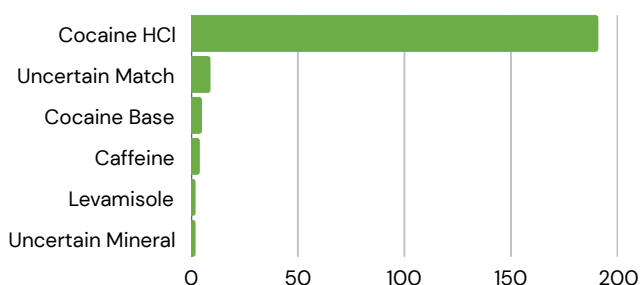
Northern Health region: 58 (3%)

Total: 2,064



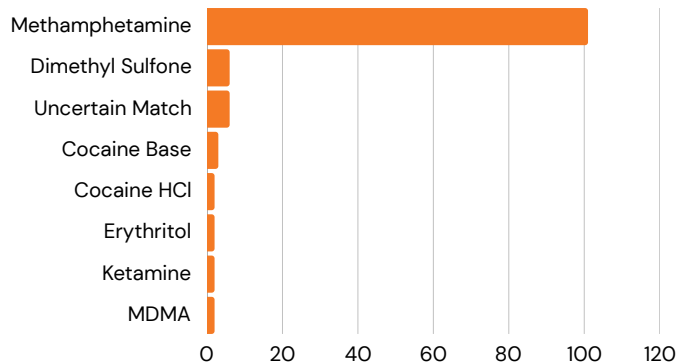
Components found in drug samples in April

Components in cocaine



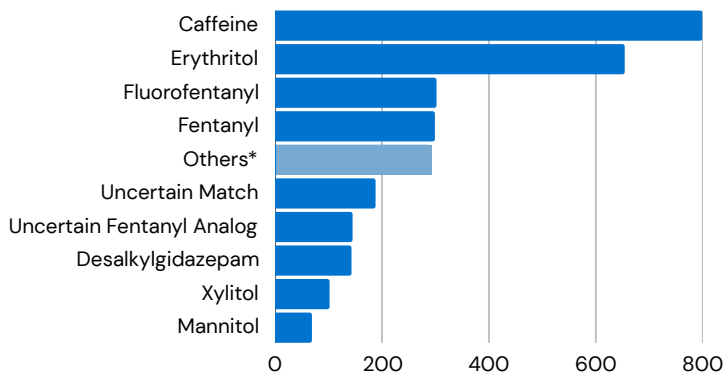
Frequency (N=199)

Components in methamphetamine



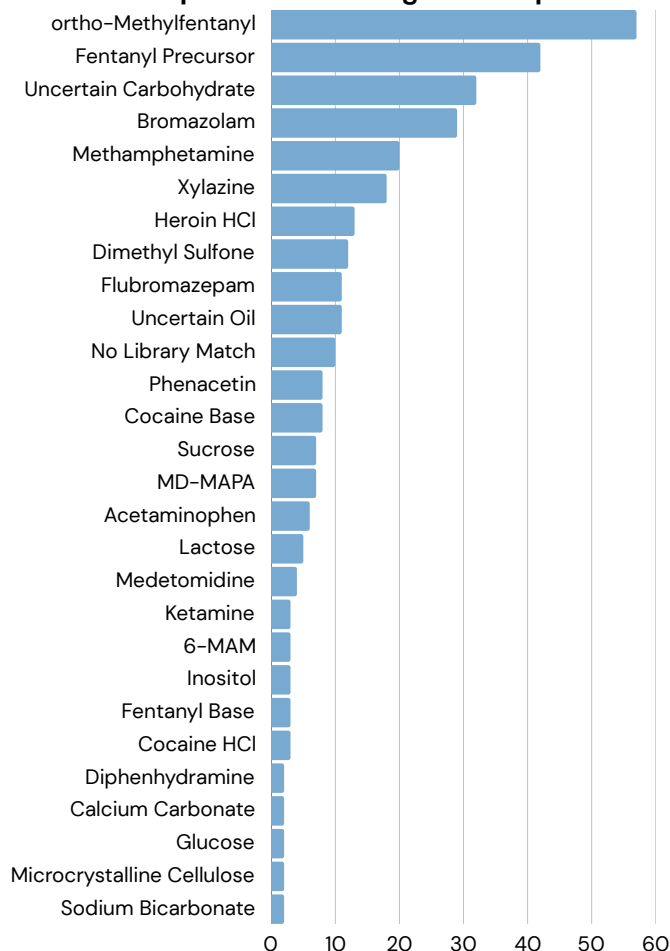
Frequency (N=109)

Components in unregulated opioids



Frequency (N=925)

*Other components in unregulated opioids

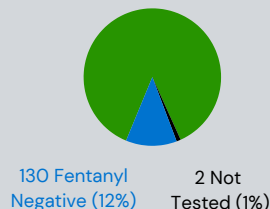


There were additional compounds detected a single time each. To save space, they have been omitted from these charts. For the full list of compounds detected, visit our data dashboard at www.drugcheckingbc.ca/dashboard/

Number of samples tested with **fentanyl** present

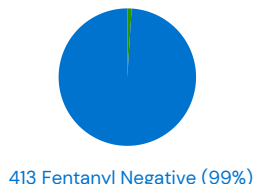
1021 Opioid samples

889 Fentanyl Positive (87%)



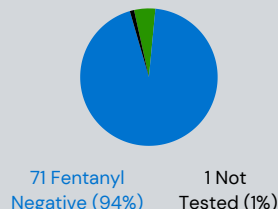
418 Stimulant samples

5 Fentanyl Positive (1%)



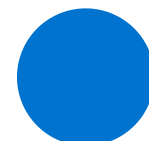
76 Depressant samples

4 Fentanyl Positive (5%)



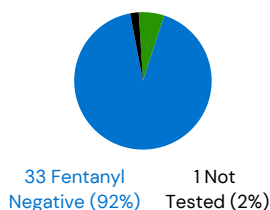
264 Psychedelic samples

264 Fentanyl Negative (100%)



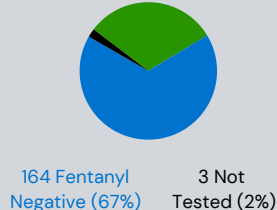
36 Other samples

2 Fentanyl Positive (6%)



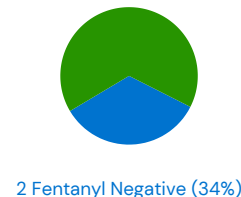
243 Unknown samples

76 Fentanyl Positive (31%)

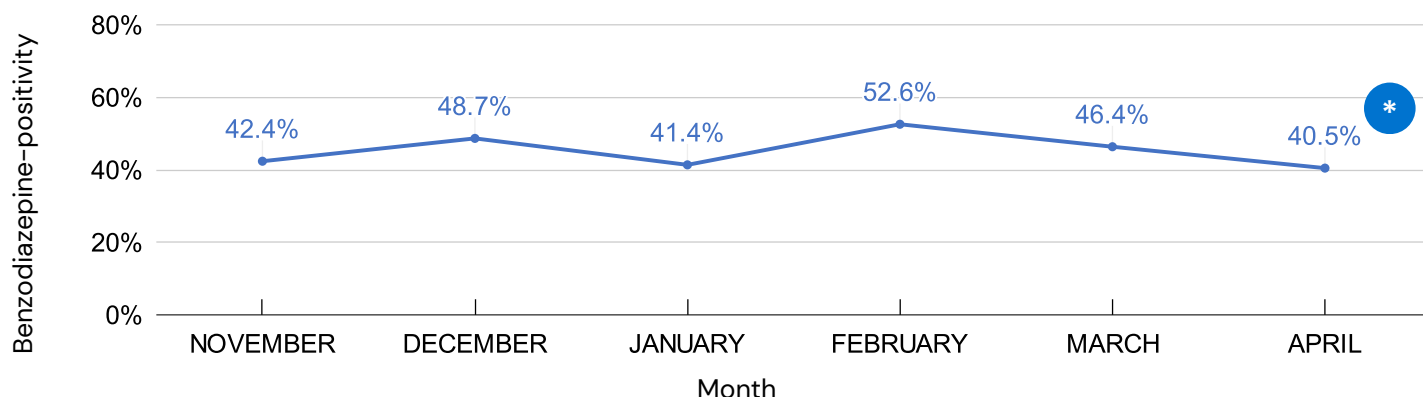


6 Polysubstance samples

4 Fentanyl Positive (66%)



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

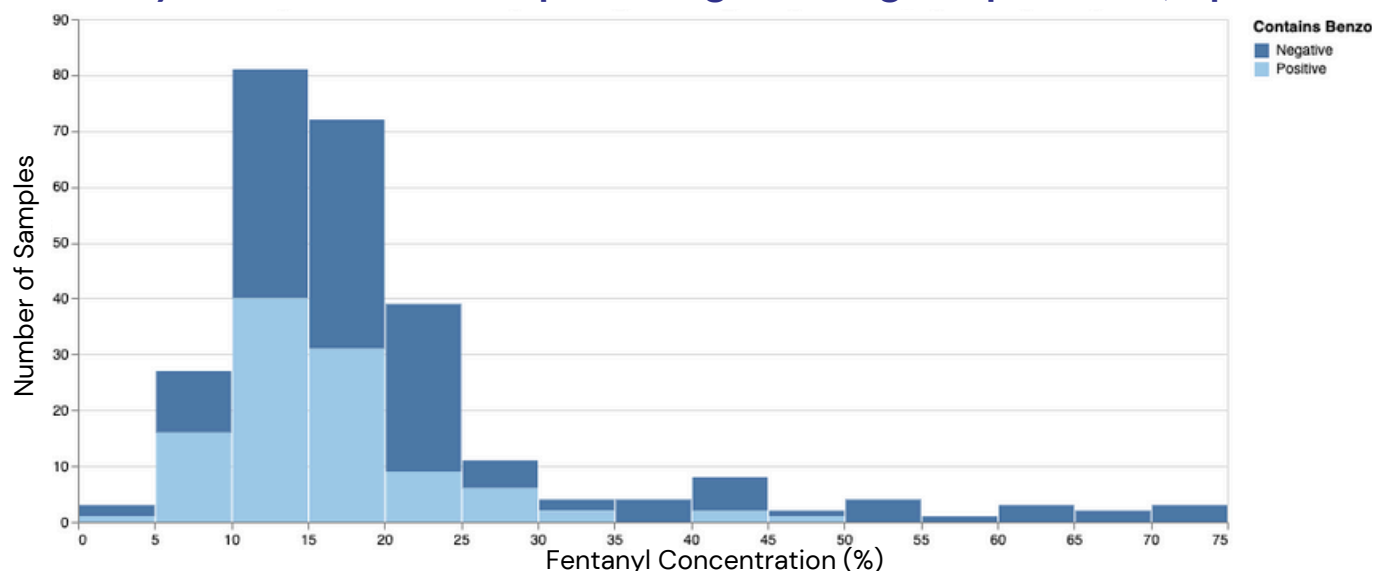


*During the month of April, **40.5%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in our partner sites around BC (**414 samples of 1021 checked**). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are derived from both of these technologies and are presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory.

Fentanyl Concentration

The charts below summarize fentanyl concentrations of unregulated opioid samples brought for drug checking in British Columbia. Technicians at point-of-care may provide an estimated fentanyl quantification, but these results were calculated separately (post hoc) using a validated quantification model for the purpose of this report. To learn more about the model visit [here](#).

Fentanyl Concentration of Opioid Drug Checking Samples in BC, April 2025

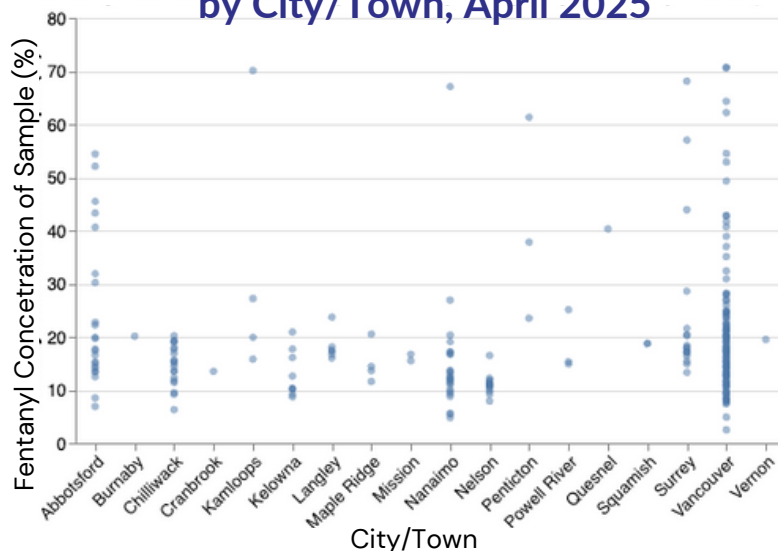


Median fentanyl concentration in all unregulated opioid samples in April: 16.6%. Most unregulated opioid samples contain fentanyl at concentrations between 10% and 20%, but can range from trace amounts to above 75% of the mixture. As of August 2024, we have revised the model to exclude samples that contain any other fentanyl analogues, with or without fentanyl present.









Drug supplies vary by location in the province. Denser points on this chart indicate a greater number of samples containing fentanyl at the concentration displayed. We note that the locations pictured here include only drug checking services partnered with the BCCSU Drug Checking Program, and may not represent the broader drug supply or the supply in other settings.

If you have any questions about the results, please email us at drugchecking@bccsu.ubc.ca.

Fentanyl Concentration of Opioid Samples by City/Town, April 2025










Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid		926	76	19	1021
Stimulant		392	23	3	418
Psychedelic		248	13	3	264
Unknown		0	0	243	243
Depressant		54	20	2	76
Other		23	5	8	36
Polysubstance		5	1	0	6
TOTAL		1648	138	278	2064

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

Number of opioid samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Down		773	31	1	805
Fentanyl		89	8	0	97
Pharmaceutical		41	19	18	78
Heroin		7	16	0	23
Opium		10	0	0	10
Other Opioid		6	2	0	8
TOTAL		926	76	19	1021

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.

Depressant includes:
benzodiazepines,
etizolam, GHB, hypnotics

Opioid includes:
“down”, heroin, fentanyl
(unregulated opioids), and
pharmaceutical opioids

Polysubstance includes:
cross-category mixtures

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

Stimulant includes:
methamphetamine,
“speed,” cocaine and
crack cocaine,
cathinones

Unknown includes:
samples where the individual
was unable to identify an
expected substance – this
includes found samples.

Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
April 7, 2025 Penticton	Down	Medetomidine, Fentanyl, Bromazolam*	N/A	N/A	Purple substance sold as down tested positive for 1-2% medetomidine as well as fentanyl and bromazolam in Penticton.
April 8, 2025 qathet/ Powell River	Down	Fentanyl, Desalkylgizapam, Xylazine, Medetomidine*	N/A	N/A	Pink granules sold as down in Powell River (qathet) tested positive for fentanyl, benzo analog desalkylgizapam, and tranquilizers xylazine and medetomidine. Substance has caused overdose and prolonged sedation.
April 14, 2025 Vancouver	Oxycodone + Acetaminophen (Percocet)	Microcrystalline Cellulose, Uncertain Match	Positive	Negative	White pressed tablet with imprint "TEC" sold as Percocet (oxycodone + acetaminophen) tested positive for fentanyl and negative for oxycodone.
April 14, 2025 Vancouver	Down	Carfentanil, Desalkylgizapam, Bromazolam, Medetomidine*	N/A	N/A	Light grey chunks sold as down in Vancouver tested positive for carfentanil, benzo analogs desalkylgizapam and bromazolam, and tranquilizer medetomidine.
April 17, 2025 Vernon	Down	Carfentanil, Fentanyl, Fluorofentanyl, Desalkylgizapam*	N/A	N/A	Red powder, pebbles, chunks sold as down tested positive for carfentanil (1.5%), fentanyl (3%), fluorofentanyl, and desalkylgizapam (benzodiazepine) in Vernon.
April 30, 2025 Coquitlam	Down	Xylazine, Nifoxipam, Fentanyl, Caffeine	Positive	Positive	Blueish-greenish granules sold as down tested positive for high concentrations of xylazine (Tranq) in combination with nifoxipam (a benzo analog) and fentanyl in Coquitlam.

All spectrometry results are determined by FTIR, with the exception of the following:

* Results provided by complementary testing partner [Substance](#) using Paper Spray Mass Spectrometry

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 subscribe to the provincial drug alert and response system, text the word JOIN to 253787 (ALERTS).

Data represented in this report is collected from our partner sites across the province utilizing Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrometry in combination with BTNX fentanyl test strips, as well as benzodiazepine test strips when applicable. We note the FTIR spectrometer has a detection limit of approximately 5% concentration (McCrae, 2019).

BCCSU gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following partners:

