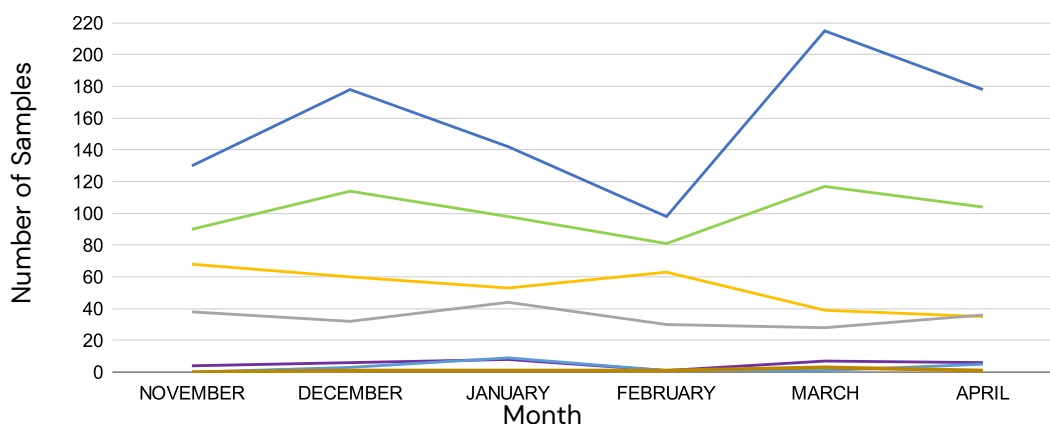




Key Findings

- In April, a total of 365 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region (20 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip was decreased to 55.1% (98 of 178).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 30.3% of unregulated opioids (50 of 165), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified, and notably, flubromazepam detection increased (7 samples compared to 1 in March).
- Fluorofentanyl remained the most common opioid detected by FTIR (52.7%; 87 of 165), followed by fentanyl (21.2%; 35 samples).
- Xylazine, a veterinary tranquilizer, was detected by FTIR in 9.7% of unregulated opioids (16 of 165).
- 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	178
● Stimulant	104
● Depressant	6
● Psychedelic	35
● Other	5
● Polysubstance	1
● Unknown	36

Total: 365

Number of drug checks at each site

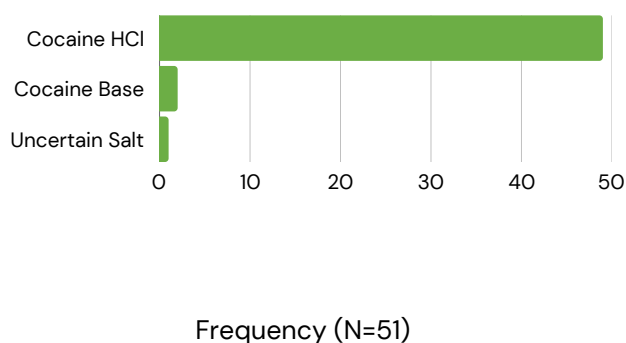
Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	47
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	7
ANKORS (Nelson)	65
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	62
ASK Wellness (Kelowna)	106
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	28
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy (Vernon)	47
Total	365

A small number of samples were tested at the following locations, which are included in the total:

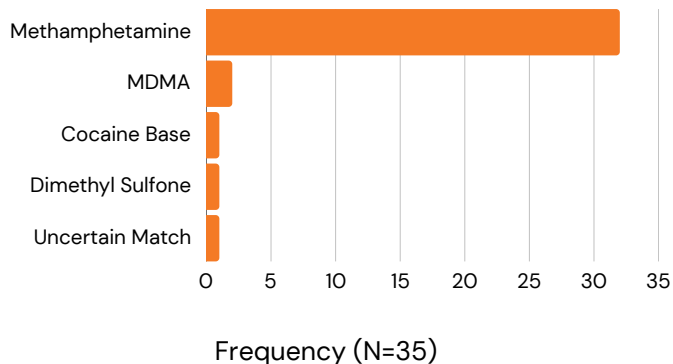
ANKORS (Trail), ASK (Williams Lake)

Components found in drug samples in April

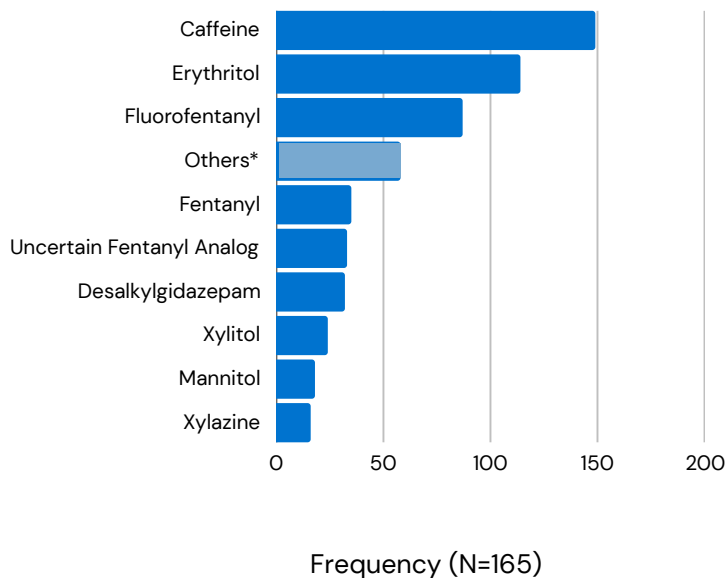
Components in cocaine



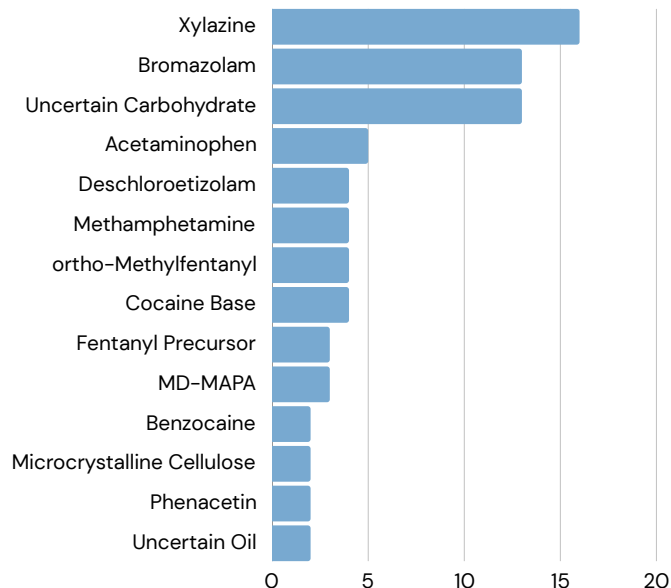
Components in methamphetamine



Components in unregulated opioids



*Other components in unregulated opioids



There were additional compounds detected a single time each: Fentanyl Precursor, Fentanyl Base, Glucose, Ketamine, Dimethyl Sulfone, MD-MAPA, MDP2P, Phenacetin, Cocaine HCl, Vitamin C.

Number of samples tested with **fentanyl** present

178 Opioid samples

160 Fentanyl Positive (90%)



18 Fentanyl Negative (10%)

104 Stimulant samples



104 Fentanyl Negative (100%)

6 Depressant samples



6 Fentanyl Negative (100%)

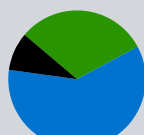
35 Psychedelic samples



35 Fentanyl Negative (100%)

36 Unknown samples

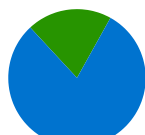
9 Fentanyl Positive (25%)



24 Fentanyl Negative (67%)
3 Not Tested (8%)

5 Other samples

1 Fentanyl Positive (20%)



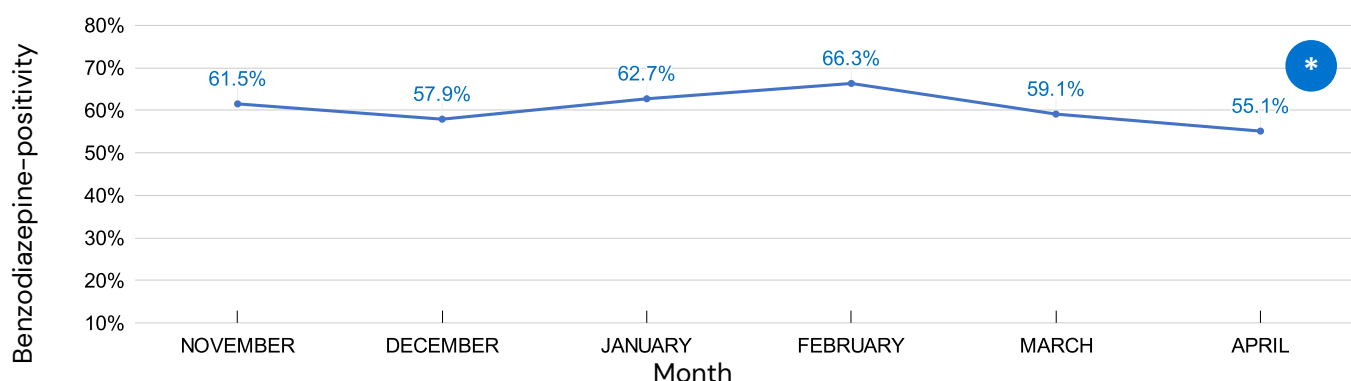
4 Fentanyl Negative (80%)

1 Polysubstance samples



1 Fentanyl Negative (100%)

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



*During the month of April, **55.1%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (**98 samples of 178 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 samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid		168	7	3	178
Stimulant		98	6	0	104
Unknown		0	0	36	36
Psychedelic		32	2	1	35
Depressant		4	2	0	6
Other		3	1	1	5
Polysubstance		1	0	0	1
TOTAL		306	18	41	365

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		151	0	0	151
Pharmaceutical		6	4	3	13
Fentanyl		10	1	0	11
Heroin		1	2	0	3
TOTAL		168	7	3	178

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 17, 2025 Vernon	Down	Carfentanil, Fentanyl, Fluorofentanyl, Desalkylgidazepam*	N/A	N/A	Red powder, pebbles, chunks sold as down tested positive for carfentanil (1.5%), fentanyl (3%), fluorofentanyl, and desalkylgidazepam (benzodiazepine) in Vernon.

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:

