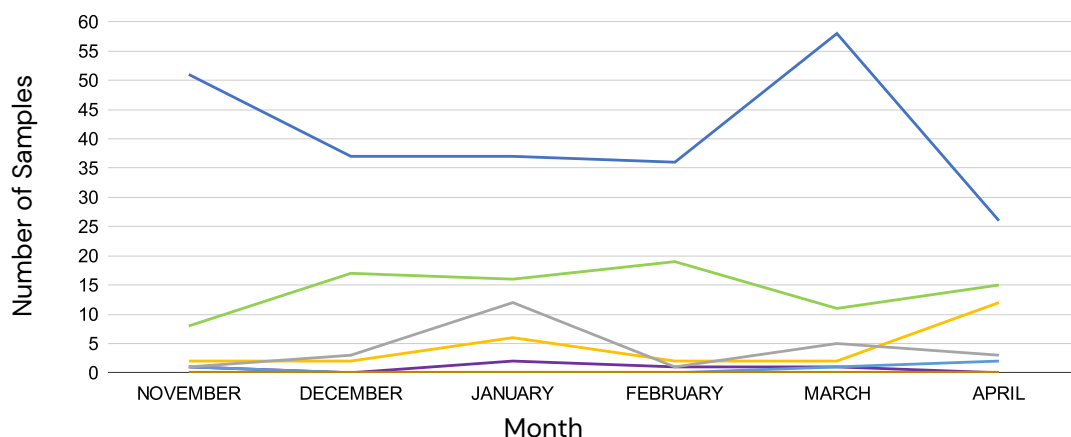




Key Findings

- In April, a total of 58 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Northern Health region (7 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased to 57.7% (15 of 26).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 25.0% of unregulated opioids (6 of 24), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified
- Fluorofentanyl remained the most common opioid detected by FTIR (20.8%; 5 of 24), followed by fentanyl and ortho-methylfentanyl (4.2%; 1 sample each).
- Note that trends are hard to infer due to the small number of samples over a large 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 Apr.

Opioid	26
Stimulant	15
Depressant	0
Psychodelic	12
Other	2
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	3

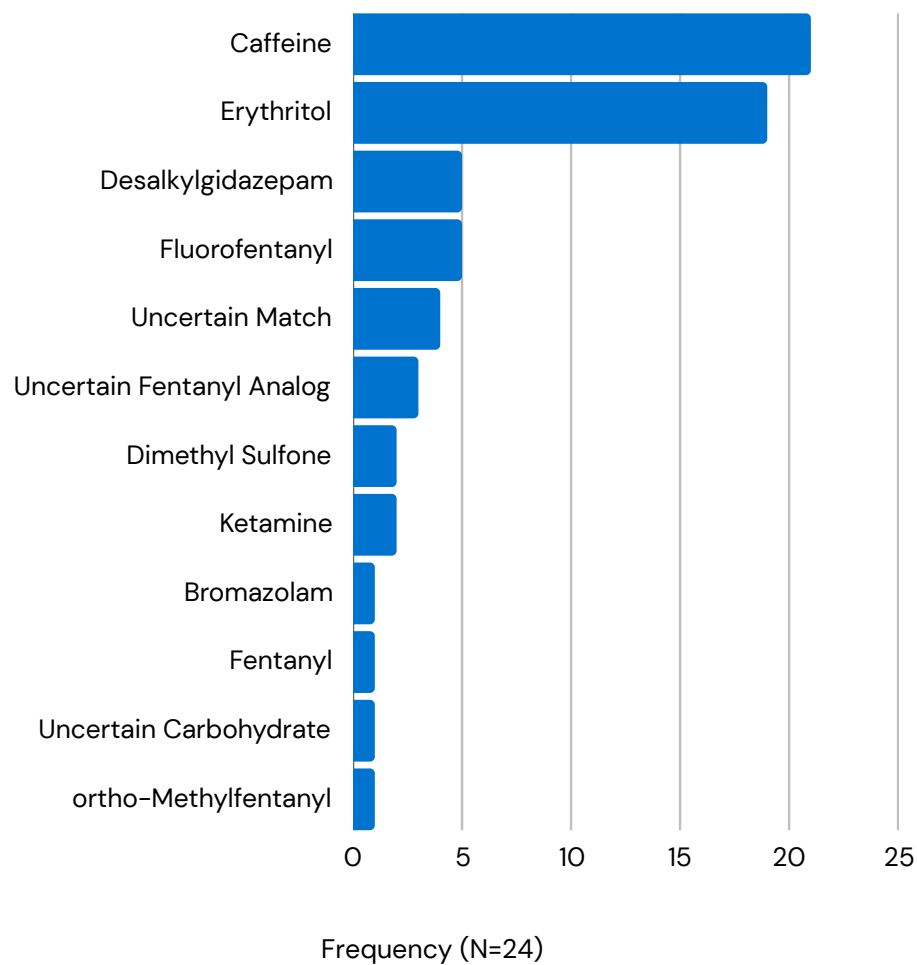
Total: 58

Number of drug checks at each site

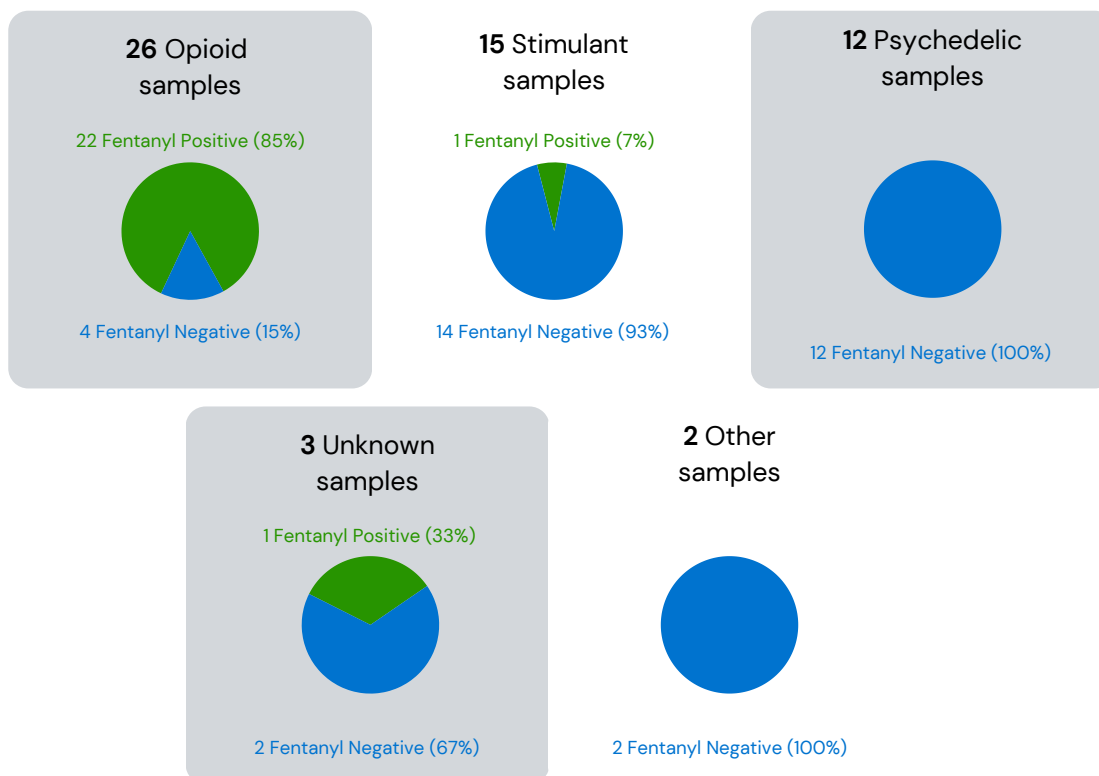
Location	# of Drugs Checked
POUNDS (Prince George)	25
POUNDS (Quesnel)	11
Terrace ICMT (Terrace)	17
Terrace ICMT (Smithers)	5
Total	58

Components found in drug samples in April

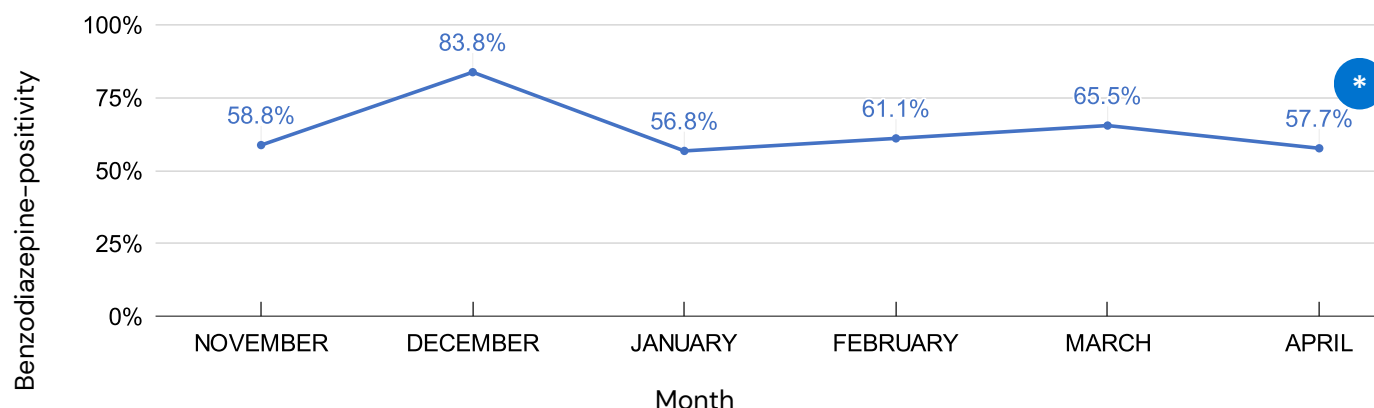
Components in unregulated opioids



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present









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







*During the month of April, **57.7%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Northern Health (**15 samples of 26 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		22	3	1	26
Stimulant		14	0	1	15
Psychedelic		12	0	0	12
Unknown		0	0	3	3
Other		2	0	0	2
TOTAL		50	3	5	58

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		21	2	0	23
Fentanyl		1	0	0	1
Other Opioid		0	1	0	1
Pharmaceutical		0	0	1	1
TOTAL		22	3	1	26

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
No alerts for Northern Health this month.					

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:

