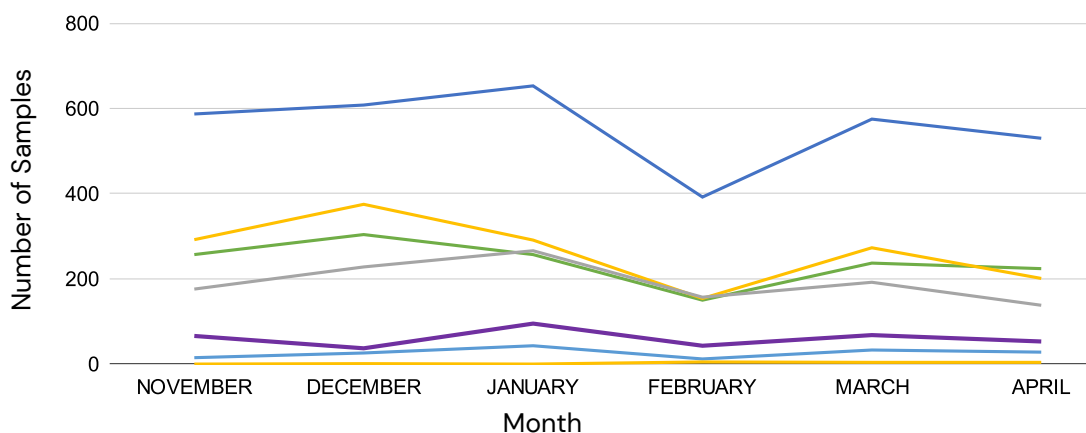




Key Findings

- In April, a total of 1,178 drug checks were performed across the Vancouver Coastal Health region (11 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased from the previous month to 28.7% (152 of 530).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 14.1% of unregulated opioids (66 of 468), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified.
- Fentanyl was the most common opioid detected by FTIR (34.2%; 160 of 468), followed by fluorofentanyl (28.4%; 133 samples).
- Veterinary tranquilizers were detected in 0.9% of unregulated opioids (4 of 468). Of these, medetomidine was most common.
- 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.

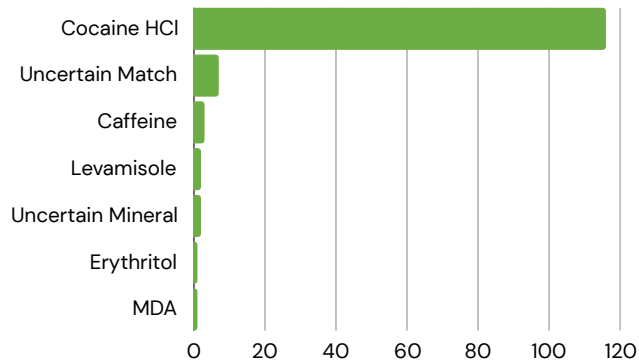
● Opioid	530
● Stimulant	224
● Depressant	53
● Psychedelics	201
● Other	28
● Polysubstance	4
● Unknown	138
Total:	1,178

Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Get Your Drugs Tested (Vancouver)	827
Insite (Vancouver)	303
WCSS (Squamish)	13
WCSS (Whistler)	5
LIFT Community Services (Powell River)	8
Tla'amin Nation (Powell River)	22
Total:	1,178

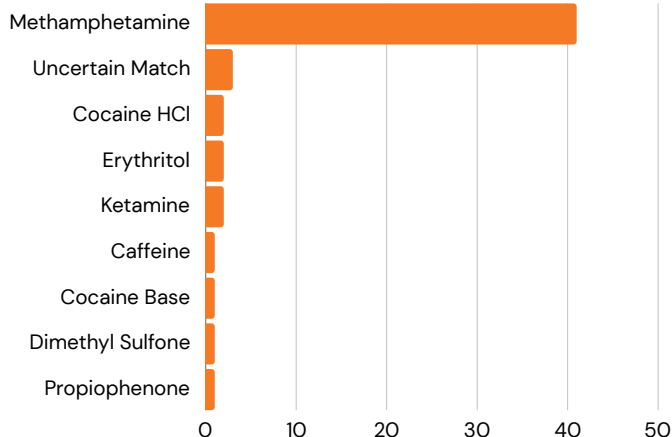
Components found in drug samples in April

Components in cocaine



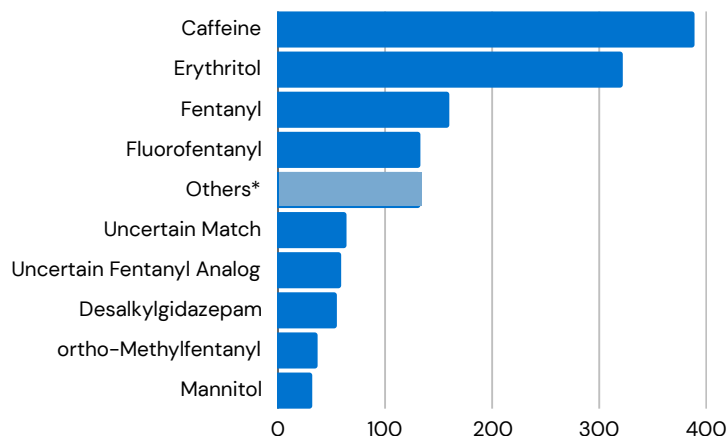
Frequency (N=120)

Components in methamphetamine



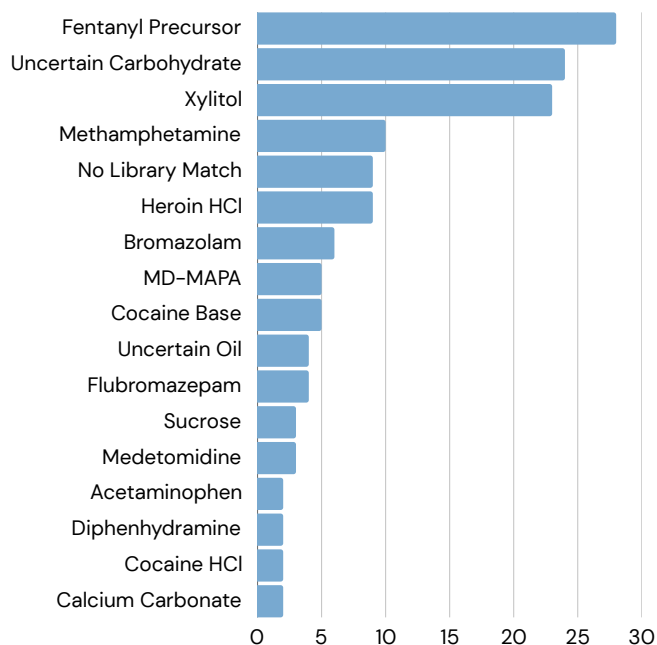
Frequency (N=45)

Components in unregulated opioids



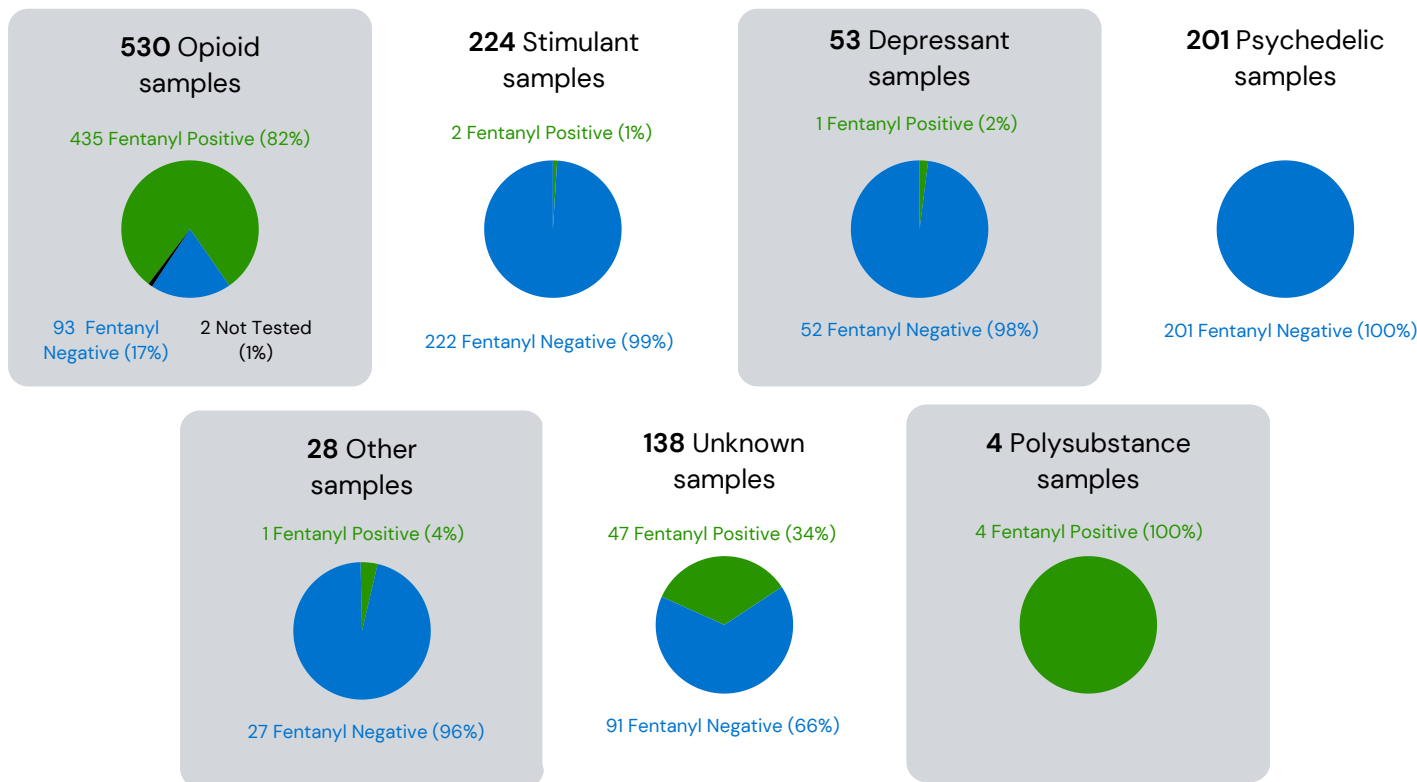
Frequency (N=491)

*Other components in unregulated opioids

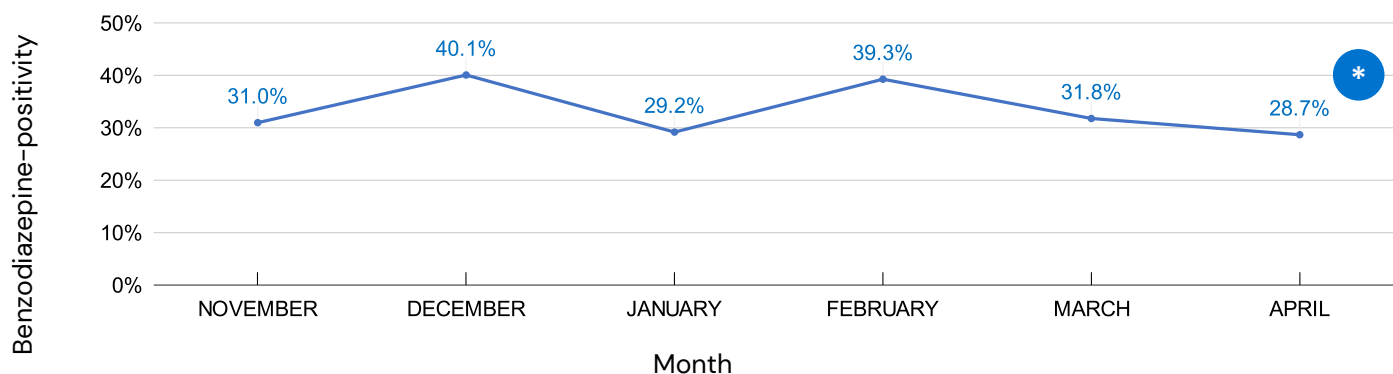


There were additional compounds detected a single time each: Glucose, Fentanyl Base, Microcrystalline Cellulose, Etizolam, Phenacetin, Stearic Acid, Uncertain Mineral, Xylazine, Inositol.

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present











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










*During the month of April, 28.7% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Vancouver Coastal Health (152 samples of 530 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		470	47	13	530
Stimulant		211	11	2	224
Psychedelic		188	11	2	201
Unknown		0	0	138	138
Depressant		39	14	0	53
Other		17	4	7	28
Polysubstance		3	1	0	4
TOTAL		928	88	162	1178

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		390	23	0	413
Pharmaceutical		30	9	13	52
Fentanyl		34	7	0	41
Heroin		6	8	0	14
Opium		9	0	0	9
Other Opioid		1	0	0	1
TOTAL		470	47	13	530

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 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.

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:



PROVIDENCE HEALTH CARE
Research Institute



CRISM

BRITISH
COLUMBIA



WHISTLER
COMMUNITY SERVICES
SOCIETY



TLA'AMIN



HEALTH