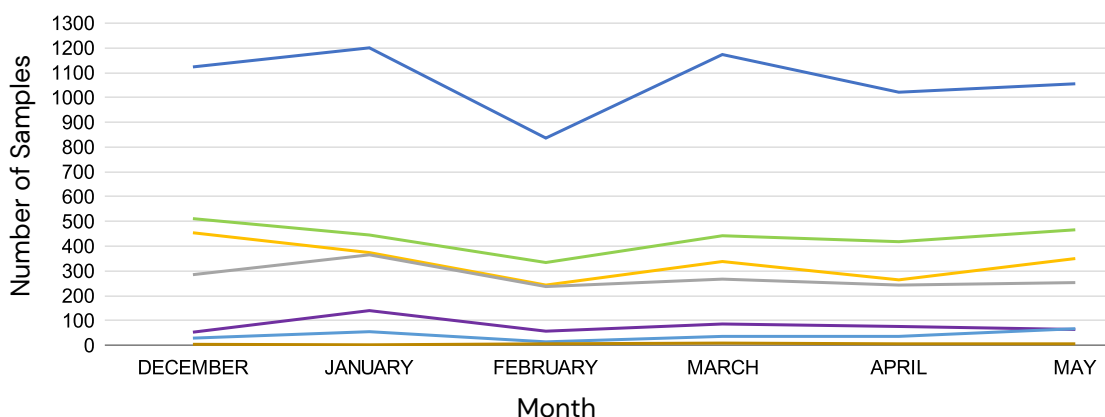




Key Findings

- In May, 2,261 drug checks were performed by community drug checking sites in BC (50 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased from the previous month to 42.9% (453 of 1055).
- The number of unregulated opioids containing benzodiazepines in concentrations detectable by FTIR reached a record of 23.3% (218 of 935), with desalkylgidazepam most frequently identified.
- Fentanyl was the most common opioid detected by FTIR (39.1%; 366 of 935), followed by fluorofentanyl (32.7%; 306 samples). Of note, carfentanil was detected in 4 samples.
- Xylazine, a veterinary tranquilizer, was detected in 1.4% (13 of 935) of unregulated opioids.
- The median fentanyl concentration of unregulated opioids was 17.8%. 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 May

Opioid	1055
Stimulant	466
Depressant	64
Psychedelic	350
Other	67
Polysubstance	6
Unknown	253

Total: 2,261

Number of samples tested by region:

Vancouver Coastal Health region: 1412 (62%)

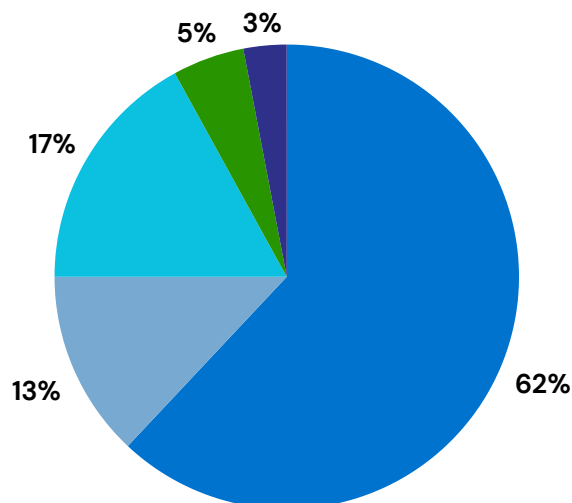
Fraser Health region: 282 (13%)

Interior Health region: 380 (17%)

Vancouver Island Health region: 124 (5%)

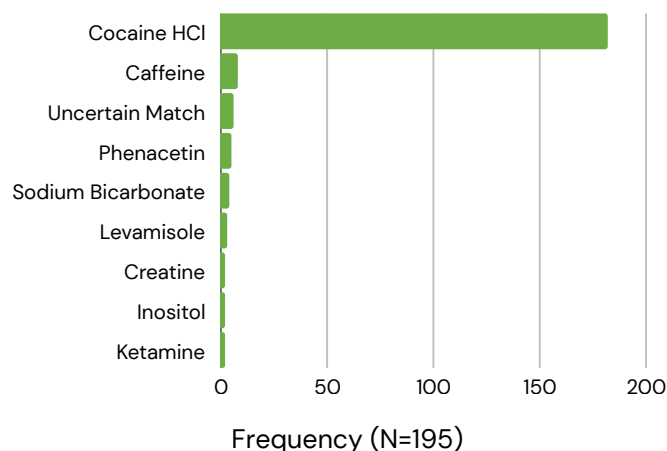
Northern Health region: 63 (3%)

Total: 2,261

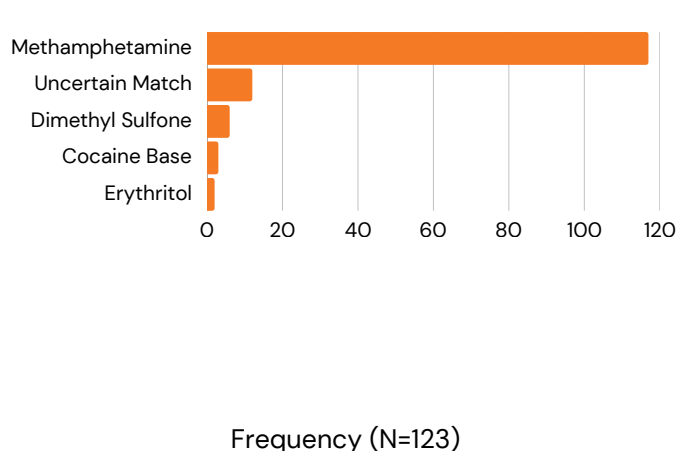


Components found in drug samples in May

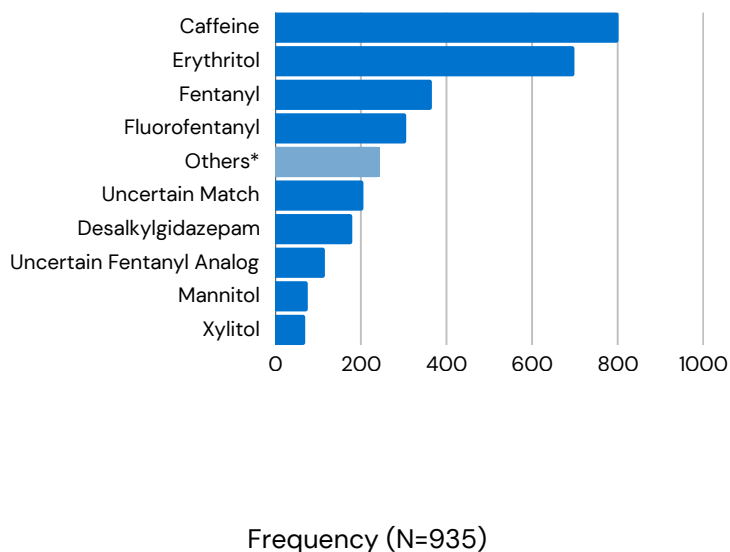
Components in cocaine



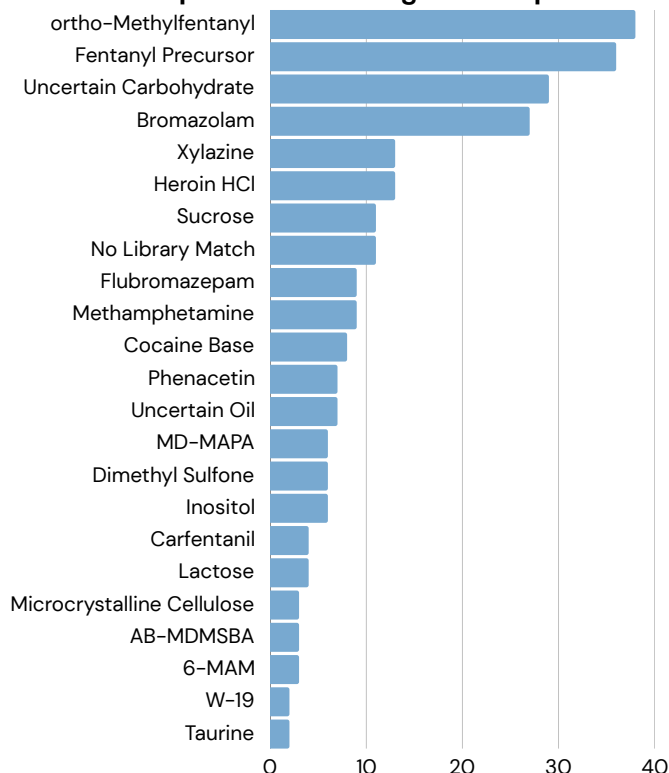
Components in methamphetamine



Components in unregulated opioids



*Other components in unregulated opioids

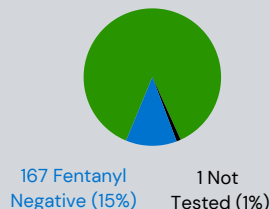


There were additional compounds detected a single time each. To save space, they have been omitted from these charts. For the full list of compounds detected, visit our data dashboard at www.drugcheckingbc.ca/dashboard/

Number of samples tested with **fentanyl** present

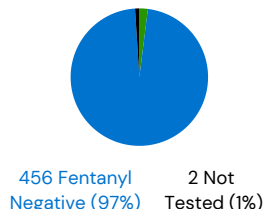
1055 Opioid samples

887 Fentanyl Positive (84%)



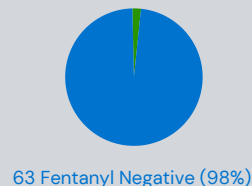
466 Stimulant samples

8 Fentanyl Positive (2%)



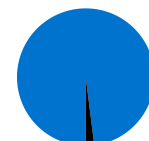
64 Depressant samples

1 Fentanyl Positive (2%)



350 Psychedelic samples

345 Fentanyl Negative (98%)
5 Not Tested (2%)



67 Other samples

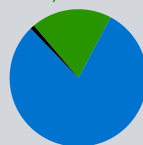
67 Fentanyl Negative (100%)



253 Unknown samples

48 Fentanyl Positive (19%)

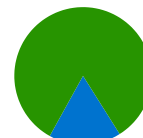
202 Fentanyl Negative (80%)
3 Not Tested (1%)



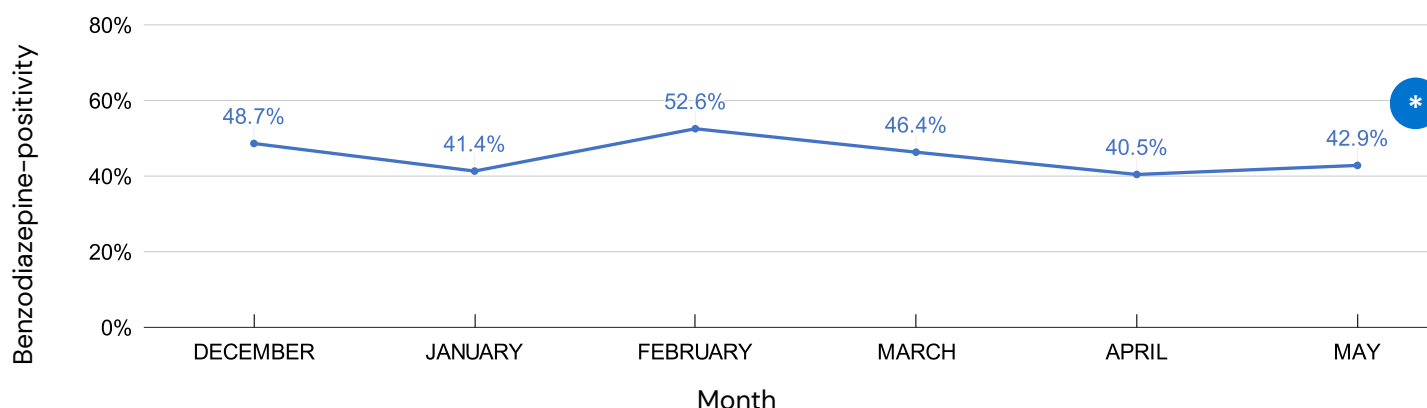
6 Polysubstance samples

5 Fentanyl Positive (83%)

1 Fentanyl Negative (17%)



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

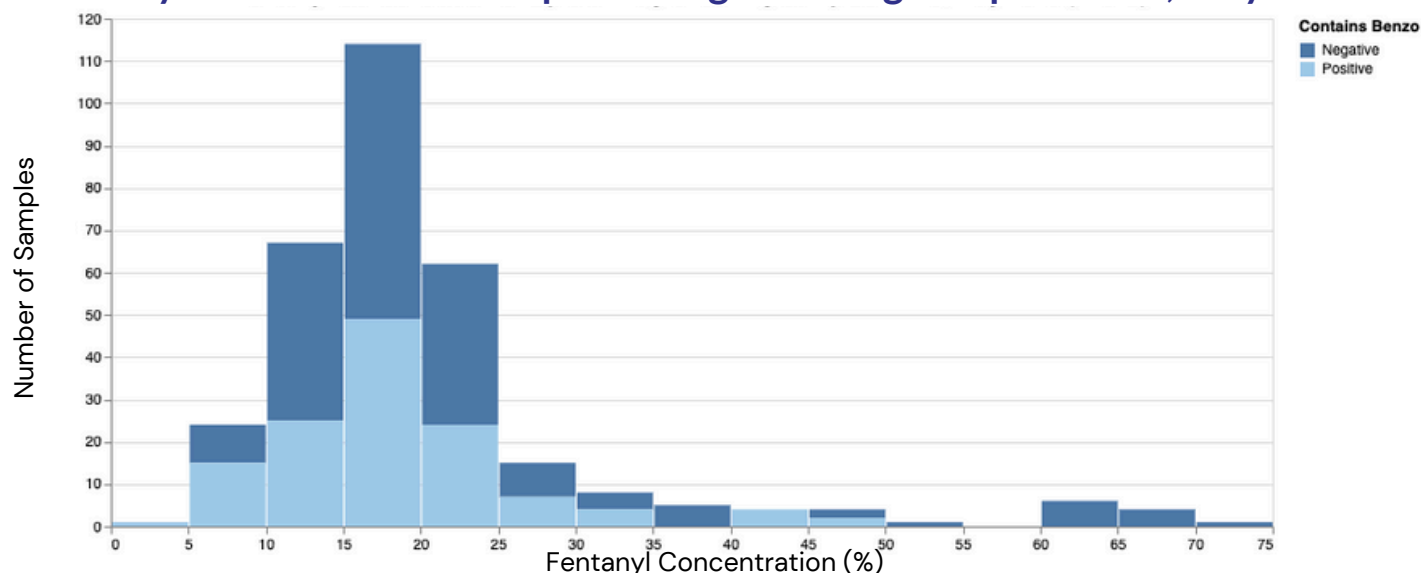


*During the month of May, **42.9%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in our partner sites around BC (**453 samples of 1055 checked**). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are 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](#).

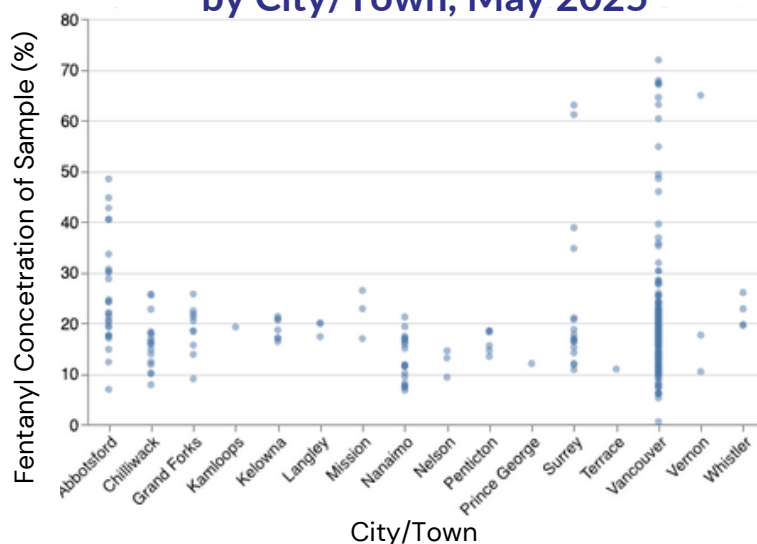
Fentanyl Concentration of Opioid Drug Checking Samples in BC, May 2025



Median fentanyl concentration in all unregulated opioid samples in May: 17.8%.

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.









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



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.

Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid		936	79	40	1055
Stimulant		432	30	4	466
Psychedelic		323	18	9	350
Unknown		0	0	253	253
Other		28	12	27	67
Depressant		43	17	4	64
Polysubstance		5	1	0	6
TOTAL		1767	157	337	2261

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		779	37	1	817
Pharmaceutical		48	23	36	107
Fentanyl		89	10	0	99
Heroin		9	8	2	19
Opium		8	1	0	9
Other Opioid		3	0	1	4
TOTAL		936	79	40	1055

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
May 2, 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.
May 7, 2025 Hope	Fentanyl	AB-MDMSBA, Para-Fluorofentanyl, Desalkylgidazepam	Positive	Positive	Beige powder sold as Fentanyl tested positive for high concentrations of a new synthetic cannabinoid (AB-MDMSBA) in combination with a fentanyl analogue (para-Fluorofentanyl), and a long-acting benzodiazepine (Desalkylgidazepam) in Hope.
May 13, 2025 Vancouver	Down	Medetomidine*	N/A	N/A	Multiple samples sold as down in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver tested positive for medetomidine, a tranquilizer more potent than xylazine, that may not be detected by FTIR spectrometer. Samples range in colour (orange, green, white, black) and texture (chunk, pebbles, granules). Fentanyl and sometimes benzos were also detected.
May 15, 2025 Nelson	Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)	Microcrystalline Cellulose, N- propionyl Para-Fluoro Norfentanyl, Caffeine	Positive	N/A	Dilaudid tablet sold as Dilaudid/Dillies/Hydromorphone tested positive for N-propionyl para-fluoronorfentanyl (a fentanyl analog) in Nelson.
May 23, 2025 Vernon	Down	Medetomidine, Xylazine, Fentanyl and/or analogs*	N/A	N/A	Pink chunk/pebbles sold as Down tested positive for 1-2% medetomidine, xylazine, as well as fentanyl/various fentanyl analogues in Vernon.
May 23, 2025 Vernon	Down	Carfentanil, Fentanyl and/or analogs*	N/A	N/A	Red pebbles sold as Down contains Carfentanil 0.92%, Fentanyl, and Fentanyl analogs 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:

