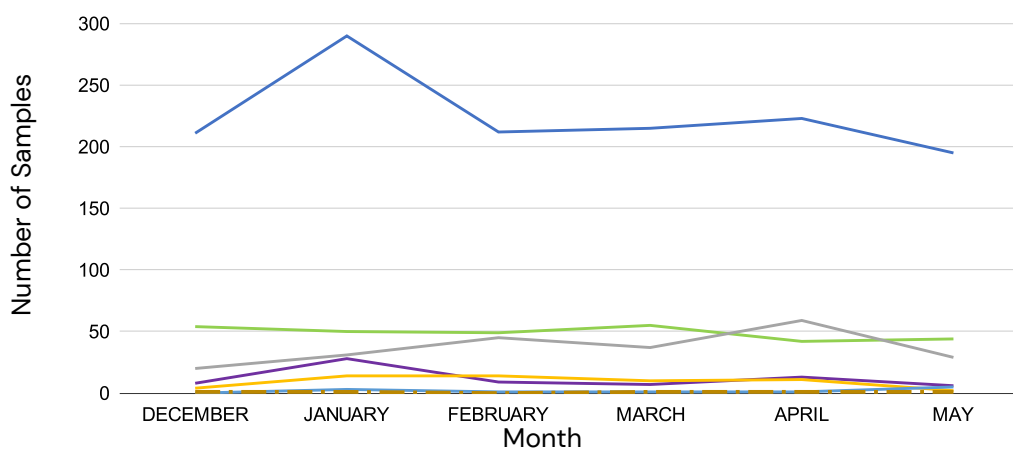




## Key Findings

- In May, 282 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region (15 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased from the previous month to 52.3% (102 of 195).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 32.8% (59 of 180) of unregulated opioids, indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified
- Fentanyl was the most common opioid detected by FTIR (38.9%; 70 of 180), followed by fluorofentanyl (36.7%; 66 samples). Of note, carfentanil was detected in 3 samples.
- Xylazine, a veterinary tranquilizer, was detected in 2.2% (4 of 180) of unregulated opioids.
- A novel synthetic cannabinoid, AB-MDMSBA, was detected in 3 unregulated opioid samples.
- 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        | 195 |
| ● Stimulant     | 44  |
| ● Depressant    | 6   |
| ● Psychedelic   | 2   |
| ● Other         | 5   |
| ● Polysubstance | 1   |
| ● Unknown       | 29  |

**Total: 282**

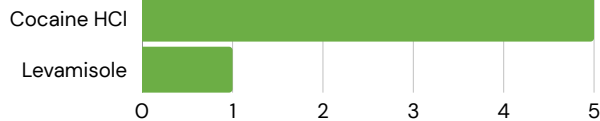
## Number of drug checks at each site

| Location                      | # of Drugs Checked |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Foxglove Housing (Surrey)     | 51                 |
| Mountainside (Abbotsford)     | 95                 |
| Mountainside (Chilliwack)     | 65                 |
| Mountainside (Langley)        | 19                 |
| Mountainside (Mission)        | 14                 |
| Progressive Housing (Burnaby) | 5                  |
| SafePoint (Surrey)            | 20                 |
| <b>Total:</b>                 | <b>282</b>         |

A small number of samples were tested at the following locations, which are included in the total: Foxglove Housing (Coquitlam), Mountainside (Hope), Mountainside (Maple Ridge), Purpose Society (New Westminster).

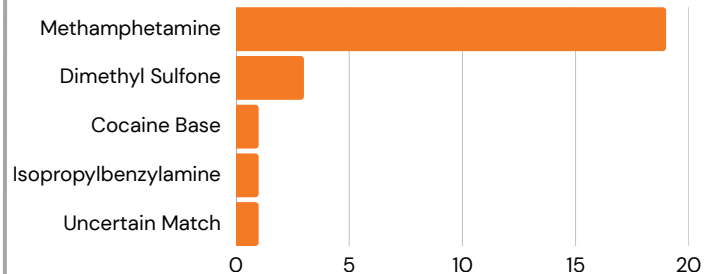
## Components found in drug samples in May

### Components in cocaine



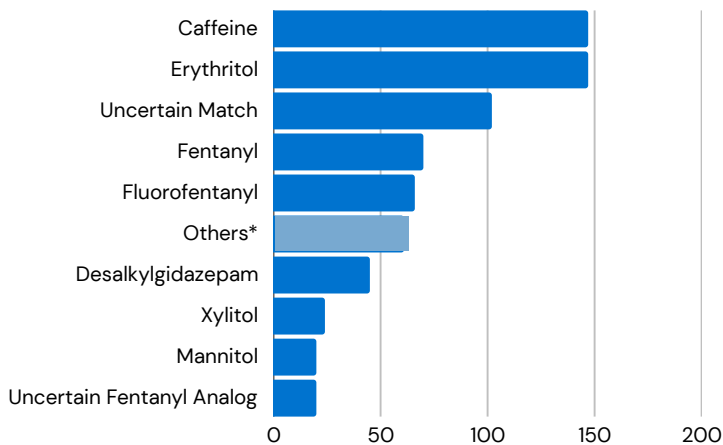
Frequency (N=5)

### Components in methamphetamine



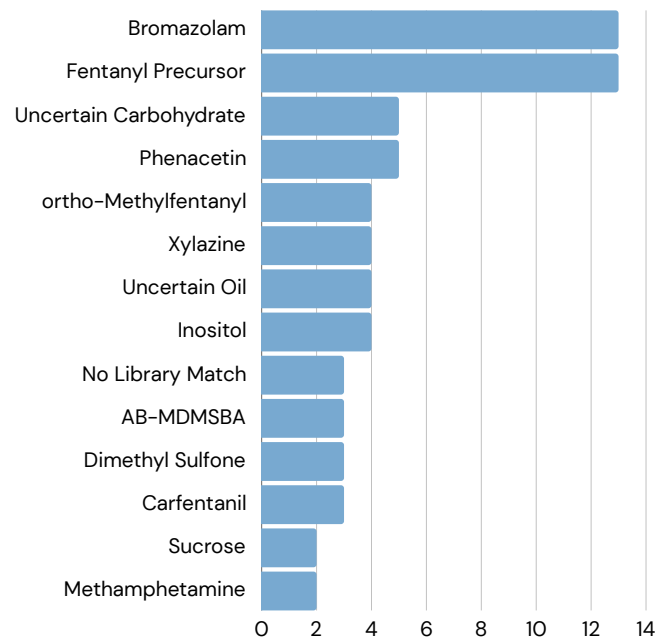
Frequency (N=21)

### Components in unregulated opioids



Frequency (N=180)

### \*Other components in unregulated opioids



There were additional compounds detected a single time each: Ketamine Base, Nifoxipam, Glucosamine Sulfate, Cocaine Base, Uncertain Mineral, Uncertain Wax, Calcium Stearate.

### Number of samples tested with **fentanyl** present

**195 Opioid samples**

178 Fentanyl Positive (91%)



17 Fentanyl Negative (9%)

**44 Stimulant samples**

3 Fentanyl Positive (7%)



41 Fentanyl Negative (93%)

**6 Depressant samples**



6 Fentanyl Negative (100%)

**2 Psychedelic samples**



2 Fentanyl Negative (%)

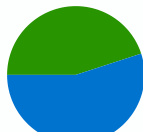
**5 Other samples**



5 Fentanyl Negative (100%)

**29 Unknown samples**

13 Fentanyl Positive (45%)



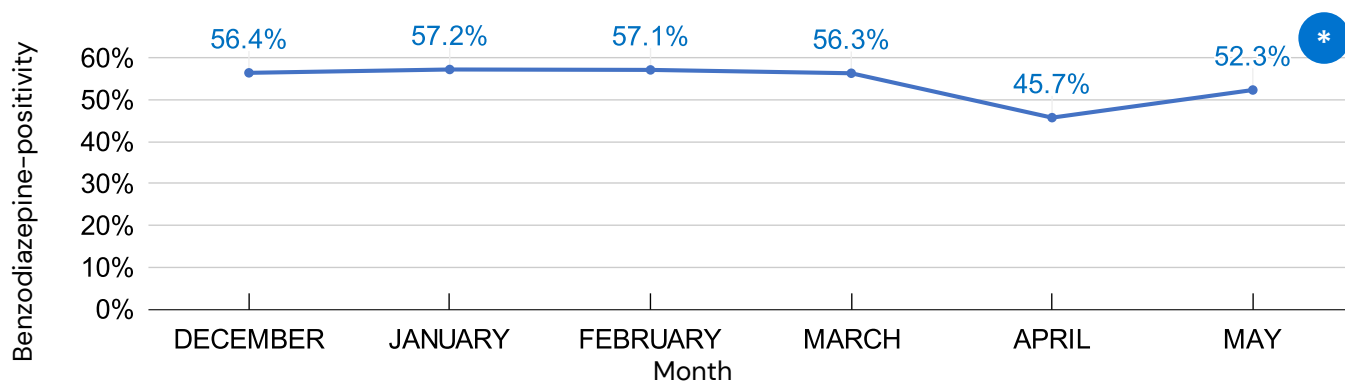
16 Fentanyl Negative (55%)

**1 Polysubstance samples**











1 Fentanyl Negative (100%)

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










\*During the month of May, **52.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**102 samples of 195 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        |  | 186     | 6           | 3   | 195   |
| Stimulant     |  | 41      | 2           | 1   | 44    |
| Unknown       |  | 0       | 0           | 29  | 29    |
| Depressant    |  | 6       | 0           | 0   | 6     |
| Other         |  | 1       | 4           | 0   | 5     |
| Psychedelic   |  | 2       | 0           | 0   | 2     |
| Polysubstance |  | 1       | 0           | 0   | 1     |
| TOTAL         |  | 237     | 12          | 33  | 282   |

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           |  | 157     | 3           | 0   | 160   |
| Fentanyl       |  | 17      | 2           | 0   | 19    |
| Pharmaceutical |  | 7       | 0           | 3   | 10    |
| Opium          |  | 3       | 0           | 0   | 3     |
| Other Opioid   |  | 2       | 0           | 0   | 2     |
| Heroin         |  | 0       | 1           | 0   | 1     |
| TOTAL          |  | 186     | 6           | 3   | 195   |

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<br>Coquitlam  | Down          | Xylazine,<br>Nifoxipam, Fentanyl,<br>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<br>Hope   | Fentanyl      | AB-MDMSBA,<br>Para-Fluorofentanyl,<br>Desalkylgizapam | 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 (Desalkylgizapam) in Hope. |
| <p>All spectrometry results are determined by FTIR, with the exception of the following:<br/>           * Results provided by complementary testing partner <a href="#">Substance</a> using Paper Spray Mass Spectrometry</p> <p>Health authorities and community organizations issue further toxic drug alerts from sources other than drug checking.<br/>           See their respective websites or social media accounts for more alerts.</p> |               |   |                |             |   |

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:

