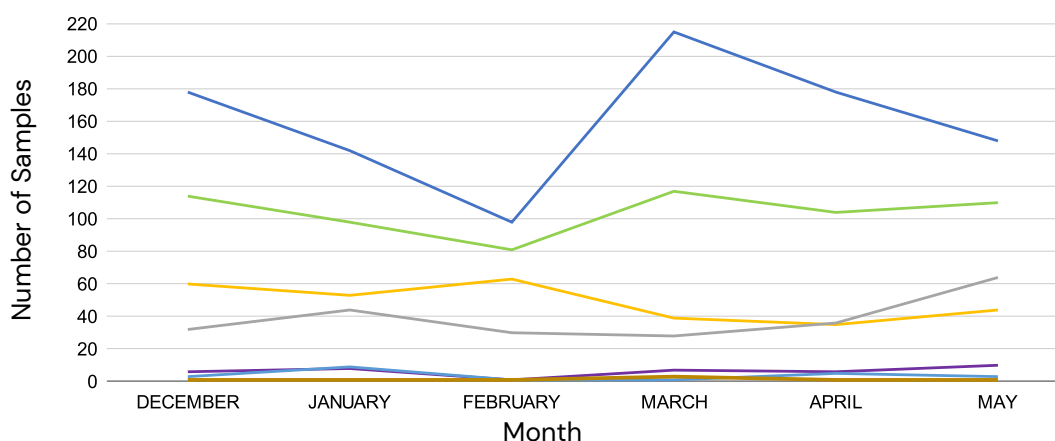




Key Findings

- In May, a total of 380 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region (19 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip was increased to 58.8% (87 of 148).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 31.4% of unregulated opioids (43 of 137), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified, and notably, flubromazepam detection increased (9 samples up from 7 in April).
- Fluorofentanyl remained the most common opioid detected by FTIR (52.6%; 72 of 137), followed by fentanyl (31.4%; 43 samples).
- Xylazine, a veterinary tranquilizer, was detected by FTIR in 4.4% of unregulated opioids (6 of 137).
- 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	148
Stimulant	110
Depressant	10
Psychedelic	44
Other	3
Polysubstance	1
Unknown	64

Total: 380

Number of drug checks at each site

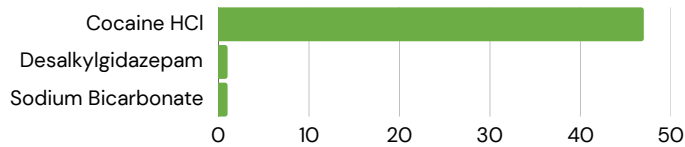
Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	86
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	23
ANKORS (Nelson)	55
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	44
ASK Wellness (Kelowna)	55
ASK Wellness (Merritt)	5
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	48
ASK (Deep Roots Music Festival)	5
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy (Vernon)	58
Total	380

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

ANKORS (Trail)

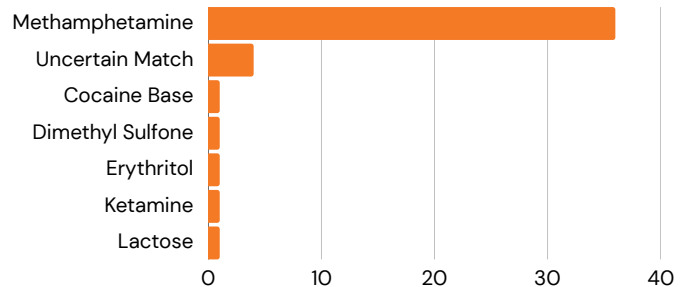
Components found in drug samples in May

Components in cocaine



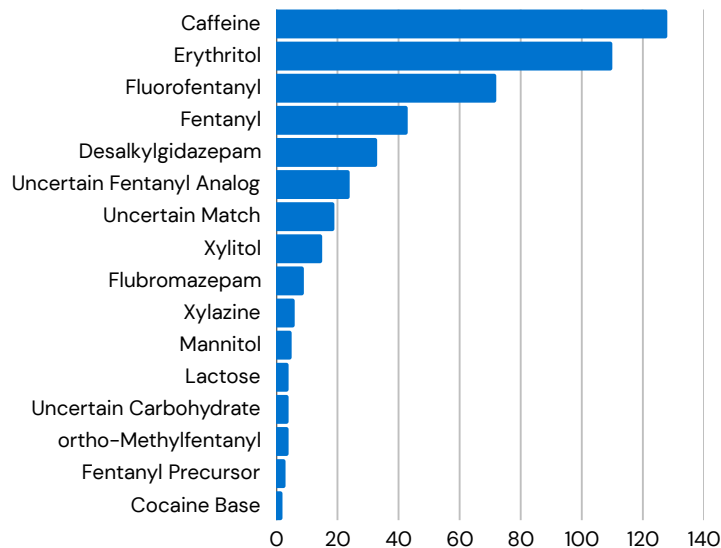
Frequency (N=49)

Components in methamphetamine



Frequency (N=37)

Components in unregulated opioids



There were additional compounds detected a single time each:
Acetaminophen, Bromazepam, Glucose, Heroin HCl, Ketamine, MD-
MAPA, Methamphetamine, Plaster, Sucrose.

Frequency (N=137)

Number of samples tested with **fentanyl** present

148 Opioid samples

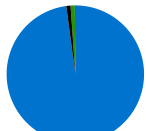
137 Fentanyl Positive (93%)



11 Fentanyl Negative (7%)

110 Stimulant samples

1 Fentanyl Positive (1%)



108 Fentanyl Negative (98%)
1 Not Tested (1%)

10 Depressant samples

10 Fentanyl Negative (100%)

44 Psychedelic samples

1 Fentanyl Positive (2%)



43 Fentanyl Negative (98%)

64 Unknown samples

4 Fentanyl Positive (6%)



59 Fentanyl Negative (92%)
1 Not Tested (2%)

3 Other samples

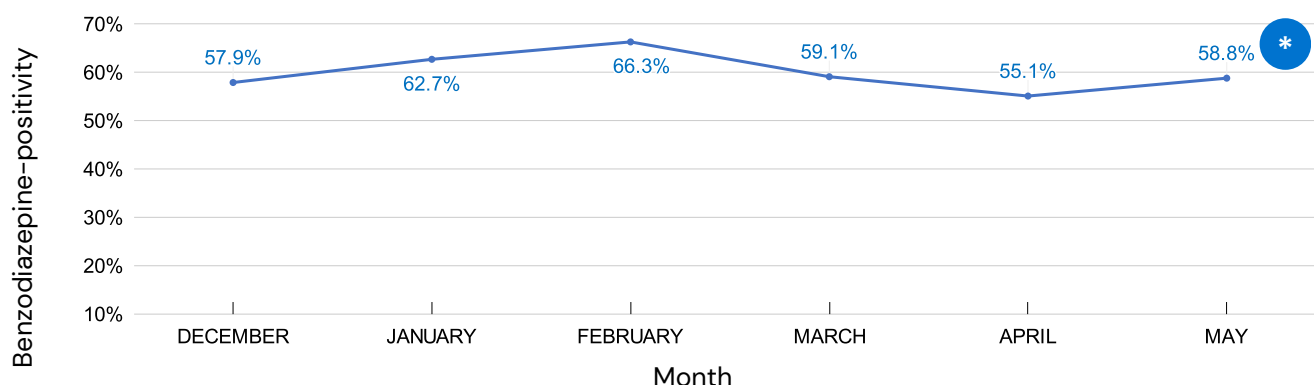
3 Fentanyl Negative (100%)

1 Polysubstance samples

1 Fentanyl Positive (%)











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









*During the month of May, **58.8%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (**87 samples of 148 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		134	9	5	148
Stimulant		107	3	0	110
Unknown		0	0	64	64
Psychedelic		40	4	0	44
Depressant		2	7	1	10
Other		0	1	2	3
Polysubstance		0	1	0	1
TOTAL		283	25	72	380

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		111	4	0	115
Fentanyl		21	0	0	21
Pharmaceutical		2	4	4	10
Heroin		0	1	0	1
Other Opioid		0	0	1	1
TOTAL		134	9	5	148

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 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.
<p>All spectrometry results are determined by FTIR, with the exception of the following: * Results provided by complementary testing partner <u>Substance</u> using Paper Spray Mass Spectrometry</p> <p>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</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:

