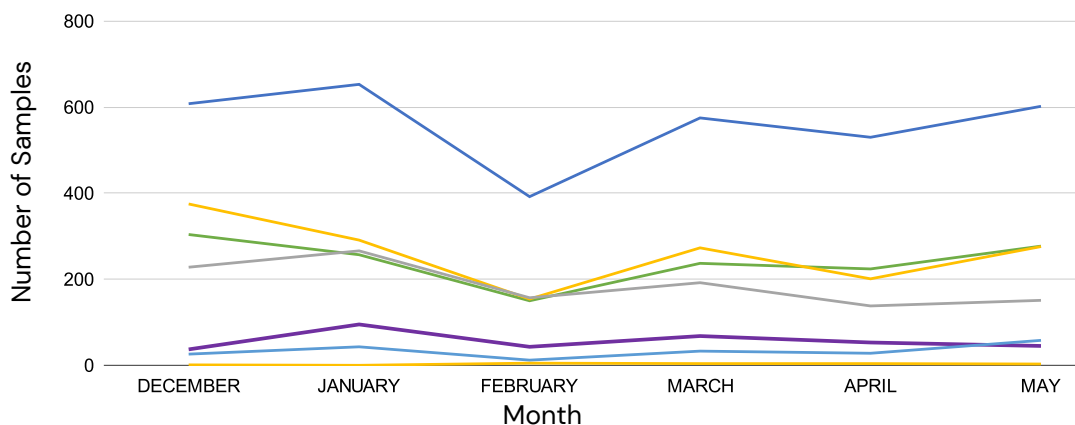




Key Findings

- In May, a total of 1,412 drug checks were performed across the Vancouver Coastal Health region (10 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased from the previous month to 30.9% (186 of 602).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 18.3% of unregulated opioids (95 of 518), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified.
- Fentanyl was the most common opioid detected by FTIR (43.2%; 224 of 518), followed by fluorofentanyl (24.5%; 127 samples). Of note, carfentanil was detected in 1 sample.
- Xylazine, a veterinary tranquilizer, was detected in 0.6% of unregulated opioids (3 of 518).
- 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

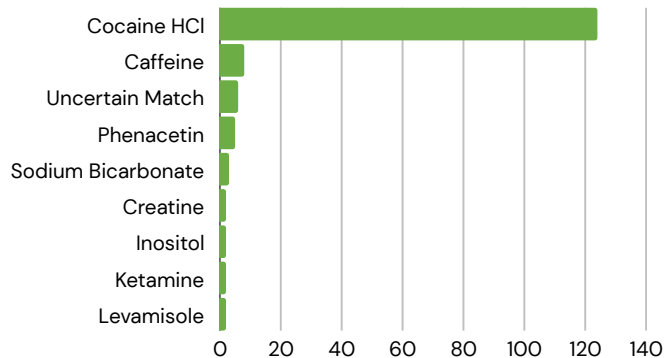
● Opioid	602
● Stimulant	277
● Depressant	45
● Psychedelic	276
● Other	58
● Polysubstance	3
● Unknown	151
Total:	1,412

Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Get Your Drugs Tested (Vancouver)	941
Insite (Vancouver)	438
WCSS (Squamish)	8
WCSS (Whistler)	13
Tla'amin Nation (Powell River)	12
Total:	1,412

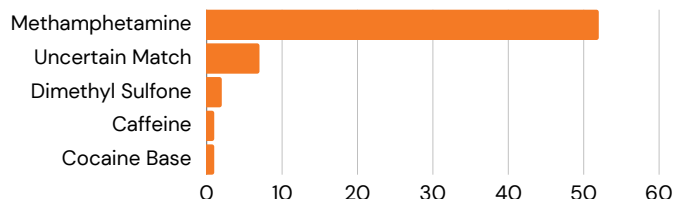
Components found in drug samples in May

Components in cocaine



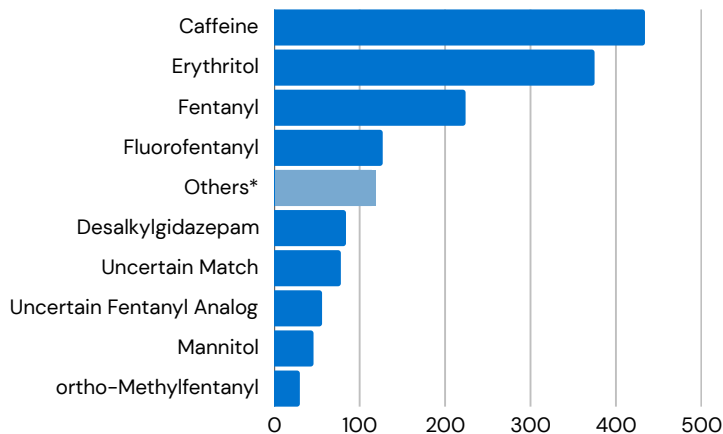
Frequency (N=133)

Components in methamphetamine



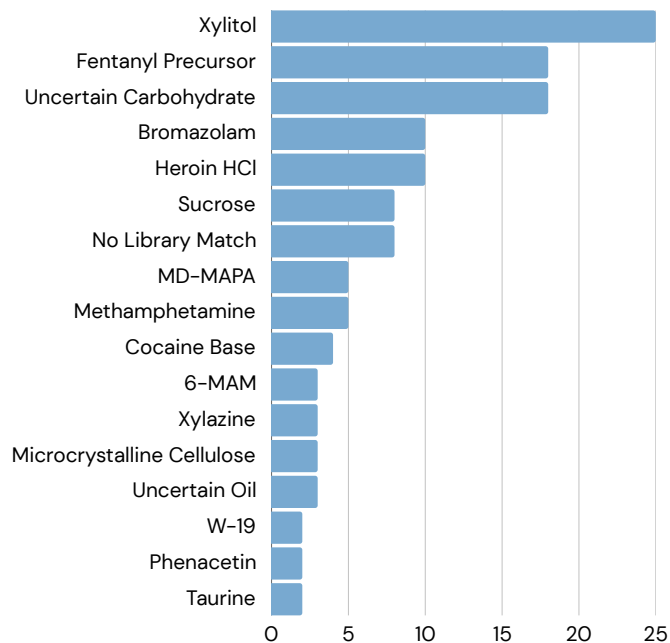
Frequency (N=54)

Components in unregulated opioids



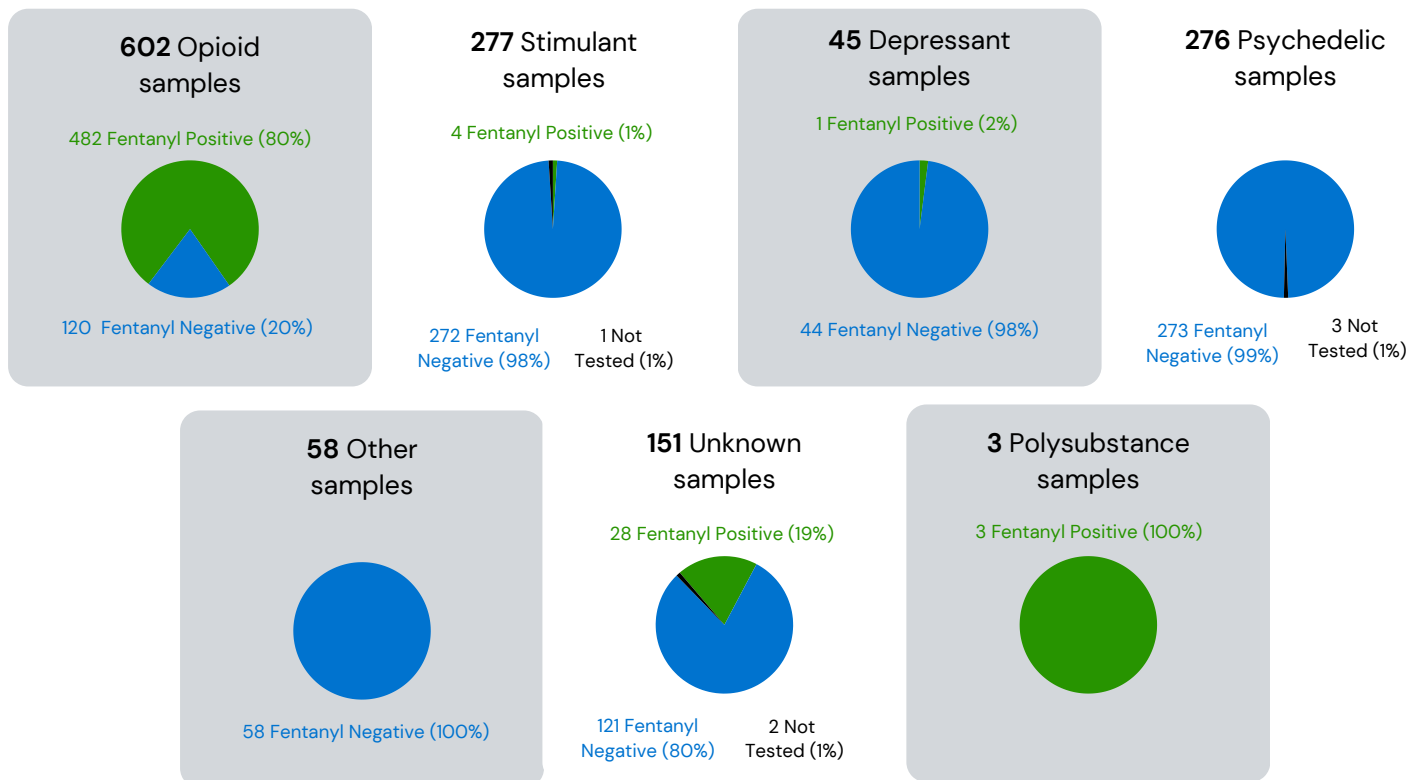
Frequency (N=518)

*Other components in unregulated opioids

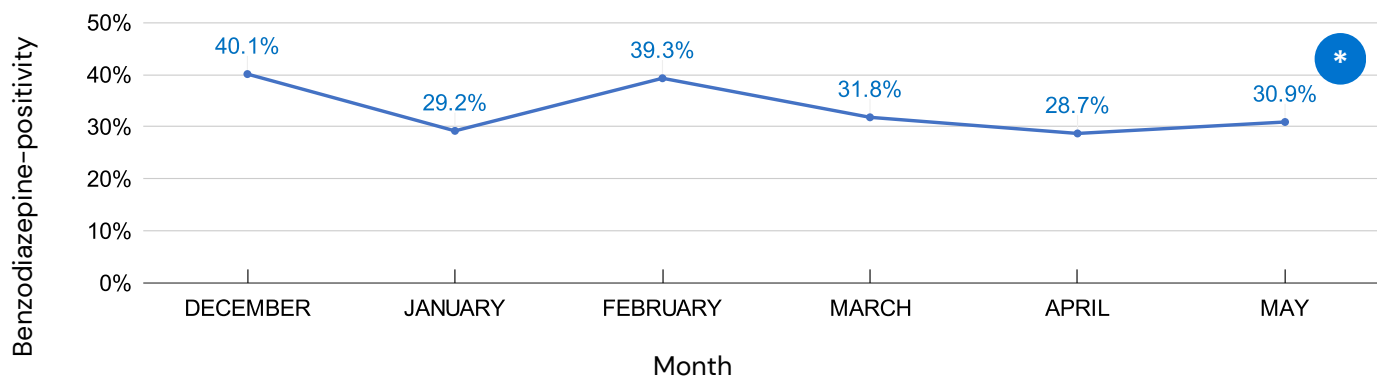


There were additional compounds detected a single time each: THC, Vitamin C, Cannabidiol, Etizolam, Carfentanil, Sodium Bicarbonate, Inositol, Polyethylene Glycol, Metonitazene, MDMA, Sildenafil

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present











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










*During the month of May, 30.9% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Vancouver Coastal Health (186 samples of 602 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		522	53	27	602
Stimulant		253	21	3	277
Psychedelic		259	9	8	276
Unknown		0	0	151	151
Other		26	7	25	58
Depressant		35	9	1	45
Polysubstance		3	0	0	3
TOTAL		1098	99	215	1412

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		422	24	0	446
Pharmaceutical		38	14	25	77
Fentanyl		47	8	0	55
Heroin		9	6	2	17
Opium		5	1	0	6
Other Opioid		1	0	0	1
TOTAL		522	53	27	602

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 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.

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