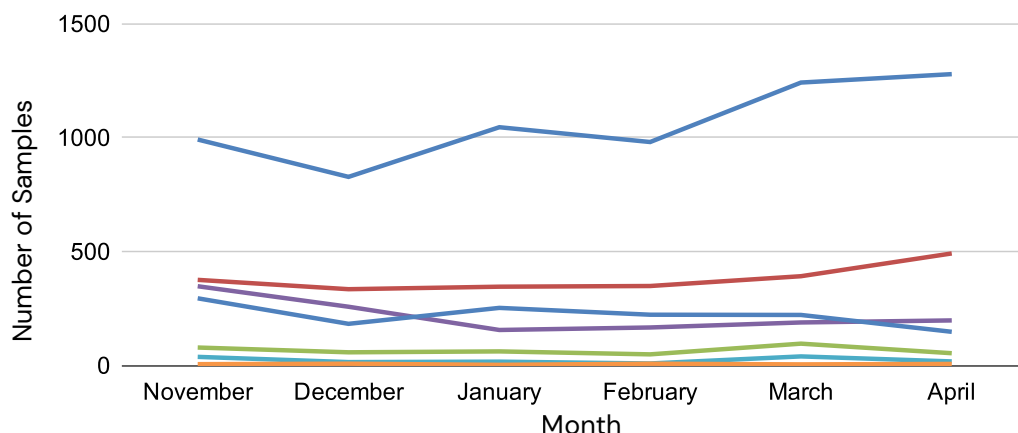




Key findings

- In April, **2,196** drug checks were performed by community FTIR drug checking sites in BC (**59 access points**). The increase in samples from previous months is due primarily to the expansion of services in the Interior Health region.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased to **39.5%**. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified, though detection has declined to levels last seen in 2024.
- We continue to monitor the emergence of novel benzodiazepines in unregulated opioids, which included ethylbromazolam, meclonazepam, nifoxipam, clobromazolam, and 3-HO-desalkylgidazepam in April.
- The median concentration of fentanyl and/or fluorofentanyl in unregulated opioids increased to **9.4%** (see page 3).
- The percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine decreased to **28.2%**. In response to the emergence of medetomidine in the drug supply, all health authorities have implemented medetomidine test strips at drug checking sites.
- Among opioids sent for secondary testing across BC in April (**n=251**), medetomidine was detected in **110 samples**. Medetomidine concentrations ranged from <1% to 15%, and the median was **2.0%**. In addition, xylazine was detected in **16 samples**, and carfentanil in **11 samples**.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in Apr.

Opioid	1279
Stimulant	492
Depressant	54
Psychedelic	198
Other	18
Polysubstance	7
Unknown	148

Total: 2,196

Number of samples tested by region

Vancouver Coastal Health region: 739 (**36%**)

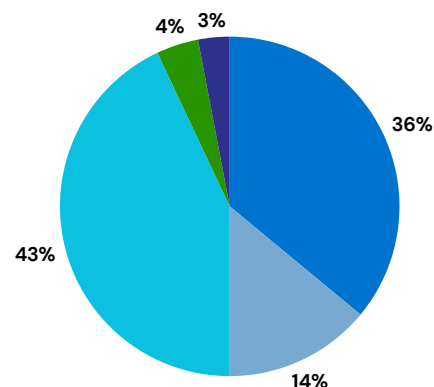
Fraser Health region: 321 (**14%**)

Interior Health region: 961 (**43%**)

Island Health region: 105 (**4%**)

Northern Health region: 70 (**3%**)

Total: 2,196*



*Does not include samples tested at Substance Drug Checking services. Please see the Island Health report for more information.

Number of samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Opioid	1215	45	19	1279
Stimulant	464	26	2	492
Depressant	33	20	1	54
Psychedelic	180	15	3	198
Other	10	1	7	18
Polysubstance	5	2	0	7
Unknown	0	0	148	148
Total	1907	109	180	2196

Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.

Opioids

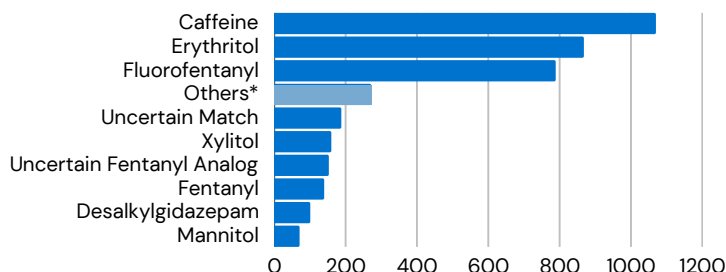
Number of opioid samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	51	5	0	56
Heroin	2	1	1	4
Other Opioid	4	0	0	4
Down	1112	27	3	1142
Pharmaceutical	43	12	15	70
Opium	3	0	0	3
Total	1215	45	19	1279

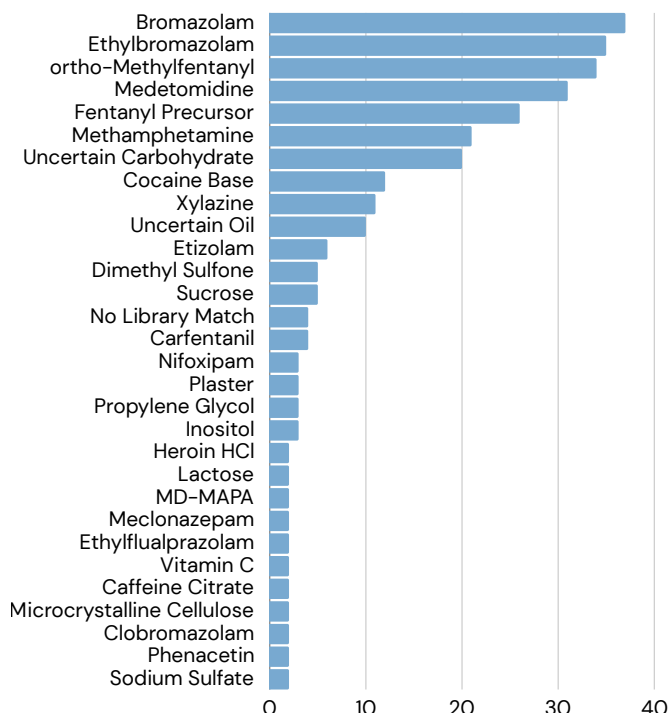
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents. 'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=1202)

Main components



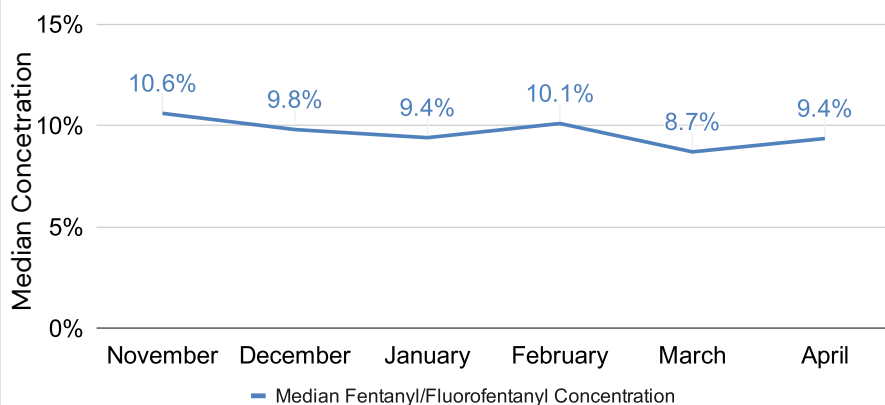
Other components



Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

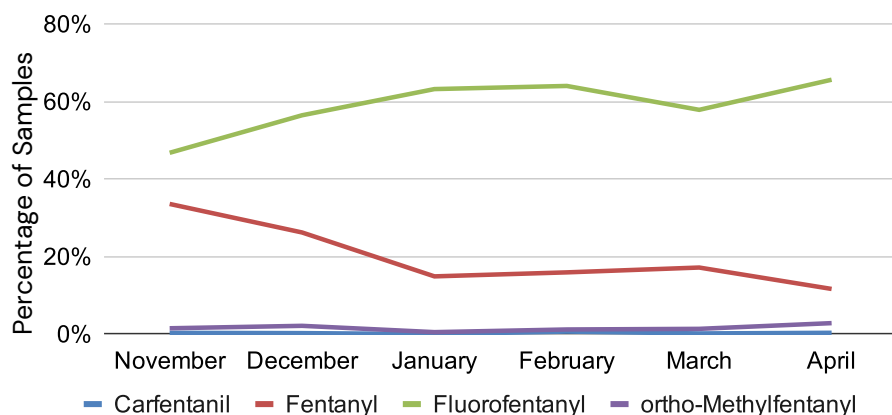
Median fentanyl concentration of unregulated opioids, past 6 months

Concentrations were estimated using a validated quantification model for the purposes of this report with aggregated data. To learn more about the QUANT3 quantification model visit [here](#).



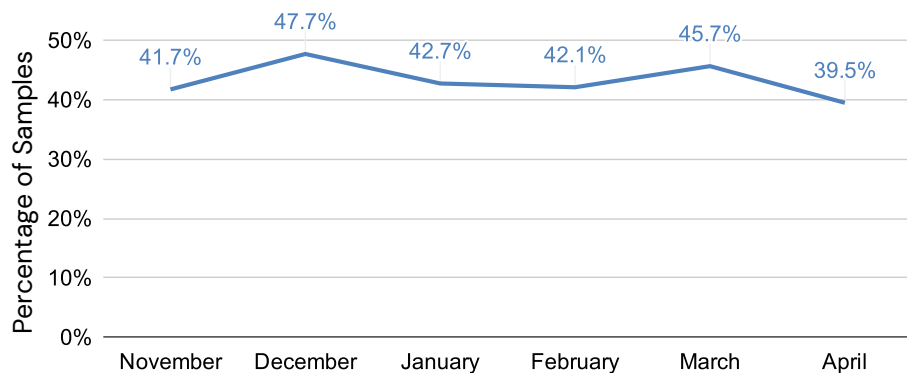
- In April, the overall median fentanyl/fluorofentanyl concentration increased to **9.4%** (n=1141).
- Most unregulated opioids contained fentanyl and/or fluorofentanyl at concentrations between **4.2%** and **15.7%**, but concentrations can range from trace amounts to comprising most of the mixture.
- Fentanyl and fluorofentanyl are the predominate fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, and are considered to have similar potency. They are combined here to show their overall median concentration over the past 6 months.

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



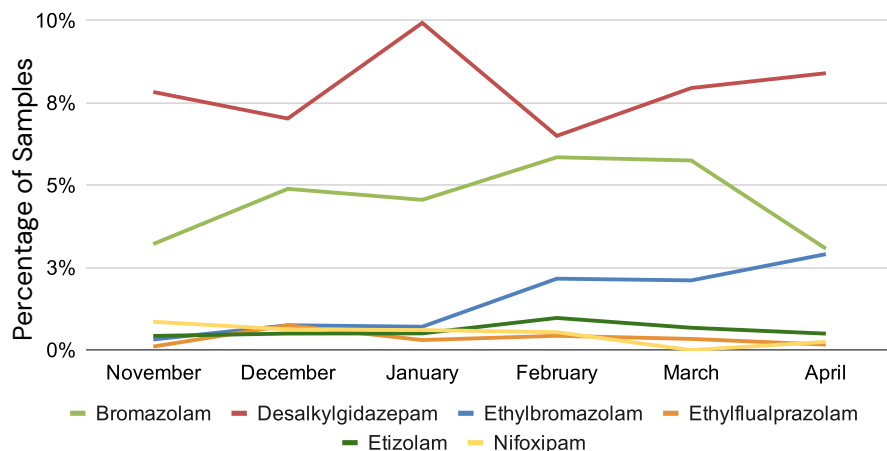
- In April, fluorofentanyl was detected in **65.6%** of samples (**789 of 1202 checked**), the highest level of detection by FTIR to-date.
- Conversely, fentanyl was detected in **17.2%** of opioids (**203 samples**), the lowest level of detection to-date. The declining number of fentanyl detections may indicate that less is circulating in the opioid supply, and/or that it is present in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%).
- Carfentanil was detected by FTIR in **4 samples** this month. The true number is expected to be higher, as carfentanil is usually contained in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%). See the **Secondary Testing** section of this report for more information.

Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines, past 6 months



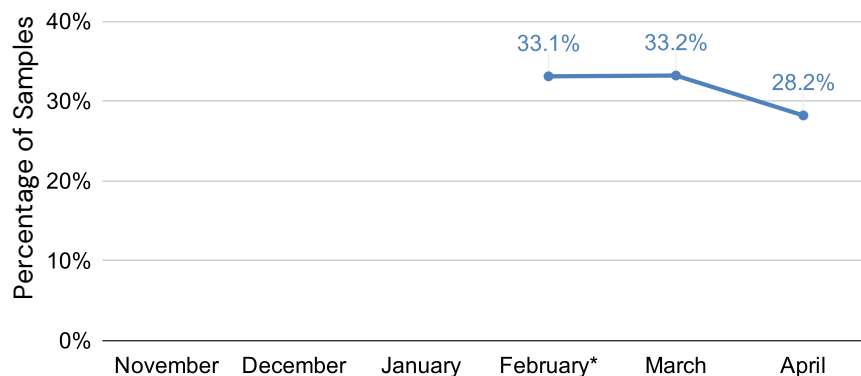
- During the month of April, the percentage of opioid samples testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased to **39.5%** (**505 samples of 1279 checked**).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The true percentage may be higher, as some benzodiazepines (e.g., etizolam, ethylflualprazolam) may be missed by test strip.

Types of benzodiazepines detected by FTIR, past 6 months



- In April, **15.9%** of unregulated opioids (**191 of 1202 samples**) contained benzodiazepines at concentrations detectable by FTIR (>5%). Of these, desalkylgidazepam remained the most common (**8.4%; 101 samples**).
- Bromazolam and ethylbromazolam were detected at nearly identical levels this month (**3.1% vs. 2.9%, respectively**). This reflects a shift from previous months, with bromazolam detections declining as ethylbromazolam continues to increase.
- We are continuing to monitor the emergence of novel benzodiazepines. Alongside ethylbromazolam, this included meclonazepam, nifoxipam, clobromazolam, and 3-HO-desalkylgidazepam in April.

Percentage of opioids testing positive for medetomidine, past 6 months

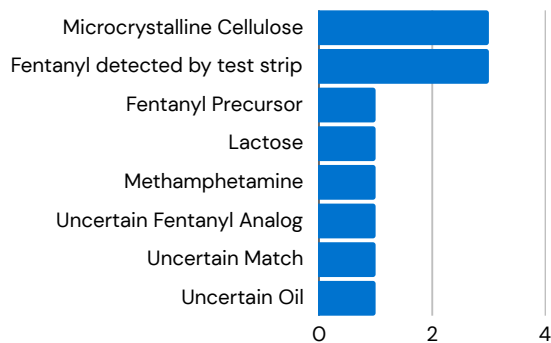


- During the month of April, the percentage of unregulated opioid samples testing positive for medetomidine decreased to **28.2%** (308 of 1092 samples checked).
- Unregulated opioids are checked for medetomidine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. In response to the emergence of medetomidine, test strips have been implemented at all drug checking sites, as it is typically present in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%).
- *Please note that February consists of samples checked only in the Interior Health region.

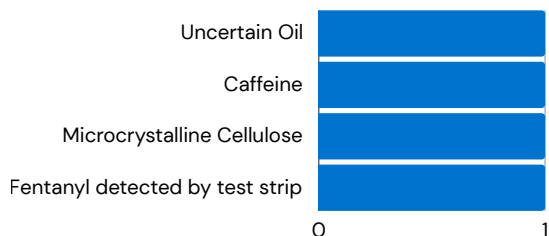
Components detected in pharmaceutical opioids

(where expected drug was not detected)

Hydromorphone (N=5)



Oxycodone (N=1)

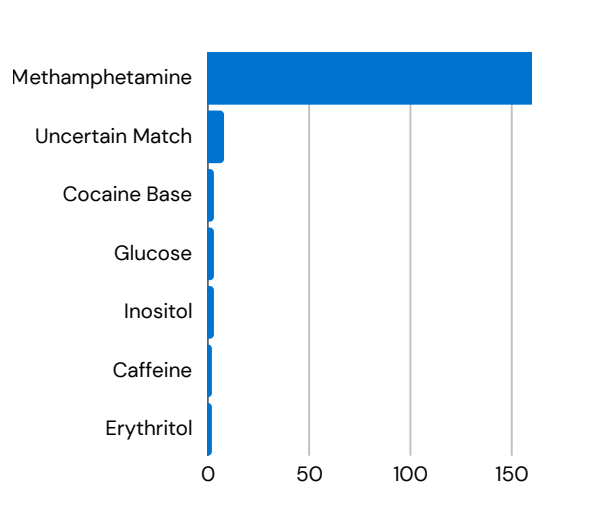


- In April, a total of **70 samples** were submitted as pharmaceutical opioids. Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) (n=50), oxycodone (OxyContin) (n=13), and acetaminophen + oxycodone (Percocet) (n=5) were the most frequently submitted.
- Of the samples expected to contain hydromorphone, **5** were determined to be counterfeit as they did not contain the expected drugs and instead contained unexpected active ingredients. The most common active ingredients detected were fentanyl/analogues detected by test strip/FTIR.
- Of the samples expected to contain oxycodone, **1** was determined to be counterfeit as it did not contain the expected drugs and instead contained fentanyl, as detected by test strip.

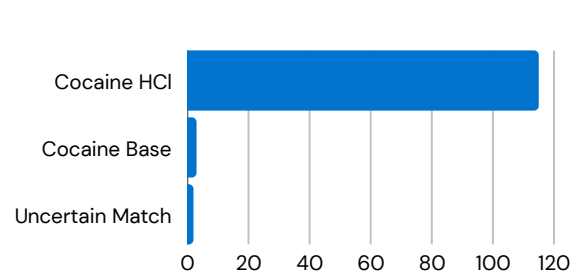
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

Components in methamphetamine (N=222)

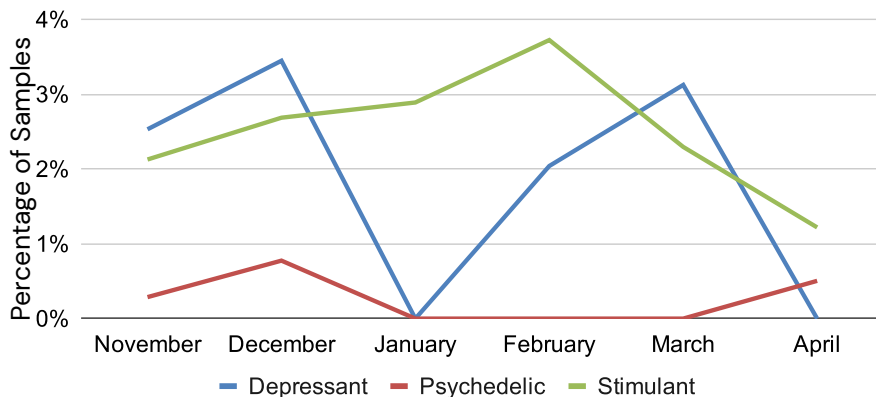


Components in cocaine (N=120)



Additional components detected a single time of samples have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on our [dashboard](#)

Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months



- In April, **1.2%** of all stimulant samples (**3** methamphetamine, **2** cocaine HCl, **1** crack cocaine), and **0.5%** of all psychedelic samples (**1** ketamine), tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR and/or test strip.
- Of these, **2 samples (28.6%)** were expected to be cross-contaminated by the service user, noting they had been stored with opioids prior to submitting the sample for drug checking.

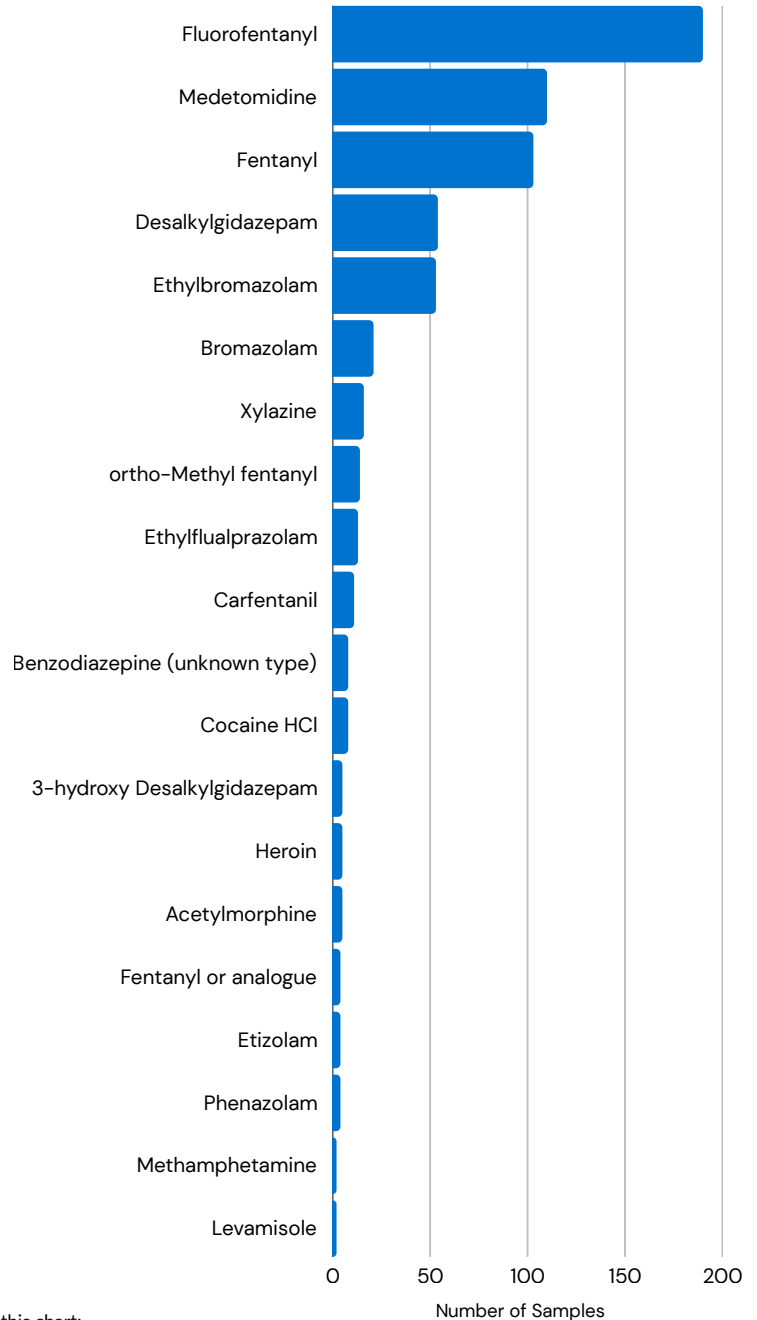
PSMS Secondary Testing Results Summary

A subset of samples were sent for secondary testing provided by Substance at the University of Victoria, using Paper-Spray Mass Spectrometry (PSMS). PSMS is a highly sensitive technology, and can detect components in samples below the detection limit of the FTIR (<5%). Below is a summary of all active components detected in opioid samples sent in confirmatory testing. For more information about Substance please visit their [website](#).

Total opioids sent to Substance

Health Authority	Number of Samples
Interior Health	106
Fraser Health	80
Northern Health	52
Island Health	11
Vancouver Coastal Health	2
Total	251

Active components detected (n=251)



To save space, additional components detected a single time have been omitted from this chart: Meclonazepam, Flualprazolam, Lidocaine, Procaine, Fentanyl analogue (unknown type), Methocarbamol, Nifoxipam, Acetaminophen.

Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Alert Message
April 1, 2026 Vernon	Methamphetamine	White chunks sold as crystal meth/side tested positive for p-fluorofentanyl in Vernon.
April 11, 2026 Squamish	Down	Dark green chunk sold as down in Squamish tested positive for fentanyl and phenazolan, a novel benzodiazepine analog.
April 17, 2026 Vancouver	Down	Brown chunks sold as down in East Vancouver tested positive for carfentanil, a very toxic fentanyl analog.
April 22, 2026 Squamish	Down	Multiple substances (green/yellow, red) sold as down in Squamish have tested positive for fentanyl, benzos and medetomidine. Substances have caused overdose.
April 24, 2026 Penticton	Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)	White tablet sold as dilaudid tested positive for cychlorphine in Penticton.
April 27, 2026 Vancouver	Down	White powder sold as down in southeast Vancouver tested negative for fentanyl and positive for medetomidine, a toxic veterinary tranquilizer.
April 30, 2026 Vancouver	Down	Multiple nitazene analogs detected in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, including a white powder testing positive for ethylene etonitazene and a purple powder testing positive for furanyl-UF-17. Nitazenes are toxic synthetic opioids that respond to naloxone but test negative using fentanyl test strips.

Alerts are issued based on FTIR and test strip results determined at point-of-care, or results from samples sent for further secondary testing by [Substance](#), or [Health Canada Drug Analysis Service](#)

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).

About this data

Data represented in this report is collected from our partner sites across the province using Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrometry in combination with BTNX fentanyl test strips and benzodiazepine test strips when applicable. We note the FTIR spectrometer has a detection limit of approximately 5% concentration (McCrae, 2019).

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.

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of [our partners](#) to collect this data.

To find drug checking services in your area please visit our [site locator](#).