Substance Drug Checking

Preliminary Results for May 2026

Substance Drug Checking on Vancouver Island offers free and confidential drug checking services in Victoria, Port Alberni, Comox Valley, Campbell River, Duncan, Port Hardy, and at local events. This report presents data about the drug supply on Vancouver Island for May 2026.

782

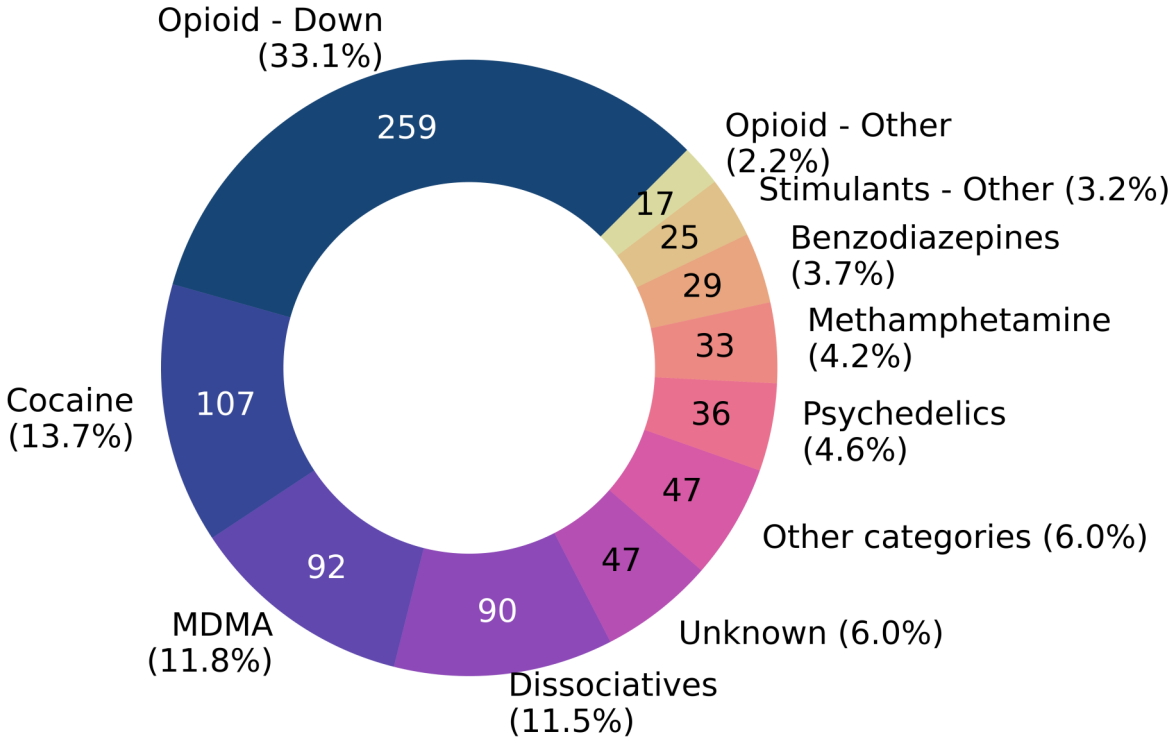
Samples Tested May 2026

Highlighted findings:

- 50.0% (401/782) of samples were as expected with no cuts or adulterants detected
- The median fentanyl concentration found across all drug categories was 2.9%
- The median fluorofentanyl concentration found across all drug categories was 6.7%
- Benzodiazepines were found in 31.7% (82/259) of expected Opioid - Down samples
    - Ethylbromazolam was found in 35 opioid-down samples with a median concentration of 1.3% and maximum concentration of 4.5%
- Medetomidine was found in 47 expected Opioid - Down samples with a median concentration of 0.6% and a maximum concentration of 4.7%
- Metonitazene was detected in 1 opioid-down sample, Etodesnitazene was detected in 2 opioid-down samples

What were people bringing to be checked?

Service users bring us a wide variety of substances that can be grouped into different drug classes. This pie chart aggregates the samples we checked by their "expected" substance (i.e. the drug category reported by the service user). The number of samples checked in each class is included inside each slice and the relative proportion of all samples checked is given in parentheses. These data are separated by collection location/method on the following page.



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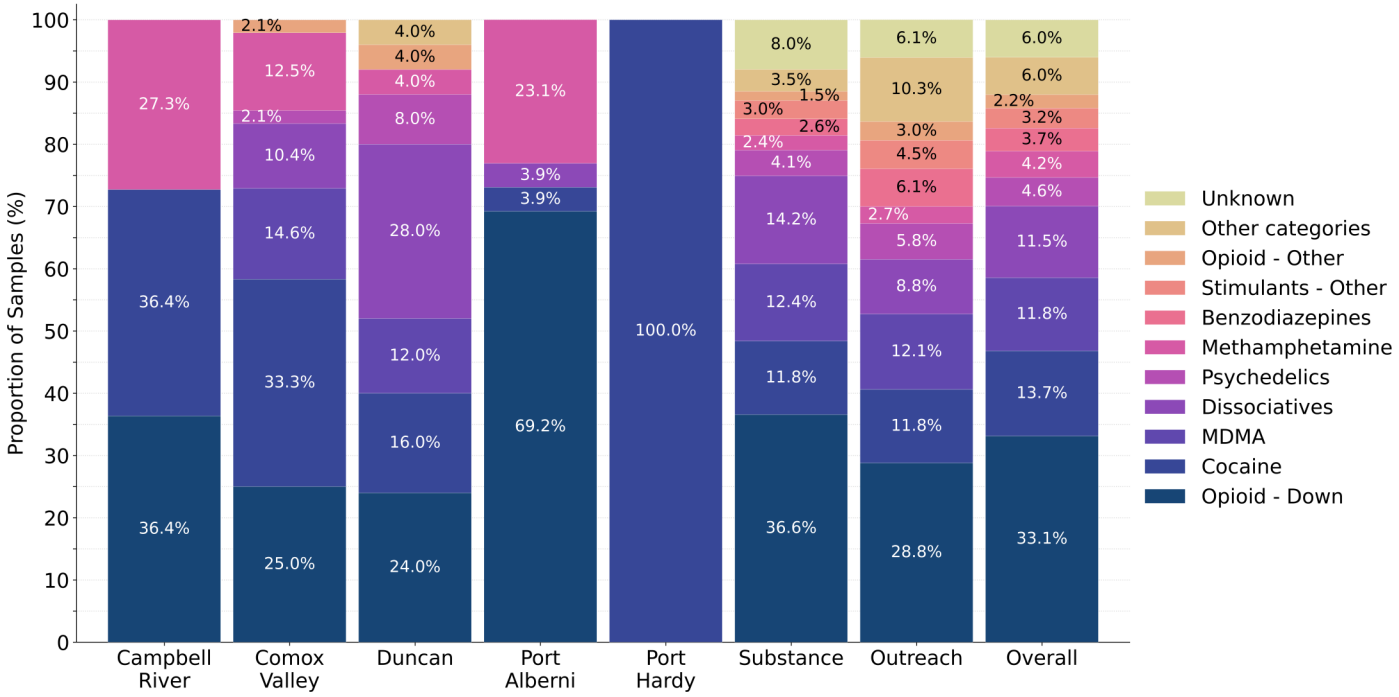
What were people bringing to be checked by service model?

The “expected substance” data presented on the previous page can be separated by sample collection location/ method, where “Substance” samples are those brought directly to our Victoria storefront, “Campbell River”, “Comox Valley”, “Duncan”, “Port Alberni”, and “Port Hardy” are samples received through our distributed drug checking model, and “Outreach” samples are those collected at supported housing sites, at overdose prevention and supervised consumption locations, and through drop-off envelopes. The relative proportions of samples checked by expected class and location are shown in the figure below; sample counts are listed in the table at the bottom of this page.



Expected Substance Class	Campbell River	Comox Valley	Duncan	Port Alberni	Port Hardy	Substance	Outreach	Overall
Opioid - Down	4	12	6	18	0	124	95	259
Cocaine	4	16	4	1	3	40	39	107
MDMA	0	7	3	0	0	42	40	92
Dissociatives	0	5	7	1	0	48	29	90
Psychedelics	0	1	2	0	0	14	19	36
Methamphetamine	3	6	1	6	0	8	9	33
Benzodiazepines	0	0	0	0	0	9	20	29
Stimulants - Other	0	0	0	0	0	10	15	25
Opioid - Other	0	1	1	0	0	5	10	17
Other categories	0	0	1	0	0	12	34	47
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	27	20	47
Total	**11**	**48**	**25**	**26**	**3**	**339**	**330**	**782**

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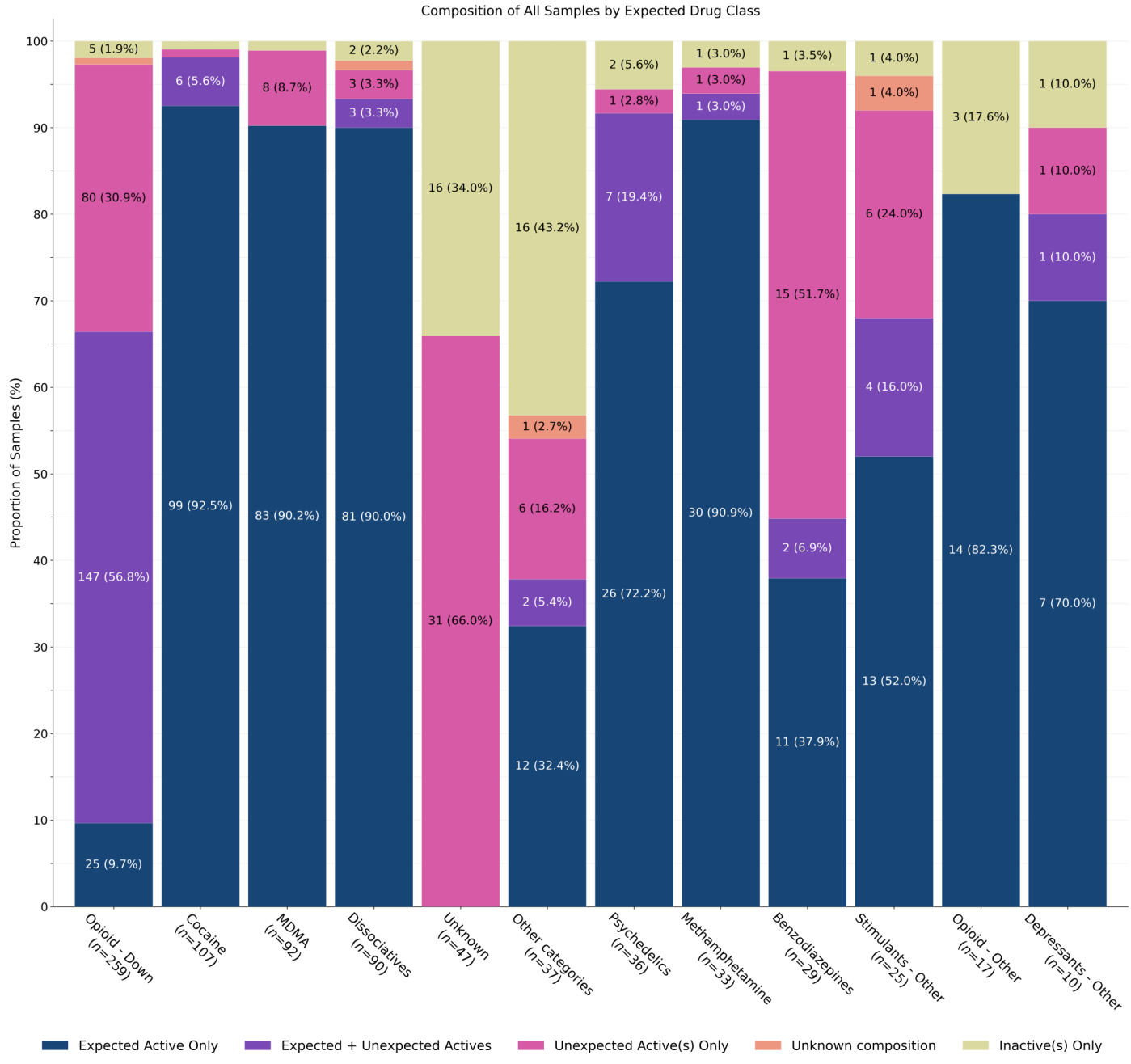
What did we find?

We checked each sample to determine what active compounds and cutting agents were present. While a majority of samples contained the expected active drug, we also detected a number of other notable compounds that may cause unexpected effects. The figure below illustrates the proportions and numbers of samples checked in each drug category, separated by their expected drug class and colour coded by their composition. **Dark Blue** groups samples that were "as expected" with no other notable compounds *detected*, **Purple** groups samples that contained the expected drug *and* other unexpected active(s), **Magenta** groups samples that only contained unexpected active(s) (the expected drug was not found), **Salmon** groups samples where we were unable to determine the composition, and **Lime** displays samples where no active compounds were detected.



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Opioid - Down: What Did We Find?

In this section, we cover what we found in opioid - down samples at each collection location/model. The number of samples that contained the expected active and/or other notable components are listed. Samples where no detected actives have been excluded for brevity.

Opioid - Down	Campbell River	Comox Valley	Duncan	Port Alberni	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only					**22**	**3**
Fentanyl					21	3
Fluorofentanyl					1	
Expected* + Unexpected Active(s)	**1**	**3**	**6**	**8**	**67**	**62**
Fentanyl*	1	4	6	8	65	56
Heroin*			3	1	4	15
3-hydroxy Desalkylgidazepam					3	
Acetylcodeine					1	8
Acetylmorphine [MAM, 6-MAM]			3	1	3	15
Benzodiazepine (unknown type)					3	2
Bromazepam		1				
Bromazolam		1	3	1		4
Carfentanil					1	1
Cocaine HCl				1	1	
Desalkylgidazepam		2		4	2	6
Ethylbromazolam			2	4	8	8
Ethylflualprazolam					9	5
Etodesnitazene					2	
Fentanyl or analogue				1		
Fluorofentanyl	1	1	5	9	37	36
Ketamine						1
Medetomidine	1			2	19	24
Methamphetamine		1			3	3
Metonitazene						1
Morphine						6
Phenazolam			2			2

*Data are preliminary. There were missing data for some samples. Instruments may not be able to detect all ingredients and certainty of interpretations may vary. Multiple substances may be present in one sample and substances may be present in trace concentrations. *Expected active component. "Benzodiazepine (unknown type)" and "Fentanyl or analogue" results are based on a positive strip test and are unconfirmed by paper spray.*

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Opioid - Down: What Did We Find? (Continued)

Opioid - Down	Campbell River	Comox Valley	Duncan	Port Alberni	Substance	Outreach
Expected* + Unexpected Active(s)	**1**	**3**	**6**	**8**	**67**	**62**
Xylazine		1			1	1
ortho-Methyl fentanyl				2	8	
Unexpected Active(s) Only	**3**	**9**		**6**	**32**	**30**
5-MeO-DMT					1	
Acetaminophen [Tylenol]	1					
Acetylmorphine [MAM, 6-MAM]					5	5
Benzodiazepine (unknown type)					1	1
Bromazolam	2	3		1	1	
Carfentanil				1		
Cocaine Base		1			1	1
Desalkylgidazepam		1		3	3	3
Despropionyl para-fluorofentanyl					1	
Ethylbromazolam		5		3	2	3
Ethylflualprazolam				2	1	2
Fentanyl						2
Fentanyl or analogue		1			2	
Fluorofentanyl	2	8		6	23	18
Heroin					5	5
Medetomidine		1			2	2
Methamphetamine						1
Morphine					2	
Procaine					2	
Xylazine				1		2
ortho-Methyl fentanyl		1			5	8
Unknown Composition				1	1	
Unknown				1	1	

*Data are preliminary. There were missing data for some samples. Instruments may not be able to detect all ingredients and certainty of interpretations may vary. Multiple substances may be present in one sample and substances may be present in trace concentrations. *Expected active component. "Benzodiazepine (unknown type)" and "Fentanyl or analogue" results are based on a positive strip test and are unconfirmed by paper spray.*

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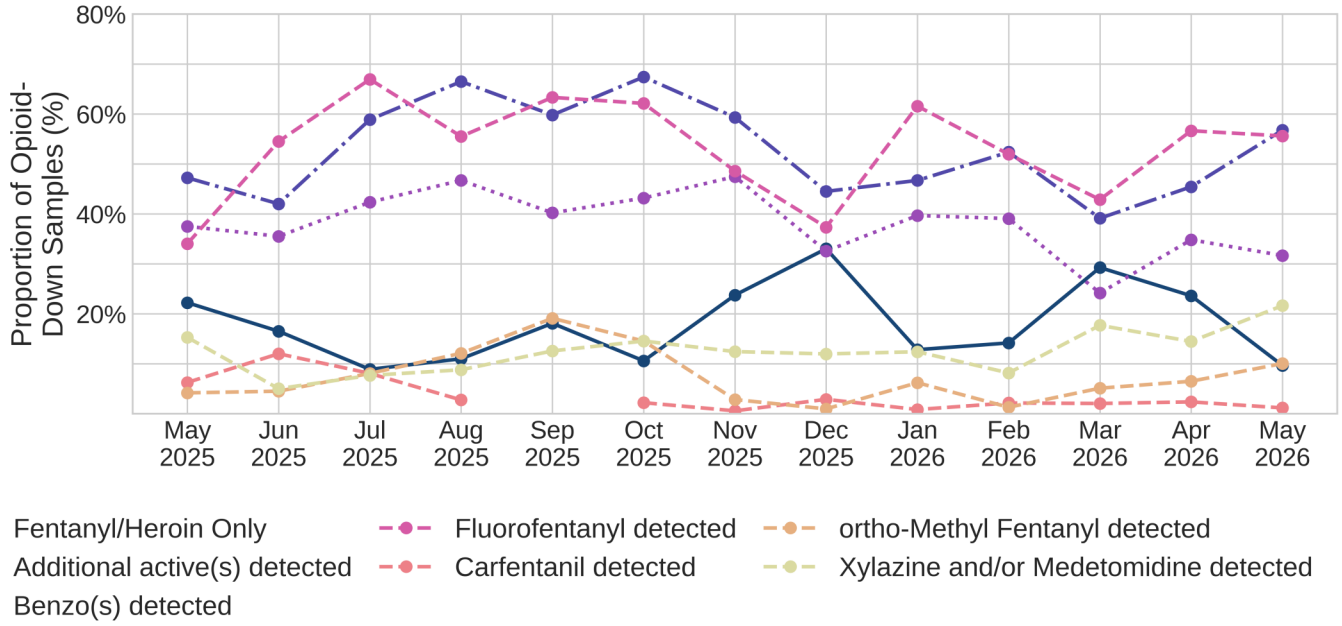
Opioid - Down: Supply Trends

In this section we cover the opioid - down supply as a whole and take a look at the prevalence of different opioids and adulterants within the supply.

In May, 56.8% (147/259) of all opioid-down samples checked contained an additional active to the expected fentanyl/ heroin. These data are shown in the figure below alongside the prevalence of benzos, fluorofentanyl, ortho-methyl fentanyl, carfentanil, and tranq (xylazine and/or medetomidine) in the down supply.



- 28.2% (73/259) of expected opioid-down samples contained fentanyl as the only active opioid
- 21.6% (56/259) of expected opioid-down samples contained fluorofentanyl as the only active opioid
- 33 samples contained heroin, 32 of which contained the related alkaloid acetylcodeine and/or acetylmorphine (MAM). In total, this represents 12.7% of all opioid - down samples.
    - 15/33 samples which contained heroin also contained fentanyl or a fentanyl analogue
- 3 expected opioid-down sample contained carfentanil
- 26 expected opioid - down samples contained ortho-methyl fentanyl
- 31.7% (82/259) of expected opioid-down samples contained a benzodiazepine
    - The most common benzodiazepines in opioid-down samples were ethylbromazolam (35), desalkylgidazepam (24) and ethylflualprazolam (19). Other benzodiazepines were also detected and can be found in the "Opioid - Down: What Did We Find?" Section.
- Xylazine was detected in 6 opioid-down samples
- Medetomidine was detected in 19.7% (51/259) of opioid-down samples
- Metonitazene was detected in 1 opioid-down sample, Etodesnitazene was detected in 2 opioid-down samples

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Opioid - Down: Quantification

In May, we quantified fentanyl for 160 of the expected opioid-down samples[1] containing fentanyl and found the median concentration to be 2.4%[2]. Though the median is a useful indicator, it doesn't capture the volatility of fentanyl concentrations present in the opioid supply, as half of fentanyl-positive down samples contained between 0.8% and 7.2% fentanyl, and any one sample might be the lowest strength (0.2%) or the strongest (greater than 50%[*]). Fluorofentanyl was quantified in 143 samples with concentrations ranging from less than 1% to greater than 50%, with a median concentration of 6.7%. Heroin, was quantified in 30 samples at a median concentration of 0.8%, with concentrations ranging from 0.2% to a maximum of greater than 50%. Medetomidine, was quantified in 51 samples and had concentrations ranging from 0.3% to 18.7%, with a median of 1.2%. Ethylbromazolam, was quantified in 35 samples, with a median of 1.3%, and concentrations ranging from 0.5% to a maximum of 4.5%.

Compound	# Quant.	Median	Min	Max	IQR
Fentanyl	160	2.4%	0.2%	>50.0%*	0.8% - 7.2%
Fluorofentanyl	143	6.7%	0.2%	>50.0%*	3.7% - 12.0%
Medetomidine	51	1.2%	0.3%	18.7%	0.7% - 3.4%
Ethylbromazolam	35	1.3%	0.5%	4.5%	0.9% - 2.4%
Acetylmorphine [MAM, 6-MAM]	32	0.8%	0.2%	11.2%	0.5% - 1.7%
Heroin	30	0.8%	0.2%	>50.0%*	0.6% - 2.4%
ortho-Methyl fentanyl	26	3.7%	<0.1%	41.9%	1.7% - 10.1%
Desalkylgidazepam	24	0.7%	0.2%	13.4%	0.3% - 1.5%
Bromazolam	16	2.2%	0.4%	20.1%	1.2% - 3.3%
Acetylcodeine	9	1.9%	0.8%	5.3%	1.5% - 2.7%
Morphine	8	0.9%	0.4%	1.8%	0.7% - 1.0%
Xylazine	6	4.9%	0.6%	>50.0%*	1.7% - 38.8%
Phenazolam	4	1.0%	0.7%	2.2%	0.7% - 1.5%
Carfentanil	3	0.5%	0.1%	3.7%	
Etodesnitazene	2		0.5%	0.5%	
Bromazepam	1		3.4%		
Metonitazene [Metonitazine]	1		1.6%		
Bromazepam	1		3.4%		

[1]Not all opioid down samples brought to our service can be quantified. This is primarily due to too limited sample collected for our instruments to report a reliable mass percentage. Nevertheless, qualitative detection is still possible.

[2]This number is specific to fentanyl quantified in opioid-down samples. The median concentration listed in the Key Findings at the beginning of this blog is inclusive of all samples checked, across all drug classes and unknown samples, that contained fentanyl.

**There is a maximum concentration limit that the PS-MS can quantify for each compound of interest. If a sample contains a higher percentage of a compound than the PS-MS's limits, then only the upper limit will be reported. Not all samples can be quantified.*

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Opioid - Down: Quantification by Service Model

Here we examine the regional variability in the unregulated market. The table below expands on the data presented on the previous page and focuses only on select actives within *expected opioid-down samples*, separated by collection site. Weight percentage is reported; "IQR" is the interquartile range: the range that contains half of the quantified samples.

Service Model	Compound	# Quant.	Median	Min	Max	IQR
Campbell River 4 total down samples 50% (2/4) benzo-positive	Bromazolam	2		2.7%	5.8%	
	Fentanyl	1		1.2%		
	Fluorofentanyl	3	18.2%	9.6%	36.5%	
	Medetomidine	1		1.6%		
Comox Valley 12 total down samples 92% (11/12) benzo-positive	Bromazolam	4	2.6%	1.1%	20.1%	2.0% - 7.3%
	Desalkylgidazepam	3	5.4%	4.9%	13.4%	
	Ethylbromazolam	5	1.0%	0.8%	4.5%	1.0% - 1.3%
	Fentanyl	3	6.2%	4.7%	38.1%	
	Fluorofentanyl	9	6.8%	0.9%	>50.0%*	5.0% - 15.7%
	Medetomidine	1		0.7%		
	Xylazine	1		5.0%		
	ortho-Methyl fentanyl	1		10.2%		
Duncan 6 total down samples 83% (5/6) benzo-positive	Bromazolam	3	1.8%	1.2%	2.0%	
	Ethylbromazolam	2		2.5%	3.6%	
	Fentanyl	6	8.7%	4.0%	24.8%	5.7% - 13.6%
	Fluorofentanyl	5	3.9%	0.6%	7.2%	0.8% - 5.4%
Port Alberni 18 total down samples 67% (12/18) benzo-positive	Bromazolam	2		0.6%	3.2%	
	Carfentanil	1		0.5%		
	Desalkylgidazepam	7	0.6%	0.2%	2.5%	0.4% - 1.9%
	Ethylbromazolam	7	1.3%	0.6%	3.7%	1.0% - 2.2%
	Fentanyl	8	0.8%	0.3%	9.0%	0.6% - 2.4%
	Fluorofentanyl	12	7.7%	0.9%	21.2%	2.8% - 13.3%
	Medetomidine	2		0.6%	3.3%	
	Xylazine	1		4.9%		
	ortho-Methyl fentanyl	2		0.9%	1.3%	
Port Hardy 0 total down samples						

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Opioid - Down: Quantification by Service Model (Continued)

Service Model	Compound	# Quant.	Median	Min	Max	IQR
Substance 124 total down samples 22% (27/124) benzo-positive	Bromazolam	1		3.6%		
	Carfentanil	1		3.7%		
	Desalkylgidazepam	5	0.8%	0.3%	1.4%	0.3% - 1.3%
	Ethylbromazolam	10	2.0%	0.6%	3.6%	0.9% - 2.7%
	Fentanyl	82	3.0%	0.3%	>50.0%*	0.8% - 8.6%
	Fluorofentanyl	60	6.1%	0.2%	>50.0%*	4.3% - 9.6%
	Medetomidine	21	1.0%	0.3%	9.4%	0.7% - 4.1%
	Xylazine	1		0.6%		
	ortho-Methyl fentanyl	13	3.6%	0.8%	17.3%	1.7% - 9.3%
Outreach 95 total down samples 26% (25/95) benzo-positive	Bromazolam	4	1.1%	0.4%	15.8%	0.5% - 5.2%
	Carfentanil	1		0.1%		
	Desalkylgidazepam	9	0.4%	0.3%	0.9%	0.3% - 0.7%
	Ethylbromazolam	11	1.3%	0.5%	3.7%	0.9% - 1.8%
	Fentanyl	60	2.0%	0.2%	>50.0%*	0.7% - 5.6%
	Fluorofentanyl	54	7.5%	0.2%	>50.0%*	2.8% - 12.0%
	Medetomidine	26	1.5%	0.3%	18.7%	0.7% - 3.2%
	Xylazine	3	50.0%	0.6%	>50.0%*	

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What did we find?

In this section, we cover what we found in samples from the remaining expected drug classes at each collection location/model. The number of samples that contained the expected active and/or other notable components are listed. Samples where no detected actives have been excluded for brevity.

MDMA	Comox Valley	Duncan	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only	**7**	**2**	**38**	**36**
MDA			4	5
MDMA	7	2	34	31
Unexpected Active(s) Only		**1**	**3**	**4**
Fentanyl				2
Ketamine			1	
MDA		1	2	1
MDMA				1
Methamphetamine				1
Phenazolam				2

Cocaine	Campbell River	Comox Valley	Duncan	Port Alberni	Port Hardy	Sub-stance	Outreach
Expected Active Only	**3**	**16**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**38**	**37**
Cocaine Base	2	13	1			7	8
Cocaine HCl	2	3	1	1	2	31	29
Expected* + Unexpected Active(s)	**1**		**1**			**2**	**2**
Cocaine HCl* + Levamisole			1				1
Cocaine Base* + Phenacetin	1					1	1
Cocaine Base* + Fentanyl or analogue						1	
Unexpected Active(s) Only			**1**				
Ethylbromazolam			1				
Fentanyl			1				

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What did we find? (Continued)

Dissociatives	Comox Valley	Duncan	Port Alberni	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only	**2**	**7**	**1**	**45**	**26**
2-fluoro-2-oxo-PCE [2F-NENDCK, CanKet]					1
3-HO-PCP					1
3-MeO-PCE					1
Fluorodeschloroketamine					1
Isophenidine [NPDPA]					1
Ketamine	2	7	1	45	20
MXiPr [Methoxisopropamine]					1
Expected* + Unexpected Active(s)	**2**			**1**	
Ketamine* + Cocaine HCl	2				
Fluorexetamine [FXE]* + Fluorodeschloroketamine				1	
Unexpected Active(s) Only	**1**			**1**	**1**
3-Me-PCP					1
MDA	1				
MDMA				1	
Unknown Composition					**1**
Unknown					1

Methamphetamine	Campbell River	Comox Valley	Duncan	Port Alberni	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only	**1**	**6**	**1**	**6**	**8**	**8**
Methamphetamine	1	6	1	6	8	8
Expected* + Unexpected Active(s)	**1**					
Methamphetamine* + Fentanyl or analogue	1					
Unexpected Active(s) Only	1					
Cocaine Base	1					
Ketamine	1					

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What did we find? (Continued)

Benzodiazepines	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only	**2**	**9**
Alprazolam [Xanax]	1	3
Bromazolam		2
Clonazepam [Klonopin]	1	
Diazepam [Valium]		1
Ethylflualprazolam		1
Etizolam		1
Flubromazepam		1
Expected* + Unexpected Active(s)		**2**
Ethylbromazolam* + Deschloro SR-17018		1
Ethylbromazolam* + Unknown		1
Unexpected Active(s) Only	**7**	**8**
Alprazolam [Xanax]		1
Bromazolam	3	
Ethylbromazolam	1	
Flualprazolam	1	
Hydromorphone [Dilaudid]	1	
Oxycodone [Oxycontin]	1	
Phenazolam	1	7

Opioid - Other	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only	**5**	**9**
Acetaminophen [Tylenol]		1
Codeine [T3's / T4's]	1	
Hydromorphone [Dilaudid]	3	6
Morphine	2	
Opium	1	
Oxycodone [Oxycontin]		3

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What did we find? (Continued)

Psychedelics	Comox Valley	Duncan	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only	**1**	**2**	**8**	**15**
2C-B		1	2	3
2C-E				1
2C-I				1
4-HO-MiPT [Miprocin]				1
5-MeO-DMT				2
5-MeO-DiPT [Foxy]			1	
DMT [Dimethyltryptamine]				2
Ibogaine			1	
Ketamine			1	
LSD [acid]	1	1	2	4
MDMA			1	
Mescaline			1	
Psilocybin [mushrooms]				1
Expected* + Unexpected Active(s)			**5**	**2**
2C-B* + Acetaminophen [Tylenol]			2	2
2C-B, Cocaine HCl , Phenacetin (Tucibi expected)			1	
Ibogaine* + Unknown			1	
Psilocybin [mushrooms]* + THCV			1	
Unexpected Active(s) Only				1
5-MeO-DMT				1
Tryptamine (unknown type)				1

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What did we find? (Continued)

Other Categories	Duncan	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only	**1**	**9**	**22**
2-FMA			1
3-MMC [Metaphedrone]		1	1
4-FMA			1
4-FMC [Flephedrone]			1
4-MMC [Mephedrone]		3	2
6-APB		1	
Amphetamine			1
Cardarine			1
Exemestane			1
GHB	1	1	3
Mesterolone [Proviron]			1
Minoxidil			1
Modafinil		1	
Oxandrolone			1
Oxymetholone			1
Pregabalin			1
Quetiapine [Seroquel]		1	
RU-58841			1
Sildenafil [Viagra]		1	
Tadalafil [Cialis]			1
Testosterone cypionate			1
Testosterone enanthate			1
Trenbolone			1

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What did we find? (Continued)

Other Categories (Continued)	Duncan	Substance	Outreach
Expected* + Unexpected Active(s)		**3**	**4**
3-MMC [Metaphedrone]* + Cathinone (unknown type)		1	
Amphetamine* + Unknown			3
Desoxymethyltestosterone* + Steroid (unknown type)		1	
GHB* + GBL		1	
Stanozolol* + Unknown			1
Unexpected Active(s) Only		6	7
1,4-Butanediol		1	
Cathinone (unknown type)		1	
Dapoxetine			1
Dehydroisoandrosterone 3-Acetate		1	
Diclofenac [Voltaren]			1
Methamphetamine		2	3
Sildenafil [Viagra]			1
Steroid (unknown type)		1	
Testosterone enanthate			1
Trenbolone enanthate		1	
Unknown Composition		**1**	**1**
Unknown		1	1

*Data are preliminary. There were missing data for some samples. Instruments may not be able to detect all ingredients and certainty of interpretations may vary. Multiple substances may be present in one sample and substances may be present in trace concentrations. *Expected active component. "Benzodiazepine (unknown type)" and "Fentanyl or analogue" results are based on a positive strip test and are unconfirmed by paper spray.*

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What did we find? (Continued)

Unknown	Substance	Outreach
Unexpected Active(s) Only	17	14
3-hydroxy Desalkylgidazepam		1
4-CMC [Clephedrone]		2
4-MMC [Mephedrone]	1	
Acetaminophen [Tylenol]	4	
Acetylmorphine [MAM, 6-MAM]	1	
Cocaine Base	3	1
Cocaine HCl	1	2
Desalkylgidazepam		1
Diclofenac (Voltaren)		1
Ethylbromazolam		1
Fentanyl		3
Fentanyl or analogue	4	
Fluorofentanyl	1	6
GHB		1
Heroin	1	
MDMA	2	
Methamphetamine	2	
Tadalafil [Cialis]		1
ortho-Methyl fentanyl		2

*Data are preliminary. There were missing data for some samples. Instruments may not be able to detect all ingredients and certainty of interpretations may vary. Multiple substances may be present in one sample and substances may be present in trace concentrations. *Expected active component. "Benzodiazepine (unknown type)" and "Fentanyl or analogue" results are based on a positive strip test and are unconfirmed by paper spray.*

Opioid-Positivity in Non-opioid-down Samples

In May, we checked 476 samples that were not expected to contain fentanyl or other "unexpected" opioids[1]. Since the opioid-down supply is no longer "just heroin" or "just fentanyl" and is instead a complex, potent, and ever-changing polysubstance market containing other synthetic opioids like fluorofentanyl or nitazenes, here we will examine the prevalence of *any* unexpected opioid, not just fentanyl, detected in non-opioid-down samples.

Expected Substance Class	Total Samples	Total Opioid Positive (% of total expected)	Samples Containing Expected Active (% of Total Samples in Class)	Contains Expected Active & Opioid Positive (% of Confirmed Expected in Class)
Cocaine	107	2 (1.9%)	105 (98.1%)	1 (1.0%)
MDMA	92	2 (2.2%)	83 (90.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Dissociatives	90	0 (0.0%)	84 (93.3%)	0 (0.0%)
Other	37	0 (0.0%)	14 (37.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Psychedelics	36	0 (0.0%)	33 (91.7%)	0 (0.0%)
Methamphetamine	33	1 (3.0%)	31 (93.9%)	1 (3.2%)
Benzodiazepines	29	0 (0.0%)	13 (44.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Stimulants - Other	25	0 (0.0%)	17 (68.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Opioid - Other	17	0 (0.0%)	14 (82.4%)	0 (0.0%)
Depressants - Other	10	0 (0.0%)	8 (80.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Total	**476**	**5 (1.1%)**	**402 (84.5%)**	**2 (0.5%)**

Examining the above table, we find that 5 samples tested positive for unexpected opioids in May, representing 1.1% of all non-opioid-down samples checked. To see which samples contained unexpected opioids, please see the tables in the respective subsections of the "What Did We Find?" Section.

In May, no unexpected opioids were detected in samples expected to be dissociatives, psychedelics, benzodiazepines, stimulants - other, opioid - other, depressants - other, or other

[1]Specifically, we are excluding samples that were expected to be "opioid-down" or samples that had an "unknown/missing" expected composition. In the case of "opioid-other" samples, e.g. hydromorphone tablets and oxycodone pills, "unexpected opioids" are defined as any opioid that is not the expected opioid.

Substance Drug Checking

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Overall Quantification

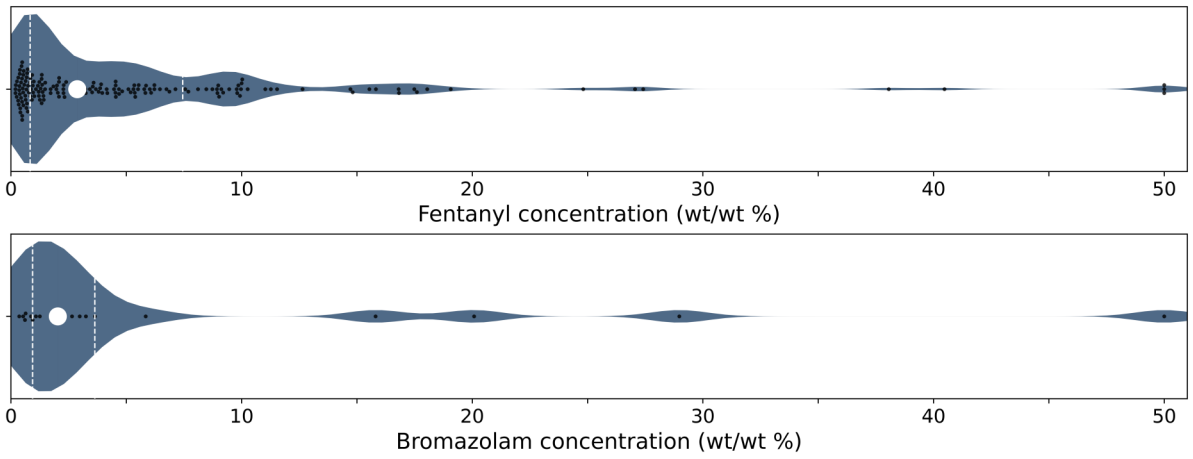
Using paper spray mass spectrometry (PS-MS) data, we were able to quantify low concentration compounds. These aggregate values are *inclusive to all expected drug categories* in which the active drugs are found. Weight percentage is reported below. "IQR" is the interquartile range: the concentration range that contains half of the quantified samples.

Compound	# Quant.	Median	Min	Max	IQR
Fentanyl	166	2.9%	0.2%	>50.0%*	0.8% - 7.5%
Fluorofentanyl	150	6.7%	0.2%	>50.0%*	3.6% - 12.0%
Medetomidine	51	1.2%	0.3%	18.7%	0.7% - 3.4%
Ethylbromazolam	40	1.4%	0.5%	>50.0%*	0.9% - 2.9%
Acetylmorphine [MAM, 6-MAM]	33	0.8%	0.2%	11.2%	0.5% - 1.7%
Heroin	31	0.8%	0.2%	>50.0%*	0.6% - 2.2%
ortho-Methyl fentanyl	28	3.7%	<0.1%	41.9%	1.6% - 9.9%
Desalkylgidazepam	25	0.6%	0.2%	13.4%	0.3% - 1.4%
Bromazolam	21	2.0%	0.4%	>50.0%*	0.9% - 3.6%
Phenazolam	13	0.7%	0.3%	2.2%	0.5% - 1.0%
Methamphetamine	9	9.9%	5.6%	42.6%	5.8% - 21.6%
Acetylcodeine	9	1.9%	0.8%	5.3%	1.5% - 2.7%
Xylazine	6	4.9%	0.6%	50.0%	1.7% - 38.8%

**There is a maximum concentration limit that the PS-MS can quantify for each compound of interest. If a sample contains a higher percentage of a compound than the PS-MS's limits, then only the upper limit will be reported. Not all samples can be quantified.*

Distribution of Fentanyl and Bromazolam Concentrations

The concentrations of fentanyl and bromazolam for every sample quantified across *all expected drug categories and service models* are illustrated below to highlight the variability in the unregulated drug market. **Black Dots** are individual samples, the large **white dot** marks the median concentration, the **dashed white lines** bound half of the quantified samples (IQR), and the **width** of the coloured region is proportional to the number of samples in a concentration range.



Substance Drug Checking

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Additional Services

At Substance we provide access to other services in addition to drug checking. These include but are not limited to access to harm reduction supplies (bubble pipes, naloxone, test strip kits, etc.), general support, referrals to substance use programs and to other agencies. During the month of May, our staff handled 865 of these interactions, in addition to, checking 782 samples.

Substance Drug Checking is based out of the University of Victoria and operates community-wide drug checking services within Campbell River, the Comox Valley, Duncan, Port Alberni, Port Hardy, and Victoria, BC. We are continuing to offer drug checking services in response to the dual public health emergencies, and exploring new ways to better reach those who may benefit from this service. We have partnered with Dr. Chris Gill and the team at Vancouver Island University to improve detection and reporting using their methods for the paper spray - mass spectrometer.

Our project works on Indigenous land. We provide drug checking, harm reduction education and support across many territories on what is colonially known as 'Vancouver Island.' We also act as a resource for these services across the province colonially known as 'British Columbia.' We honour and offer respect to many nations for their stewardship, care and leadership on these lands.

Our project originated on the territories of the lək̓ʷəŋən speaking peoples, including the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) Nations, and the W̱SÁNEĆ (Saanich) Nations on whose land the University of Victoria is located. Some of the territories we are honoured to work across specifically include: Halalt, Lyackson, Meluxulh (Malahat), Puneluxutth', Quw'utsun, Stz-uminus, and Ts'uubaa-asatx; Hupačasath and Tseshaht; K'ómoks; and Laich-kwil-tach.

We acknowledge the inextricable links between research, colonization and racism against Indigenous peoples, which continue to this date. Ending the violence faced by people who use drugs cannot be achieved without actively working on decolonization.

For more information please visit: substance.uvic.ca

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