

## Drug Checking in Interior Health April 2019

This report summarizes key indicators for Fourier Transform Infrared (FT-IR)/fentanyl test strip combination drug checking done in Interior Health in April 2019.

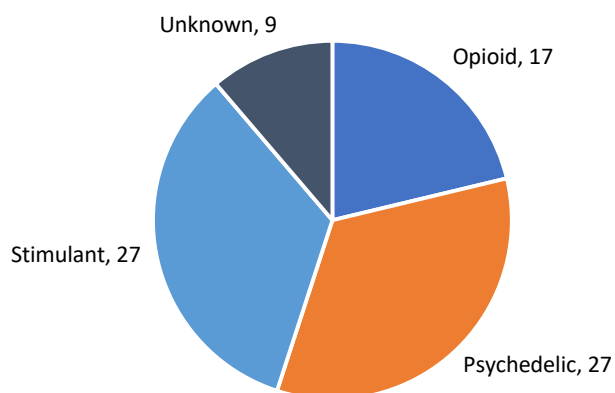
As the FT-IR spectrometer has a detection limit of 3-4% by weight (Sherman et al., 2018), unless otherwise stated, a drug check on any given sample consists of **both** Bruker ALPHA Fourier-Transform Infrared (FT-IR) spectrometer **and** BTNX fentanyl immunoassay test strip testing done in combination. When applicable, BTNX benzodiazepine or lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) immunoassay test strips are also used.

Please note that these data are not finalized and are subject to change.

*We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of our partners: Interior Health, ANKORS, and ASK Wellness.*

- In April 2019, 80 drug checks were completed on samples in Interior Health
- The majority of samples tested were expected by clients to be either stimulants (27 or 33.8%), psychedelics (27 or 33.8%), or opioids (17 or 21.3%)

Location	Number of Drug Checks
ANKORS, Nelson	16
ASK Wellness, Kamloops	16
ASK Wellness, Merritt	2
Kipp-Mallery Pharmacies, Kamloops	6
Manshadi Pharmacy, Kamloops	1
Snowbombing, Sun Peaks	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>



**Figure 1.** Number of drug checks performed in IHA in April 2019, by expected drug category



**Depressant** may include: benzodiazepines, GHB, zopiclone  
**Opioid** may include: “down,” heroin, fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, pharmaceutical opioids  
**Polysubstance** includes: cross-category mixtures  
**Psychedelic** may include: 2C-family, tryptamines, ketamine, MDMA, LSD, cannabis  
**Stimulant** may include: “speed”, crystal meth, cocaine, cathinones  
**Unknown** includes: all samples in which the client could not identify the expected substance

**Table 2.** Number of samples that matched client expectation using FTIR/test strip drug checking in Interior Health in April 2019, by expected drug category

	Depressant	Opioid	Psychedelic	Stimulant	Other	Unknown	Total
True	0	15	26	27	0	0	70
False	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
N/A	0	0	1	0	0	9	10
Total	0	17	27	27	0	9	80

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

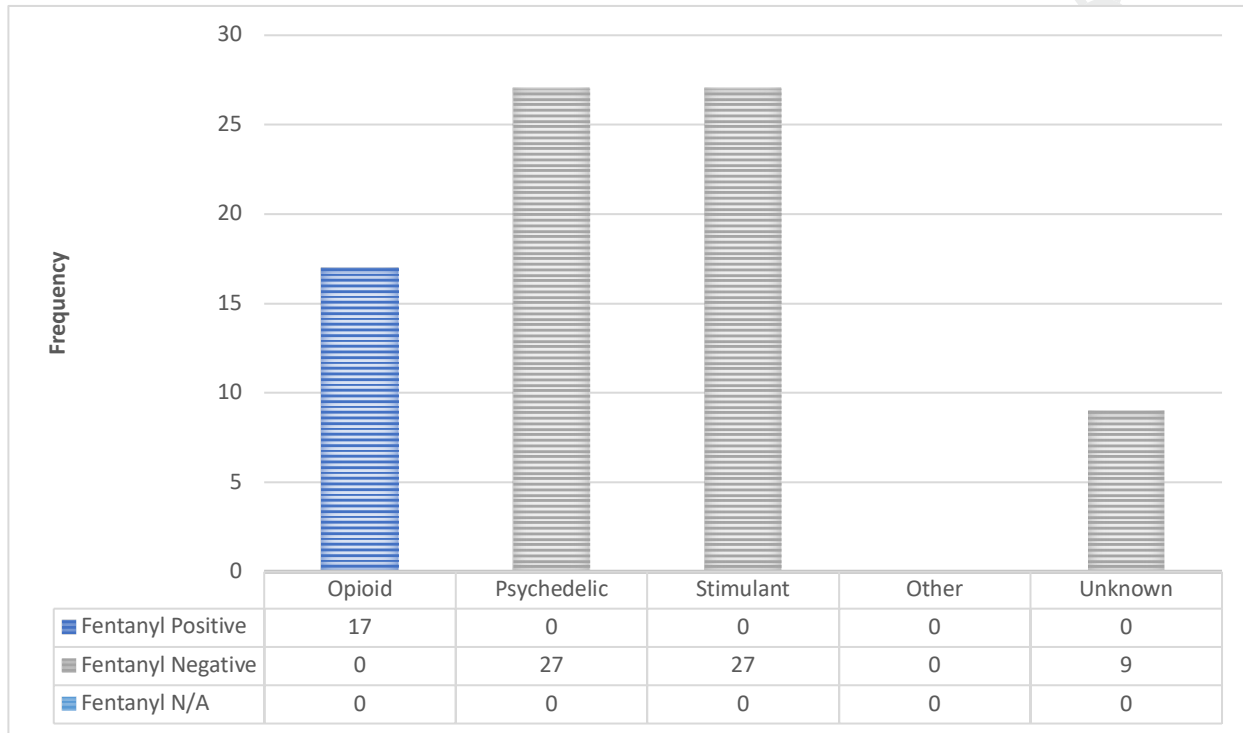
**Table 3.** Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation using FTIR/test strip drug checking in Interior Health in April 2019, by expected drug

	Fentanyl	Heroin	Fentanyl & Heroin	Fentanyl analogue	Pharmaceutical	‘Down’*	Total
True	5	4	2	0	0	4	15
False	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	6	2	0	0	4	17

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

- 7 opioid samples (41.2%) tested positive for fentanyl using the FT-IR spectrometer
- **The total fentanyl positivity rate in opioid samples was 100%**
- Of the 27 stimulant samples and 27 psychedelic sample, 0 (0.0%) tested positive for fentanyl using a test strip



**Figure 2.** Number of drug checking samples that tested positive and negative for fentanyl in Interior Health, in April 2019, by expected drug category

**Table 4.** Public health notifications of drug checking results in VCH in April 2019

Date & Location	Expected Drug	FT-IR Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Lab Analysis	Outcome
16-Apr 2019 Kamloops	Heroin	Heroin & AMB-FUBINACA	Positive	N/A	IHA Alert