



Rapid Analysis of Drugs (RAD) Project

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Agenda

1. Introduction to RAD
2. Statewide Results
3. Questions

Introduction to RAD

Goals of RAD

CHRS RAD project tests routine paraphernalia from Maryland Syringe Services Program (SSP) participants.

The goals of RAD are to:

- Better understand the drug market landscape in MD
- Empower people who use drugs with knowledge about the drug supply to inform their decisions and reduce risks
- Provide critical information about new and emerging trends in the drug supply

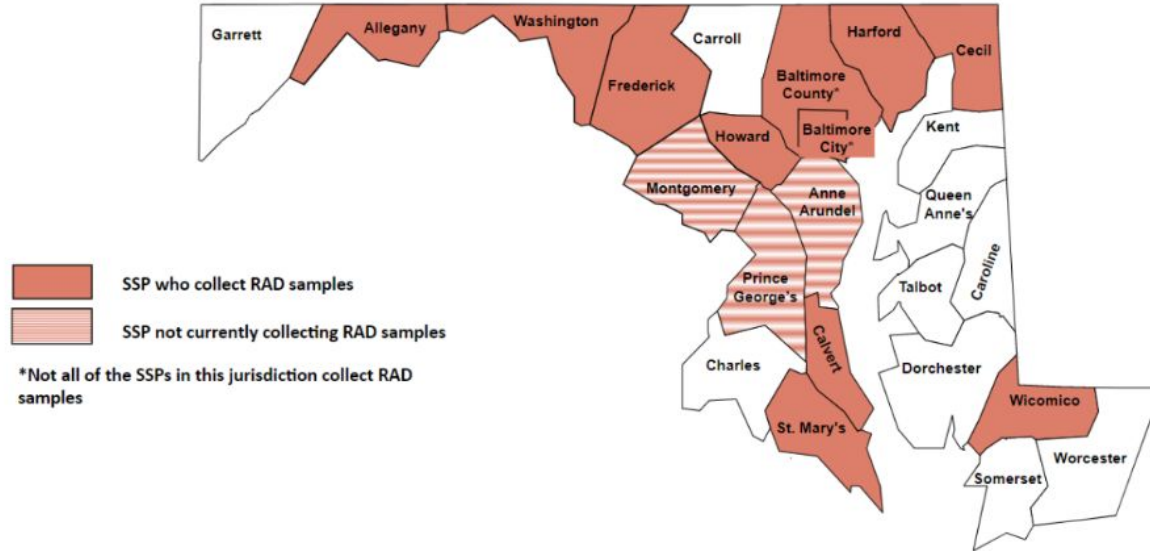
Participating Syringe Service Programs

RAD pilot 8 programs in 8 jurisdictions:

- 5 Local Health Departments
- 3 Nonprofit organizations
- 1 nonprofit operating in 2 jurisdictions

At the end of September 2022 we expanded RAD to

- All SSPs interested in the program: **7 additional programs have joined**
- Began testing syringes alongside paraphernalia: **accounts for around 20% of post pilot testing**



Sample Labeling & Data Collection

Data reported to CHRS via webform:

- Program name
- Where sample received
- Type of sample swabbed/sample medium
- What was the drug sold as?
- Do you believe you received what you intended to buy?
- How did the drugs make you feel?
- Limited location information

Sharing Results

- Results are made available to SSPs through a shared spreadsheet
- Sometime samples require additional confirmatory testing
- SSPs share results with participants in a number of ways:
 - **Individualized results** - given to the person who submitted the sample
 - *Impact: linkages to care, personal harm reduction strategies, builds trust between SSP and participants, secondary results sharing*
 - **Generalized results** - used to tailor community educational material and inform wound care
 - *Impact: new and emerging drug community level trends, stakeholder conversations, state and local partnerships*
- The collaborative calls have been a space for SSPs to collaborate with one another, provide feedback, and talk through RAD findings

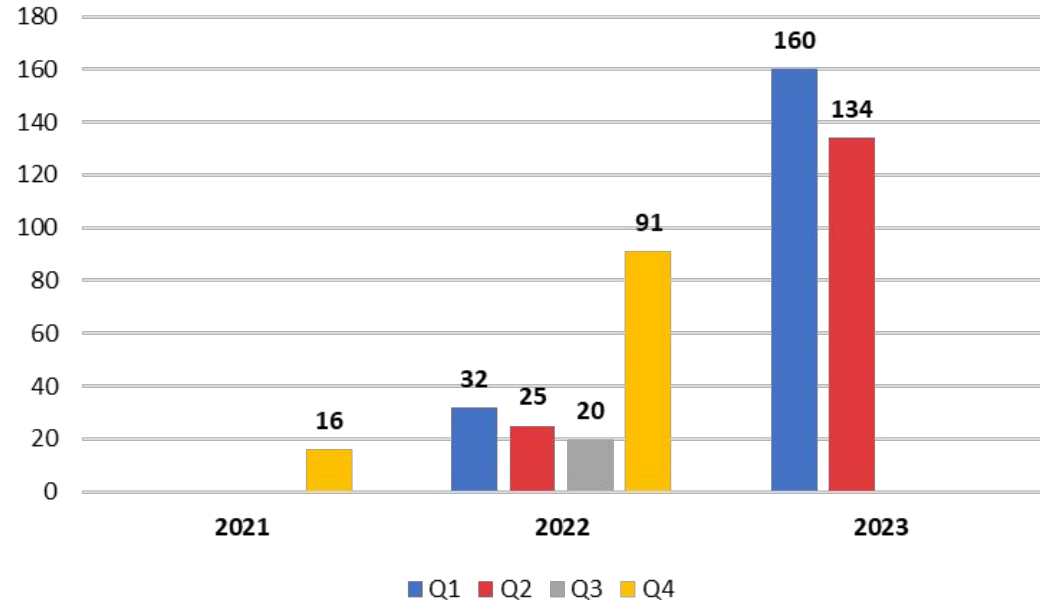
RAD Trends Across Maryland

Samples Collected

- Sample Collection began in October 2021 and is continuing
- As of 5/11/2023 1,417 samples have been tested.

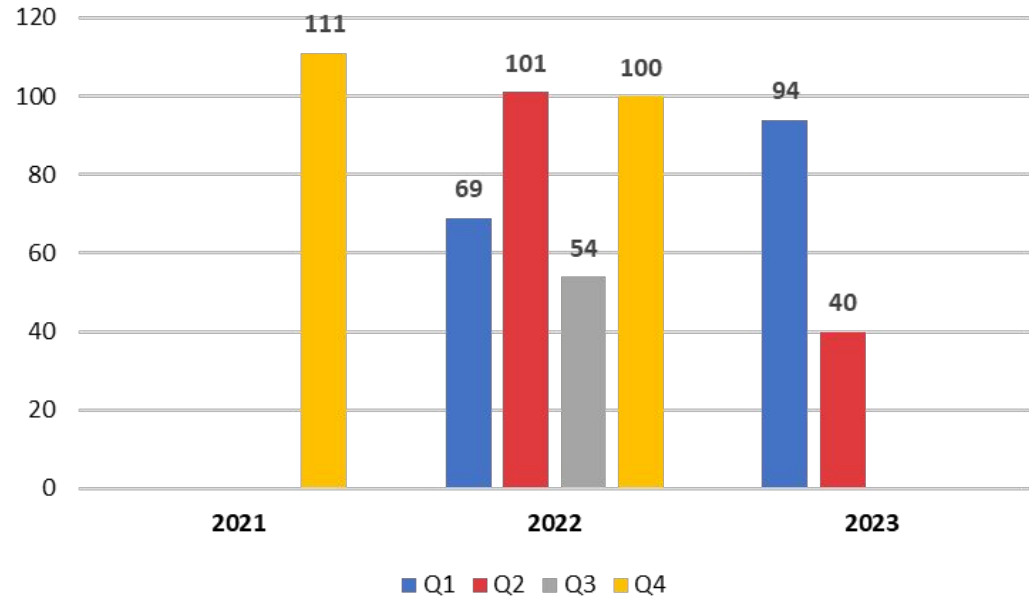
Samples Containing Cocaine & Related Compounds

- 33.7% of samples tested contained cocaine and related compounds.
- In CY23 Q1 (January - March) there were a total of 160 samples that contained cocaine and related compounds.
- 75.8% increase from the previous quarter (CY22 Q4)
- 400% increase in samples containing xylazine from same time last year (CY22 Q1)



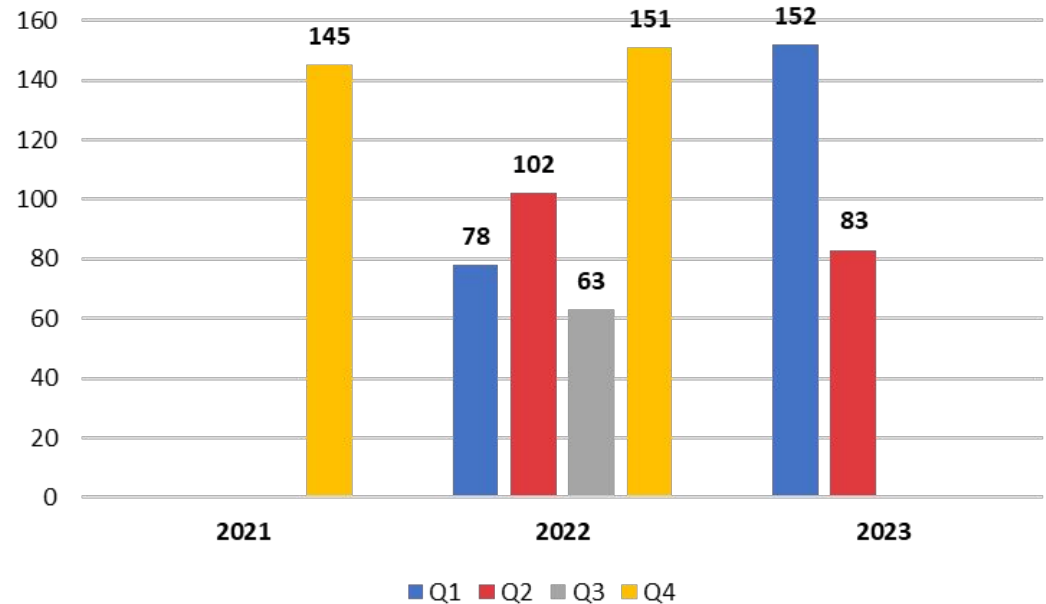
Samples Containing Xylazine

- 40.2% of samples tested contained Xylazine.
- In CY23 Q1 (January - March) there were a total of 94 samples that contained Xylazine.
- 6% decrease from the previous quarter (CY22 Q4)
- 36.2% increase in samples containing xylazine from same time last year (CY22 Q1)



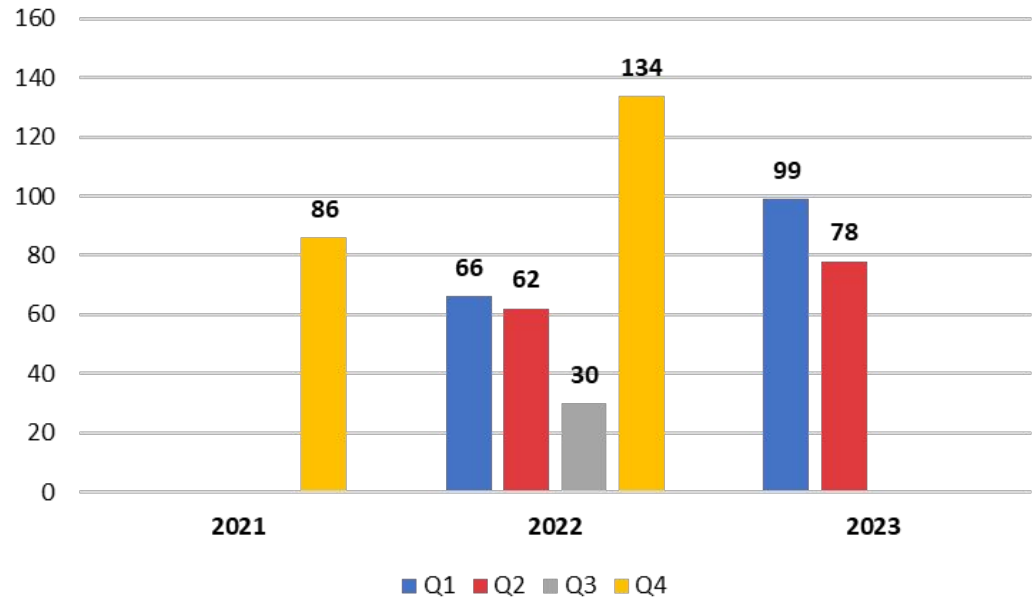
Samples Containing Fentanyl & Related Compounds

- 54.6% of samples tested contained fentanyl.
- In CY23 Q1 (January - March) there were a total of 152 samples that contained fentanyl.
- 0.7% increase from the previous quarter (CY22 Q4)
- 94.9% increase in samples containing fent from same time last year (CY22 Q1)



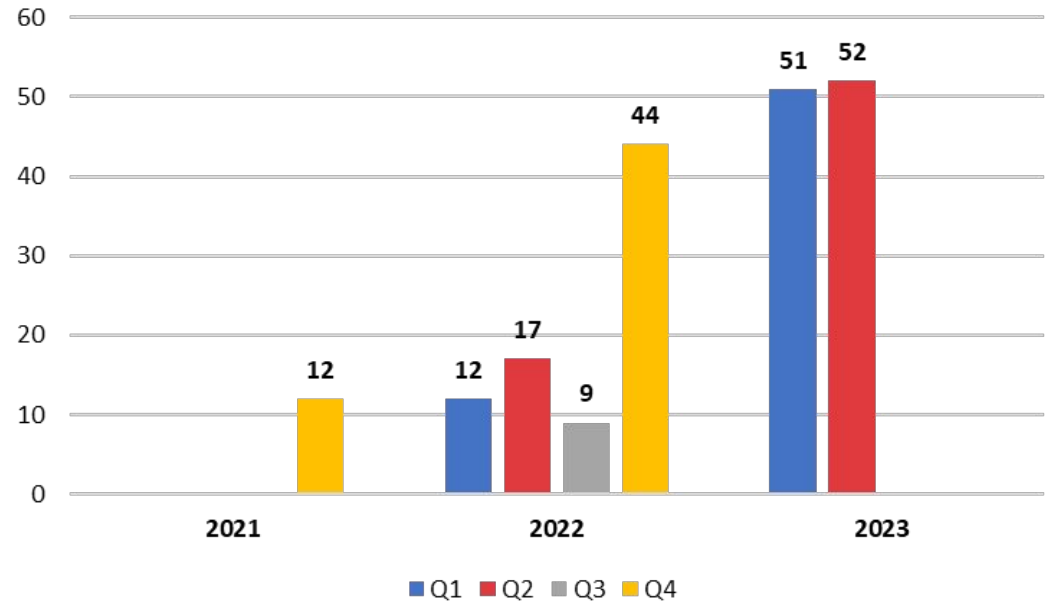
Samples Containing Cutting Agents and Diluents

- 39.2% of samples tested contained cutting agents.
- In CY23 Q1 (January - March) there were a total of 99 samples that contained cutting agents.
- 26.1% decrease from the previous quarter (CY22 Q4)
- 50% increase in samples containing xylazine from same time last year (CY22 Q1)



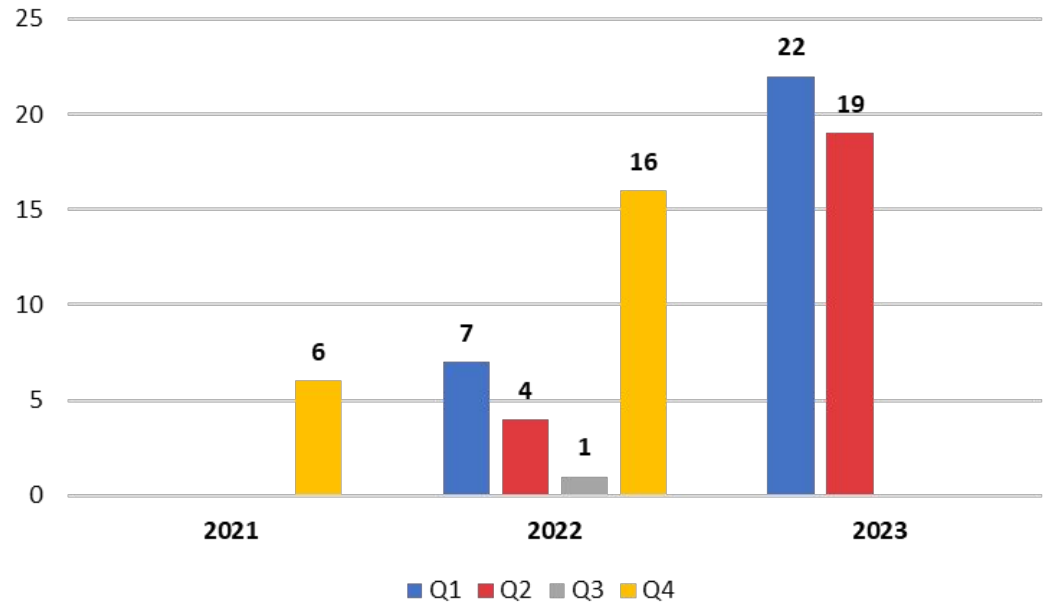
Samples Containing Pharmaceuticals

- 13.9% of samples tested contained Pharmaceuticals.
- In CY23 Q1 (January - March) there were a total of 51 samples that contained Pharmaceuticals.
- 15.9% decrease from the previous quarter (CY22 Q4)
- 325% increase in samples containing xylazine from same time last year (CY22 Q1)



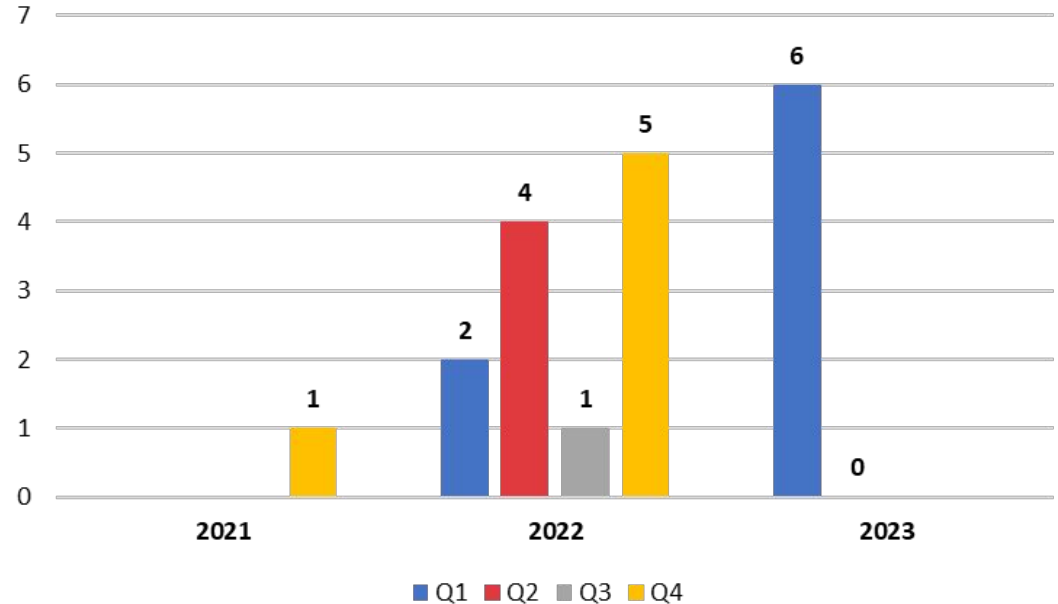
Samples Containing Amphetamines

- 5.3% of samples tested contained amphetamines.
- In CY23 Q1 (January - March) there were a total of 22 samples that contained Xylazine.
- 37.5% increase from the previous quarter (CY22 Q4)
- 214.3% increase in samples containing xylazine from same time last year (CY22 Q1)



Samples Containing Heroin & Semi-synthetic Opiates

- 1.3% of samples tested contained heroin.
- In CY23 Q1 (January - March) there were a total of 6 samples that contained Xylazine.
- 20% increase from the previous quarter (CY22 Q4)
- 200% increase in samples containing xylazine from same time last year (CY22 Q1)



Question?

Contact Us

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RAD Resources

[Website](#)

[1-Pager](#)

[MMWR](#)