



# **Rapid Analysis of Drugs (RAD)**

## **Collaborative Call**

**January 15th, 2025**

# Goals of Rapid Analysis of Drugs (RAD)

---

The Center for Harm Reduction Services (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

# Agenda

---

1. Updates and Reminders
2. Qualitative Evaluation of RAD (JHU)
3. Recent Results
4. Emerging Trends
5. Program Report Out

# Updates and Reminders

---

# Materials from Calls

---

- Materials from [September Training](#) can be found here.
- Materials from collaborative calls can be found in the folder corresponding to the meeting date [here](#).
- Here is the link to the [RAD submission Cognito form](#).
- Law enforcement [memo](#)
- [RAD Flyer](#)

# Completing Cognitio Form

---

- The [Cognito web form](#) must be completed for EVERY sample **before** the sample is mailed.
- If a webform is not completed for a sample, you will receive an email - ***please stay alert to emails!***

# Requesting Supplies

---

- Supply requests go directly to NIST.
- The link for the supply request is:  
[forms.gle/FHUxCT8GwrZhkWcw5](https://forms.gle/FHUxCT8GwrZhkWcw5)

# Results

---

- You are now receiving results directly from NIST, so help reduce the lag time in results getting back to programs.
- All results are still available in the [RAD database](#).



# RAD Data/Publication Updates

- Internal RAD dashboard is now operational
- RAD CY2024 Q4 Newsletter - **coming so soon!**
- [NIST December Newsletter](#)
  - If you want to sign up to receive the newsletter, you can do so at the bottom on the link above

# Want to get started?

---

- If you are an SSP not currently sampling for RAD and you want to get involved, please reach out to Maggie
- If you are applying to become an SSP, you are not able to sample until that your SSP application is approved, but you can go through training while waiting for approval.

# NPHL Maryland SSP Law Fact Sheet

---

- The Network for Public Health Law recently put out a fact sheet on the [Maryland SSP Law](#).

# NYC/ Remedy Alliance Drug Checking Handbook

---

NYC Department of Health's Drug Checking Implementation Guide: [Handbook Link](#)

The Co-Authors are hosting a training on 1/23/2025!

Find out more information, register (for free) and receive event reminders on eventbrite:  
[NYCdrugcheckinghandbook.eventbrite.com](https://nycdrugcheckinghandbook.eventbrite.com)

You can also join the zoom link directly!

**Date:** January 23, 2025

**Time:** 12:30 - 1:30 pm

**Zoom link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87529935717>

They will also be giving a shorter, more Maryland specific presentation at the next HR SAC meeting on 3/14/2025!

# Qualitative Evaluation of RAD

---

Laura Sisson

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



# Recent Results

---

# RAD Data Disclaimers

---

- Convenience Sampling -
  - RAD is a completely voluntary program that Maryland SSP participants can choose to engage in
  - Not all MD jurisdictions have an SSP that participate in RAD
- No personally identifiable data is collected, therefore we do not know how many participants are accounted for in the sample size

RAD gives us some indication of the near real time drug market in Maryland, but it should not be considered as fully representative.

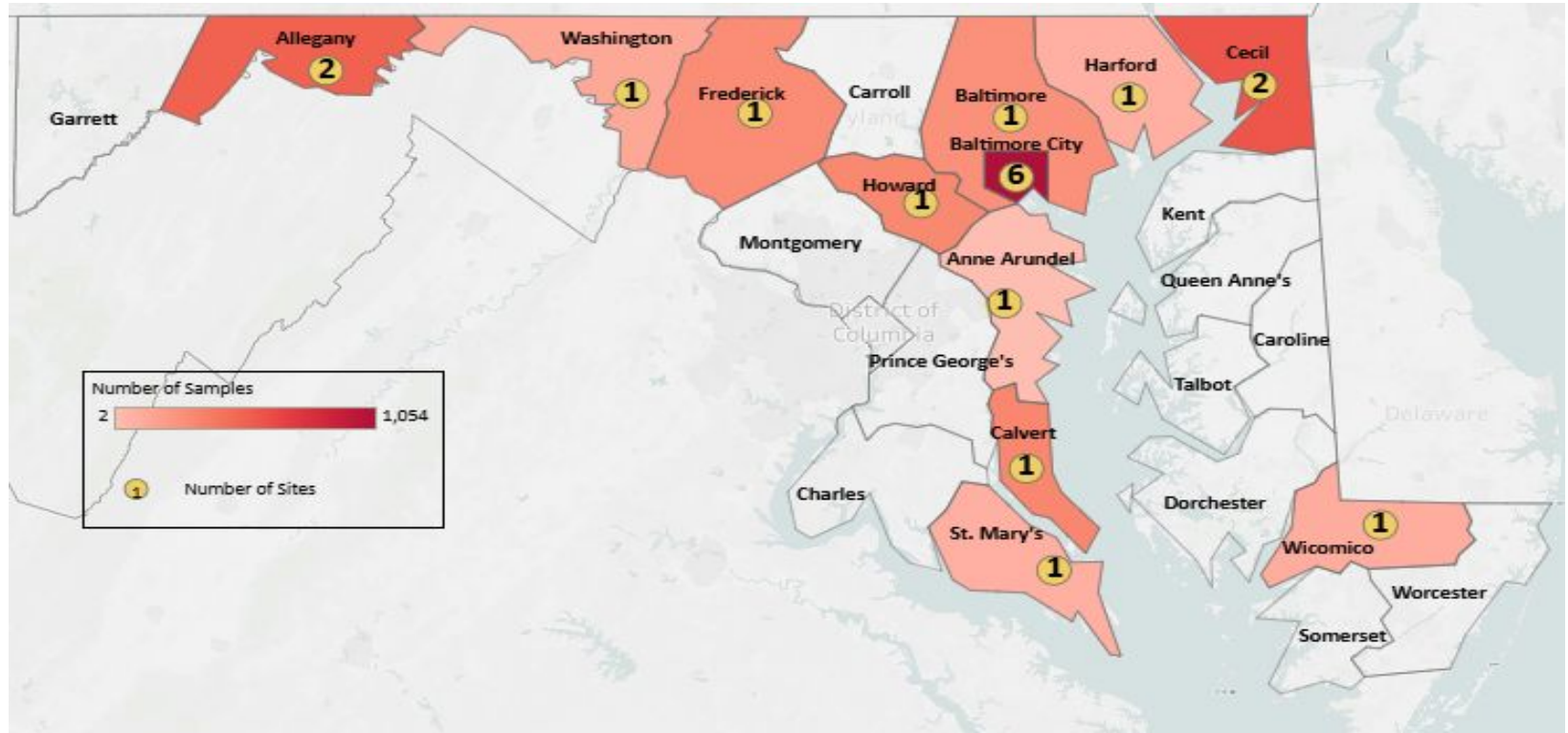
# Samples Collected

---

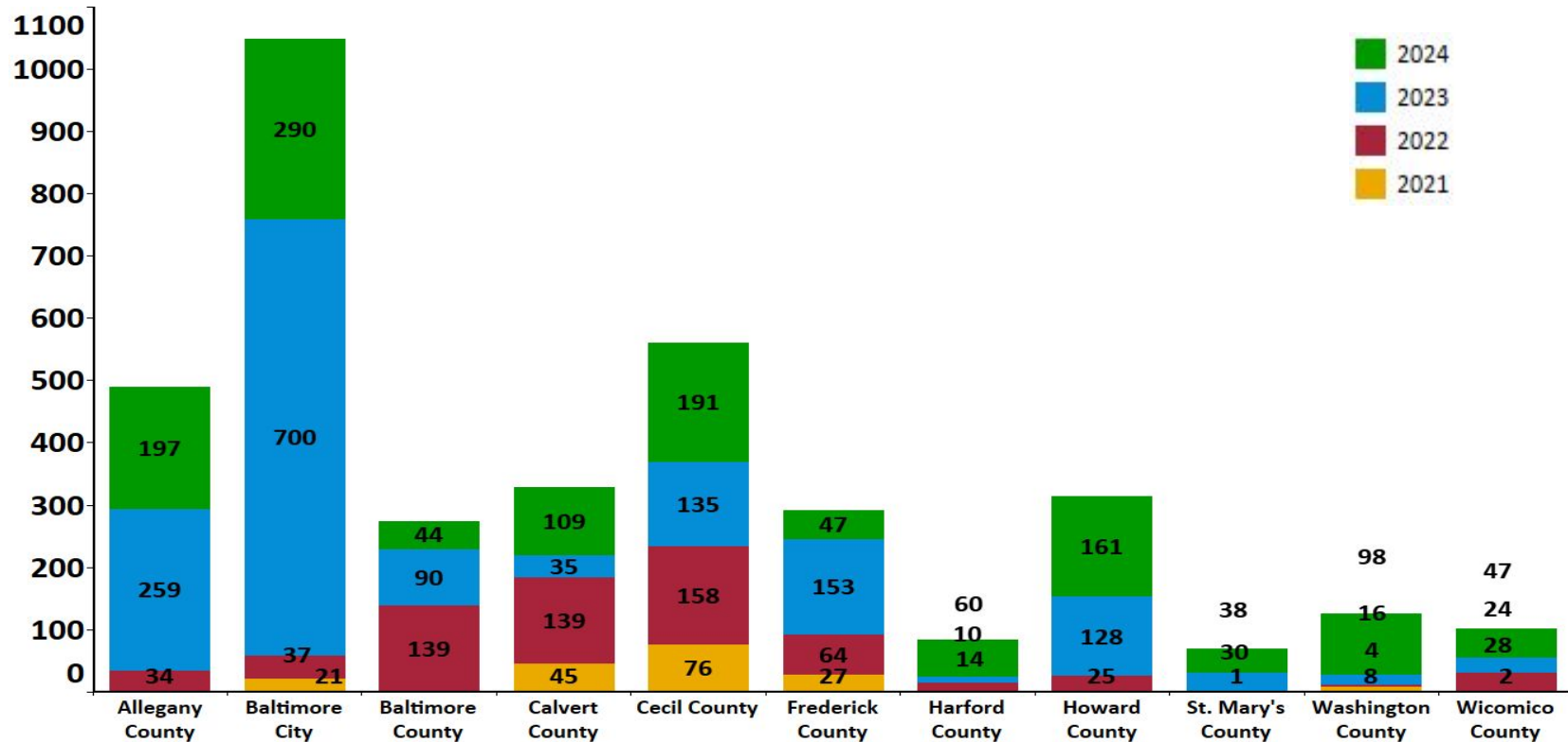
- Sample Collection began in October 2021 and is continuing
- As of January 13th, 3244 samples have been tested via NIST
- 17 of the 26 SSPs in Maryland collect samples.
  - Covering 11 jurisdictions



# RAD Sampling by Jurisdiction

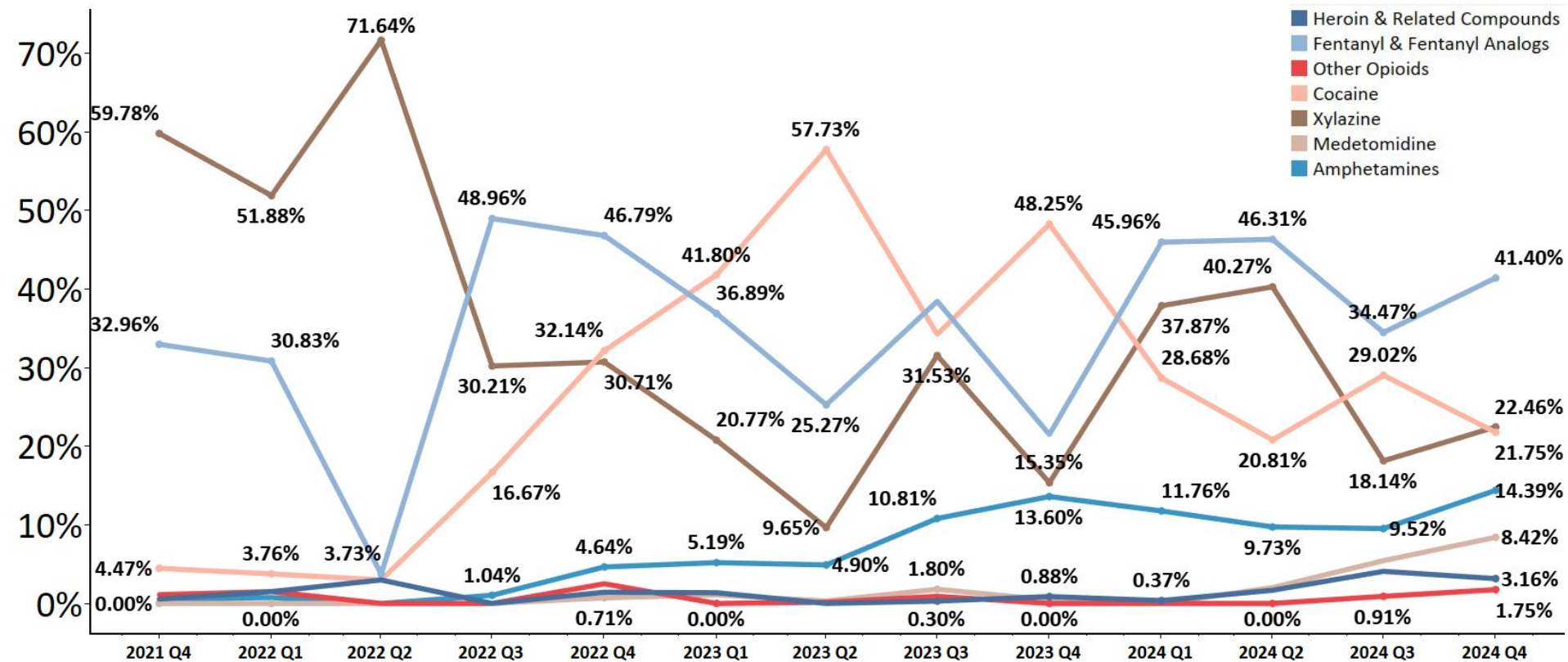


# RAD Sampling by Jurisdiction, OCT 2021- DEC 2024



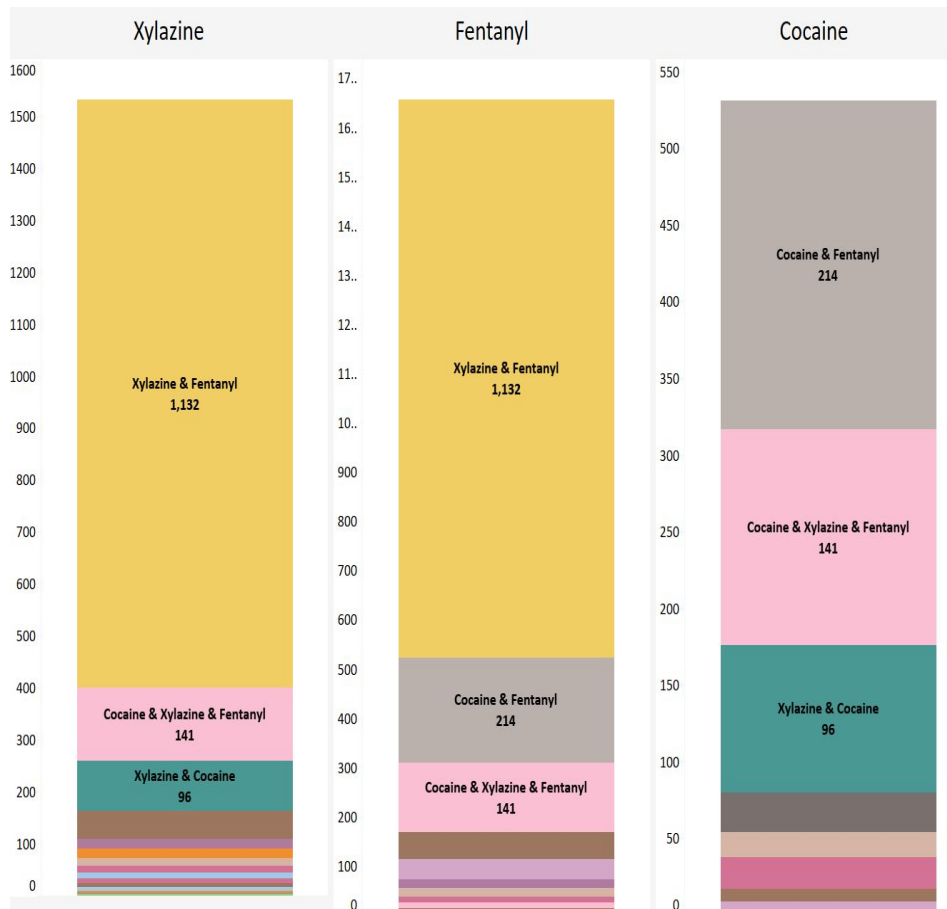
Note: Data is preliminary and subject to change.

# RAD Compounds, OCT 2021 - DEC 2024



**Note:** Data is preliminary and subject to change.

# Polysubstance in RAD Samples



## Xylazine & Fentanyl

1,132

## Cocaine & Fentanyl

214

### Cocaine & Xylazine & Fentanyl

141

## Xylazine & Cocaine

96

## Fentanyl & Xylazine & Amphetamines

54

## Fentanyl & Amphetamines

42

## Cocaine & Amphetamines

26

### Other Opioids & Xylazine & Fentanyl

18

## Xylazine Detected & Amphetamines

18

### Xylazine & Cocaine & Fentanyl & Heroin

16

### Other Opioids & Cocaine & Fentanyl & Xylazine

12

## Other Opioids & Fentanyl

12

## Xylazine & Heroin

12

## Cocaine & Heroin

10

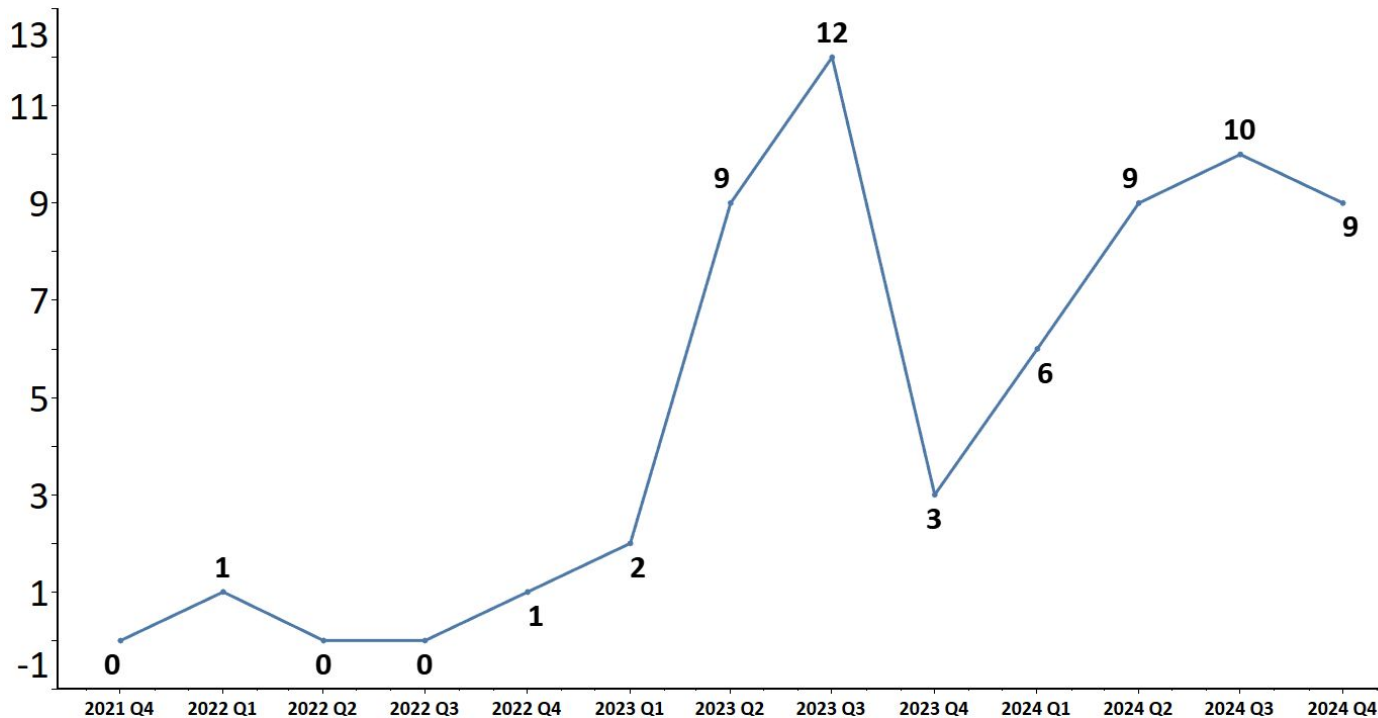
## Cocaine & Fentanyl & Heroin

9

### Cocaine & Xylazine & Amphetamines

9

# Bromazepam, OCT 2021 - DEC 2024

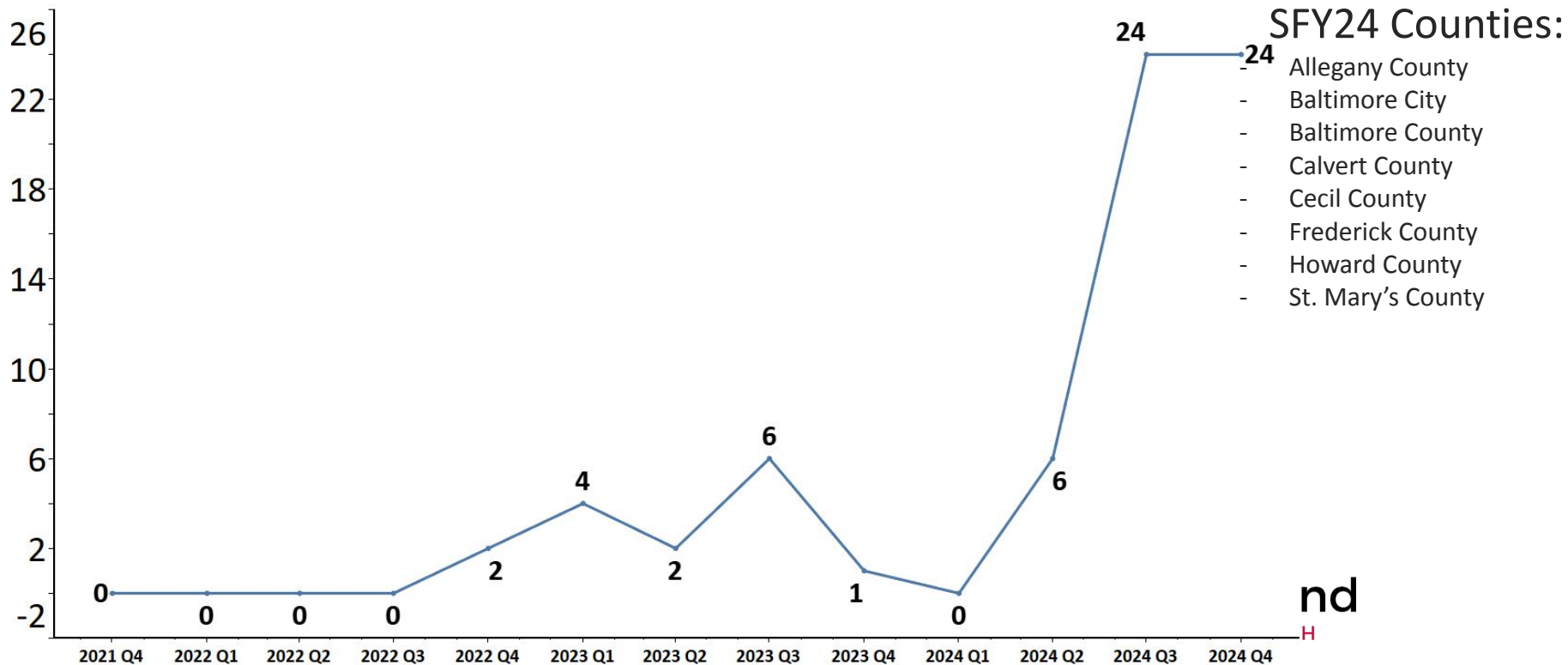


## SFY24 Counties:

- Allegany County
- Baltimore City
- Baltimore County
- Calvert County
- Cecil County
- Frederick County
- Harford County
- Howard County
- St. Mary's County
- Washington County
- Wicomico County

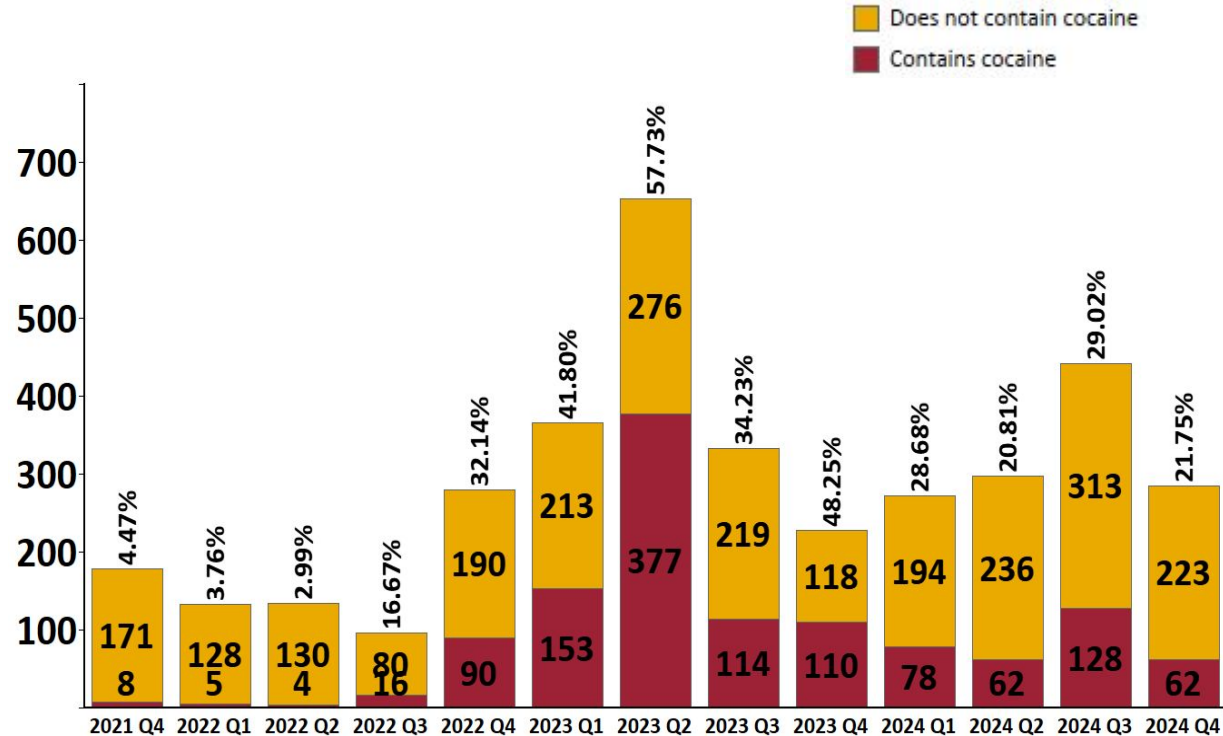
Bromazepam is a type of benzodiazepine (sedative)

# Medetomidine, OCT 2021 - DEC 2024



# Samples Containing Cocaine

- 21.75% of samples tested in CY 24 Q4 (October-December) contained cocaine
- In CY24 Q4 there were a total of 62 samples that contained cocaine.
- 51.6% decrease from the previous quarter (CY24 Q3)
- 43.5 % decrease in samples containing cocaine from same time last year (CY23 Q4)

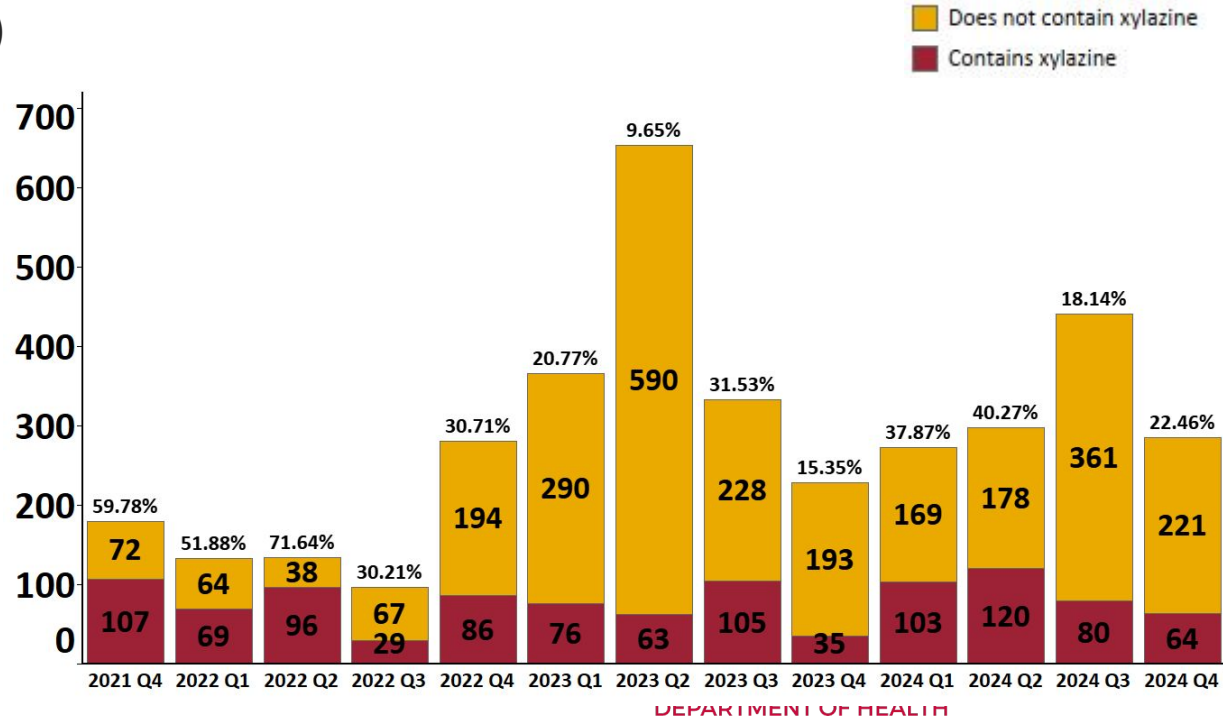


**Note:** Data is preliminary and subject to change.



# Samples Containing Xylazine

- 22.46% of samples tested in CY 24 Q4 (October-December) contained xylazine.
- In CY24 Q4 there were a total of 64 samples that contained xylazine.
- 20 % decrease from the previous quarter (CY24 Q3)
- 82.9 % increase in samples containing xylazine from same time last year (CY23 Q4)

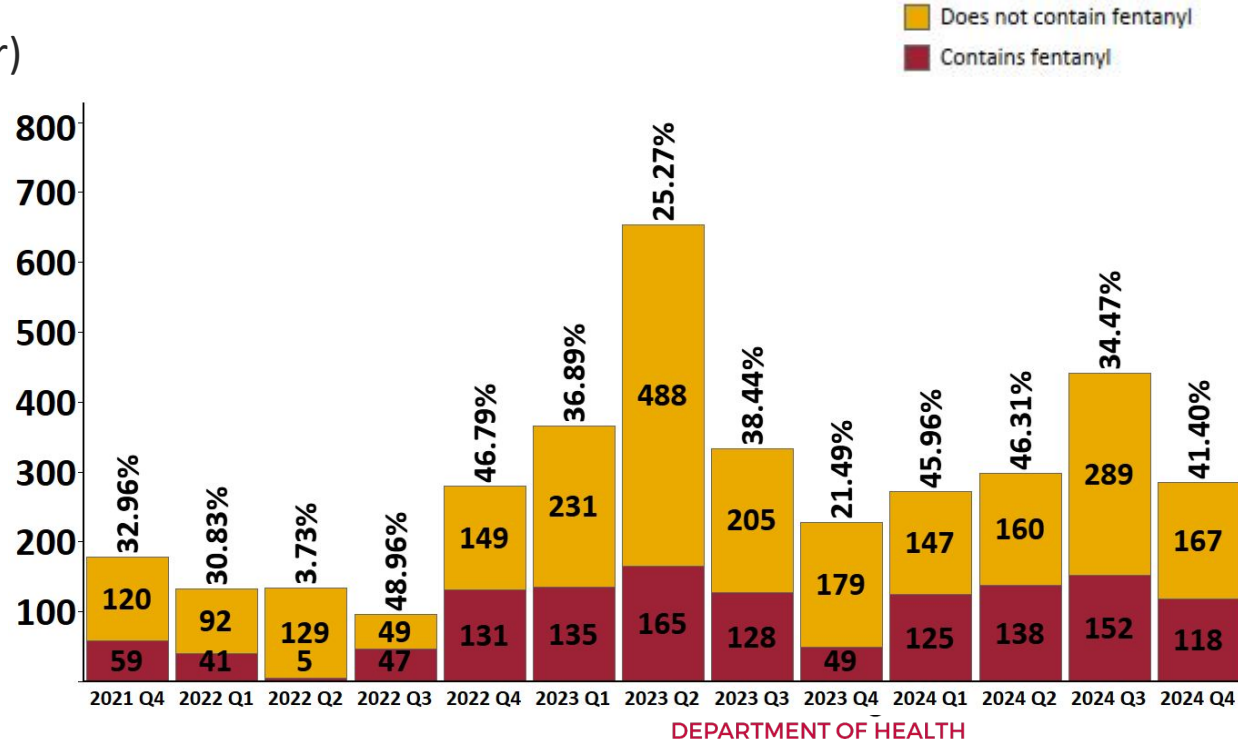


**Note:** Data is preliminary and subject to change.



# Samples Containing Fentanyl & Fentanyl Analogs

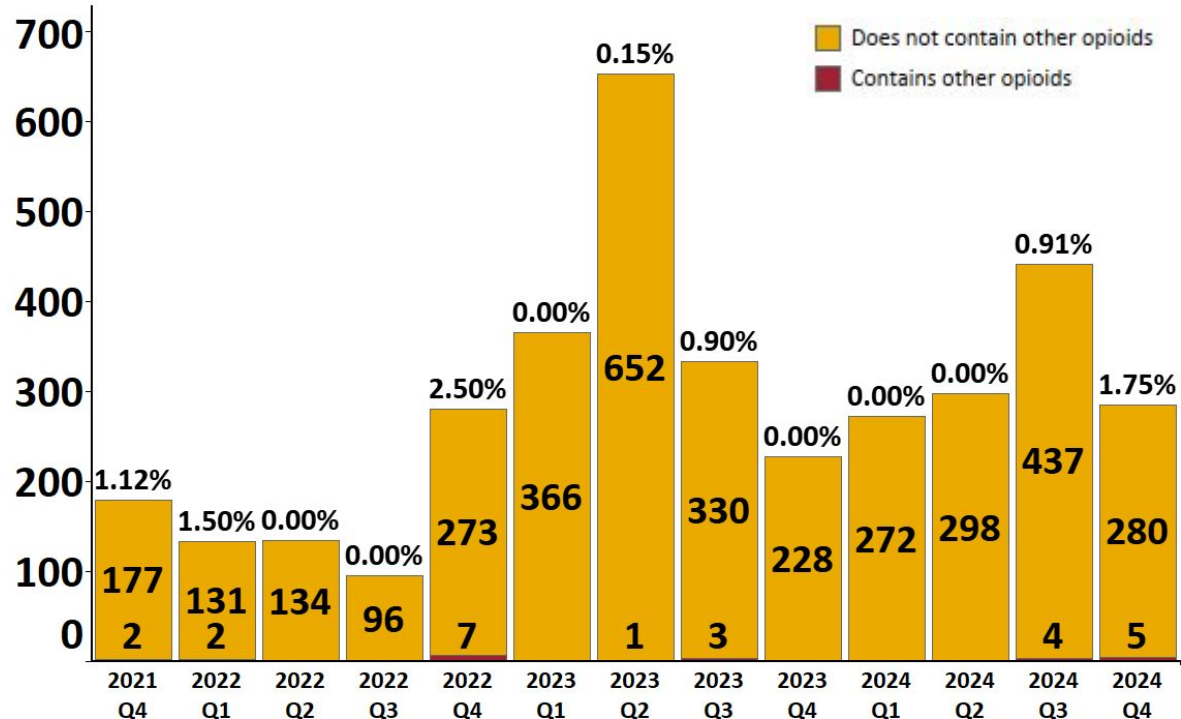
- 41.40% of samples tested in CY 24 Q4 (October-December) contained fentanyl
- In CY24 Q4 there were a total of 118 samples that contained fentanyl.
- 22.4% decrease from the previous quarter (CY24 Q3)
- 140.8 % increase in samples containing fentanyl from same time last year (CY23 Q4)



**Note:** Data is preliminary and subject to change.

# Samples Containing Other Opioids

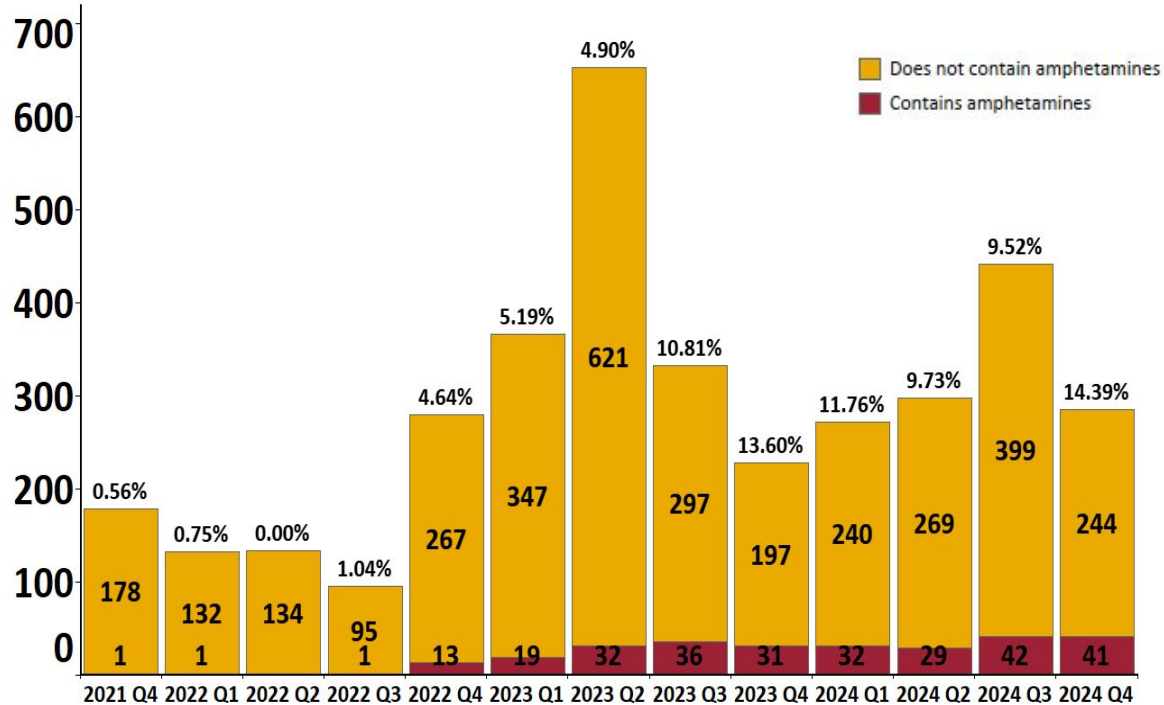
- 1.75% of samples tested in CY 24 Q4 (October-December) contained other opioids
- In CY24 Q4 there were a total of 5 samples that contained other opioids
- 25 % increase from the previous quarter (CY24 Q3)
- No samples contained other opioids from same time last year (CY23 Q4)



**Note:** Data is preliminary and subject to change.

# Samples Containing Amphetamines

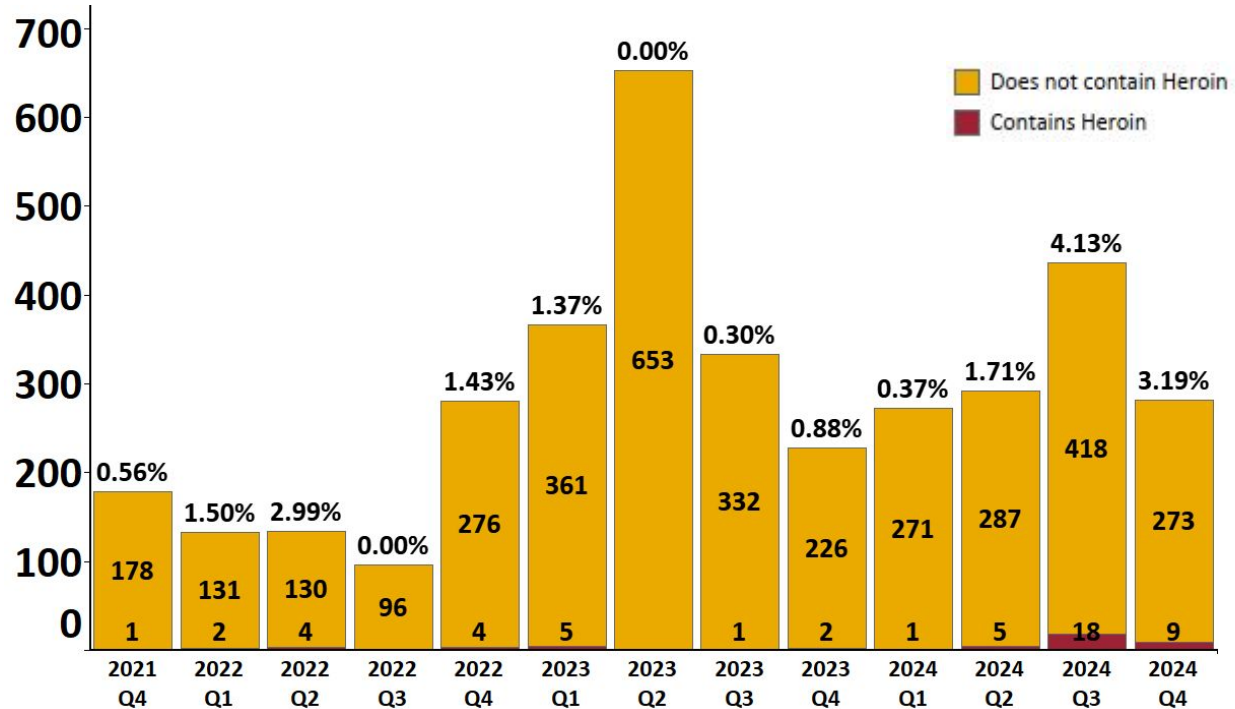
- 14.39% of samples tested in CY 24 Q4 (October-December) contained amphetamines
- In CY24 Q4 there were a total of 41 samples that contained amphetamines
- 2.4% decrease from the previous quarter (CY24 Q3)
- 32.3 % increase in samples containing amphetamines from same time last year (CY23 Q4)



**Note:** Data is preliminary and subject to change.

# Samples Containing Heroin & Related Compounds

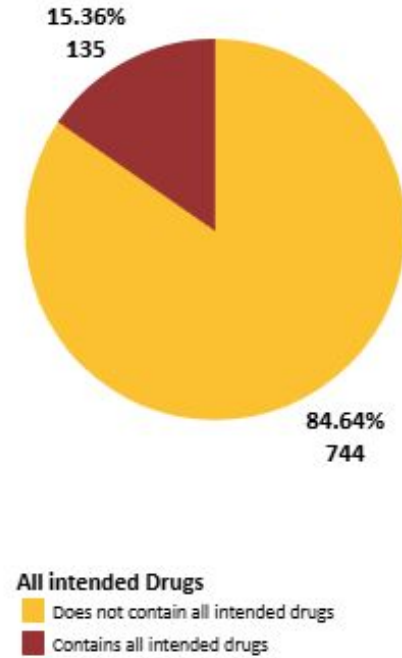
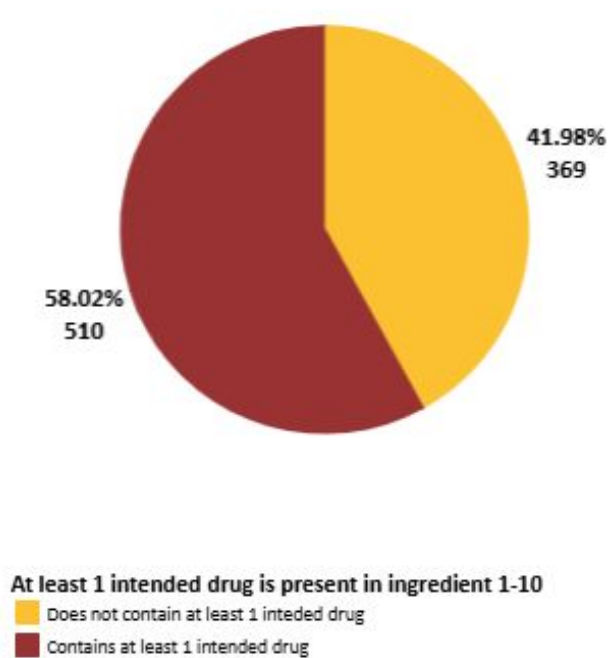
- 3.19% of samples tested in CY 24 Q4 (October-December) contained heroin
- In CY24 Q4 there were a total of 9 samples that contained heroin
- 50 % decrease from the previous quarter (CY24 Q3)
- 350 % increase in samples containing heroin from same time last year (CY23 Q4)



**Note:** Data is preliminary and subject to change.

# Intent vs. Actual OCT 21 - DEC 24

---



# Emerging Trends Discussion

---

# Bis (2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidyl) sebacate (BTMPS)

---

- BTMPS has been seen emerging in the drug markets around the US.
- BTMPS is a hindered amine light stabilizer used in plastics manufacturing, as an adhesive, and as a sealant.
- NIST put out a report [available here](#), specifically focusing on the LA and Philly outbreaks.
  - Ed to comment on this report and BTMPS findings
- Maryland currently has 65 confirmed samples containing BTMPS
  - AHEC West (Allegany) - 6
  - Howard - 14
  - OOH (Baltimore City) -15
  - VOH (Cecil) - 18
  - Wicomico - 1
  - Washington -8
  - St.Mary's - 3

# Medetomidine

---

- Medetomidine is a sedative similar to xylazine that has been increasing in prevalence across the east coast in 2024.
  - 69 RAD samples from 10 jurisdictions since 10/22.
  - In CY2024 Q3 and Q4, we saw 24 samples with medetomidine, which was a distinct increase from quarters prior.
- Starting in Q2 of CY2024, Philadelphia saw a similar trend through their drug checking - with medetomidine raising in prevalence.
  - [Here is an article](#) they put out on worsening withdrawal symptoms
  - [Here is an article on overdose response](#) in the wake on medetomidine
- Monitoring the RAD trend and investigate other data sources.
- We encourage emphasis on still administering naloxone and responding with rescuing breathing/ CPR.



# Bromazepam and Carfentanil

---

- We are continuing to use RAD to monitor Bromazepam and Carfentanil
  - Both of these compounds have had spikes in neighboring states.
  - We continue to see low but steadily growing numbers of Bromazepam.
  - Carfentanil has not been seen in RAD samples
- All of these substances are often seen in combination of a opioid (mainly fentanyl) and naloxone should still be administered.

---

**Have you heard of any other  
emerging trends?**

# Program Report Out

---

How are things going?

# How is testing going?

---

- Any new barriers?
- What would get more SSP participants interested in RAD?
  - Conversation around incentivising RAD
- How can we support?

# Future Collaborative Call Schedule

---

The next call will be Wednesday, March 19th at 11 a.m.

# CHRS Contacts

---

Maggie Rybak - [margaret.rybak@maryland.gov](mailto:margaret.rybak@maryland.gov) (programmatic)

Janelle Acevedo Hodgson - [janelle.hodgson@maryland.gov](mailto:janelle.hodgson@maryland.gov) (data)

**Thank you! We appreciate you!**