



Rapid Analysis of Drugs (RAD)

Collaborative Call

March 19th, 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. Recent Results
3. Emerging Trends
4. 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](#)

Cognito Form - Update

- We have changed the Cognito webform slightly to allow for a jurisdiction field.
- *If you serve multiple jurisdictions* - please select your organization and then select the jurisdiction that the compound was collected in.

Please provide unique number on barcode label: *

SSP Name *



SSP Jurisdiction *



Please select a jurisdiction served by your SSP: Cecil, Harford

Results - 15 Compound Expansion

- NIST is in the process of updating their results to include 15 compounds instead of 10 due to the polysubstance prevalence in samples.
- We are working to modify our Results Spreadsheet and Tableau Database to accommodate this.

Complete Cognito Webform

- 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

Mailing envelopes seem to be running low. OHR will work on procuring more. If you run out, use ACCESS funds for mailing supplies.

Results

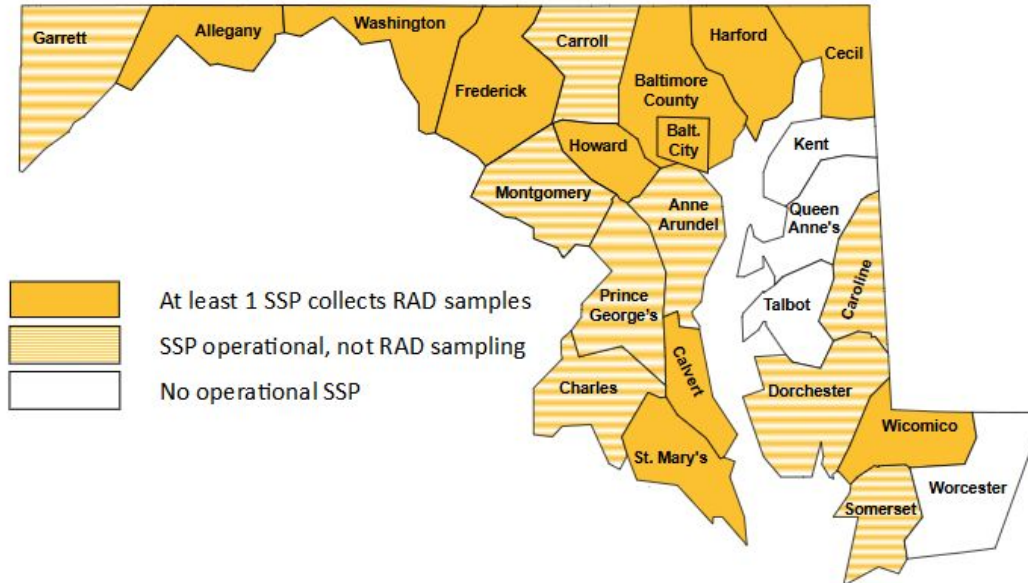
- You are now receiving results directly from NIST, so help reduce the lag time in results getting back to programs.
- All results are still available in the [RAD database](#).

RAD Data/Publication Updates

- Internal RAD dashboard is now operational
- [RAD CY2024 Q4 Newsletter](#)
- [NIST February 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



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](#)

Remedy Alliance Office Hours

Bi-weekly, Wednesdays 3-4PM

Link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/tZAldeyspj0qHdXjFPYHWusKBcl3vrnzpVJn/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGspjkhvHtyTsB6GRpwlGojoZ-jxiCFgqdlIjnVOghkdxDdFOFrYaRtHsLA](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/tZAldeyspj0qHdXjFPYHWusKBcl3vrnzpVJn/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGspjkhvHtyTsB6GRpwlGojoZ-jxiCFgqdlIjnVOghkdxDdFOFrYaRtHsLA)

Reach out to Maggie if you want to be added to the calendar invite.

Recent Results

RAD Data Disclaimers

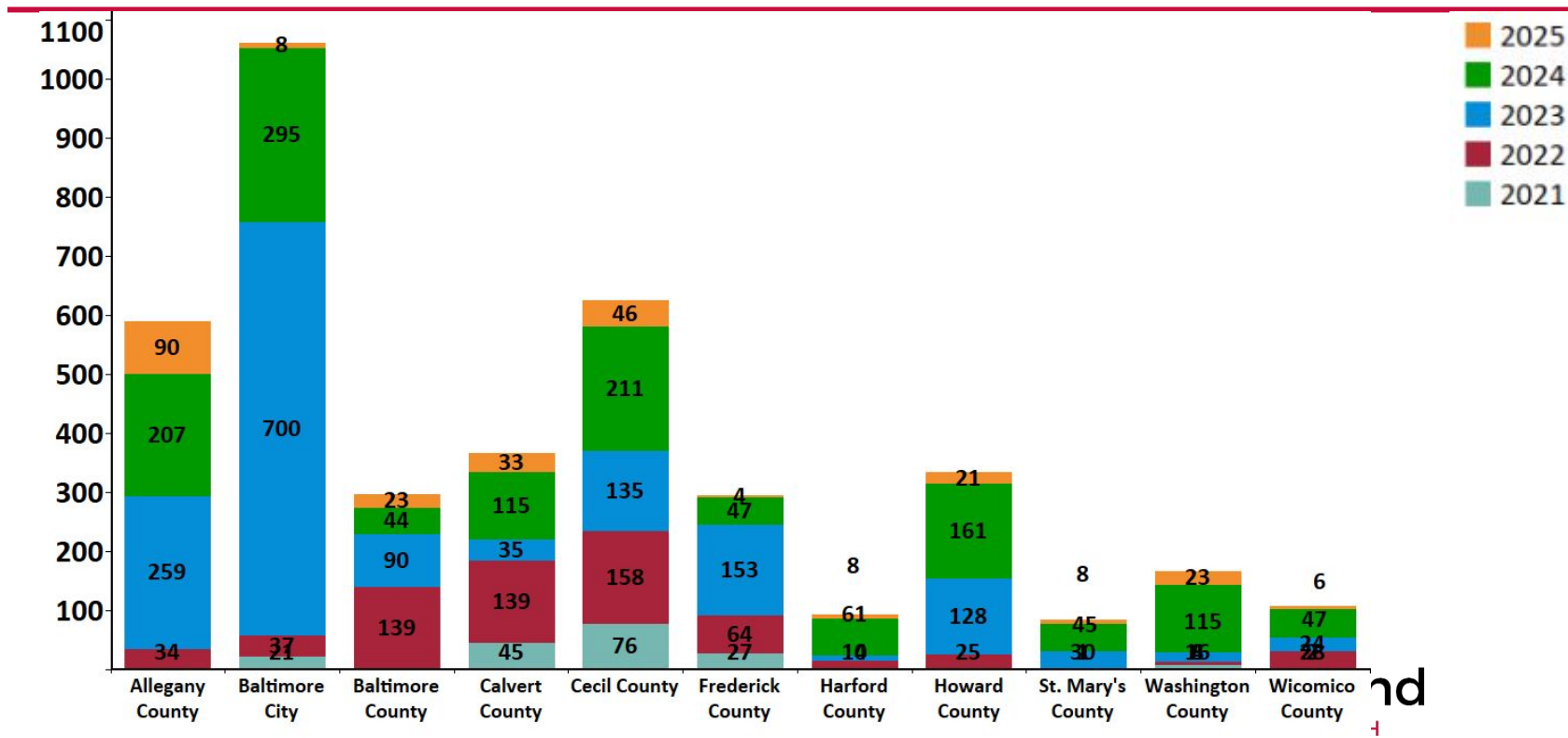
- Convenience Sampling -
 - RAD is a completely voluntary program that Maryland SSP participants can choose to engage in
 - Not all MD jurisdictions have an SSP that participate in RAD
- No personally identifiable data is collected, therefore we do not know how many participants are accounted for in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

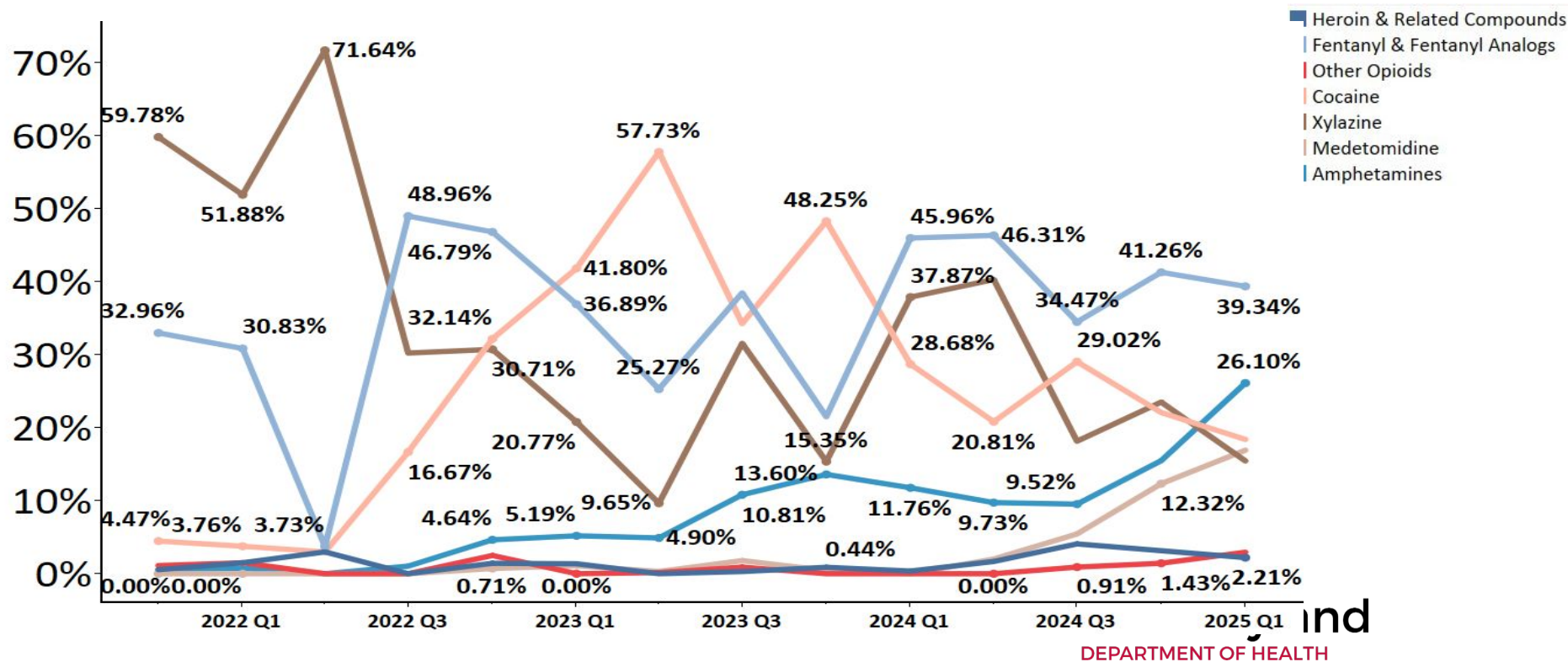
- Sample Collection began in October 2021 and is continuing
- As of February 18th, 3554 samples have been tested via NIST
- 17 of the 26 SSPs in Maryland collect samples.
 - Covering 11 jurisdictions

RAD Sampling by Jurisdiction, OCT 2021- MAR 2025



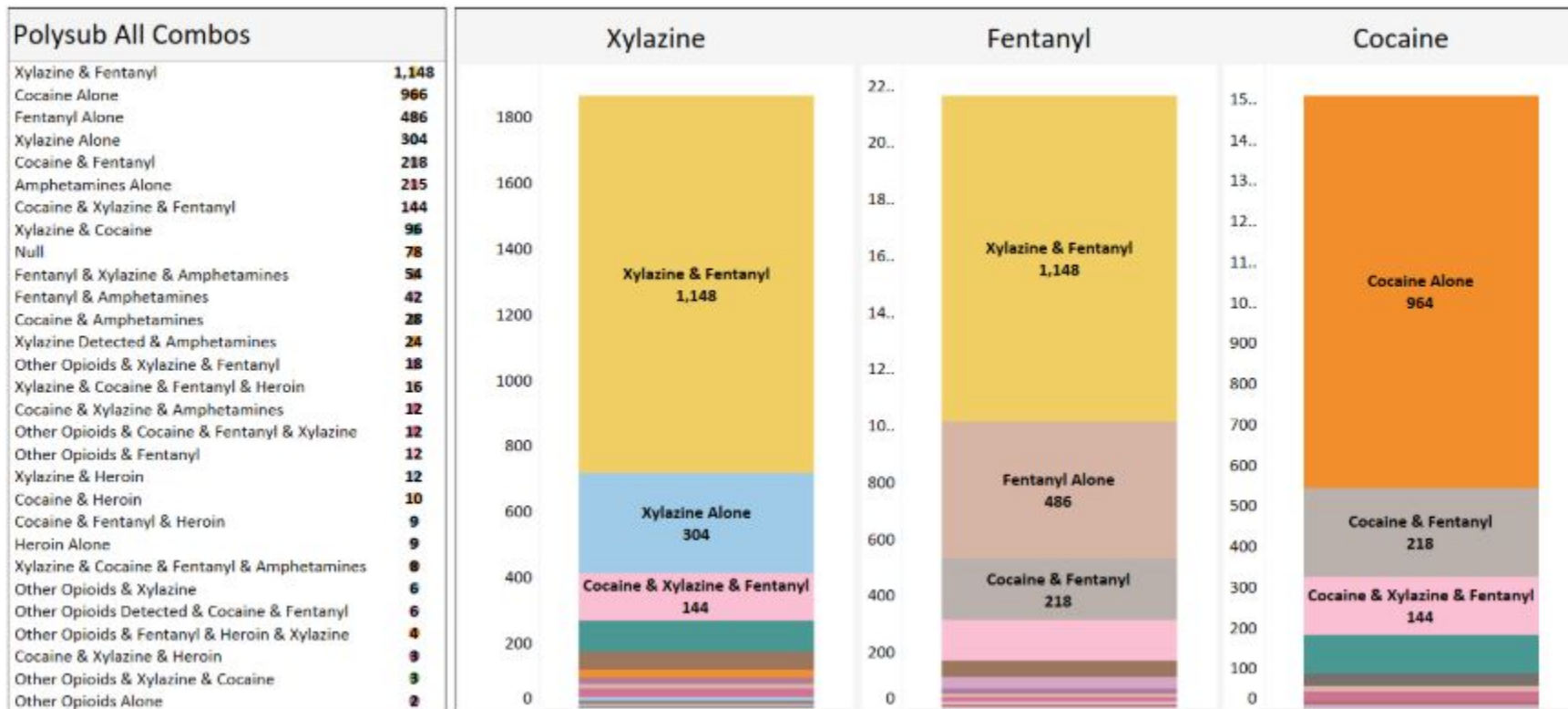
Note: Data is preliminary and subject to change.

RAD Compounds, JAN 2022 - DEC 2024

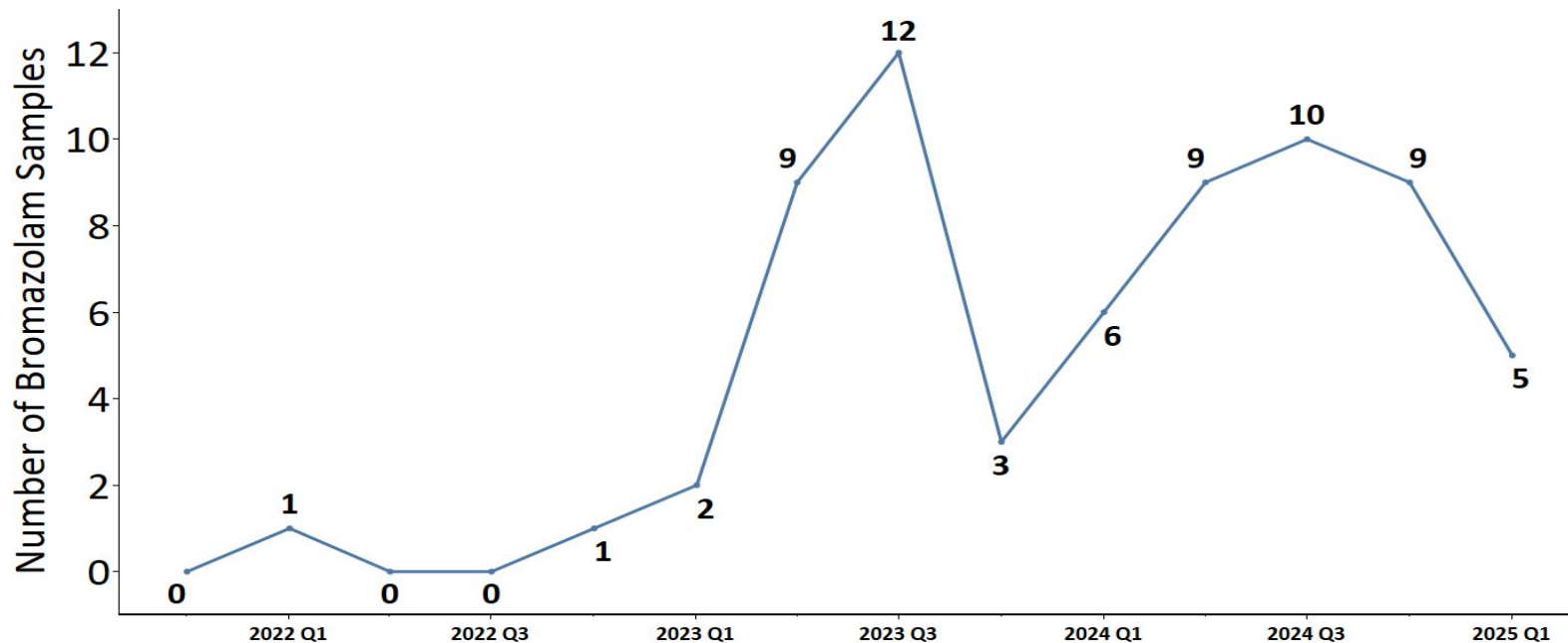


Note: Data is preliminary and subject to change.

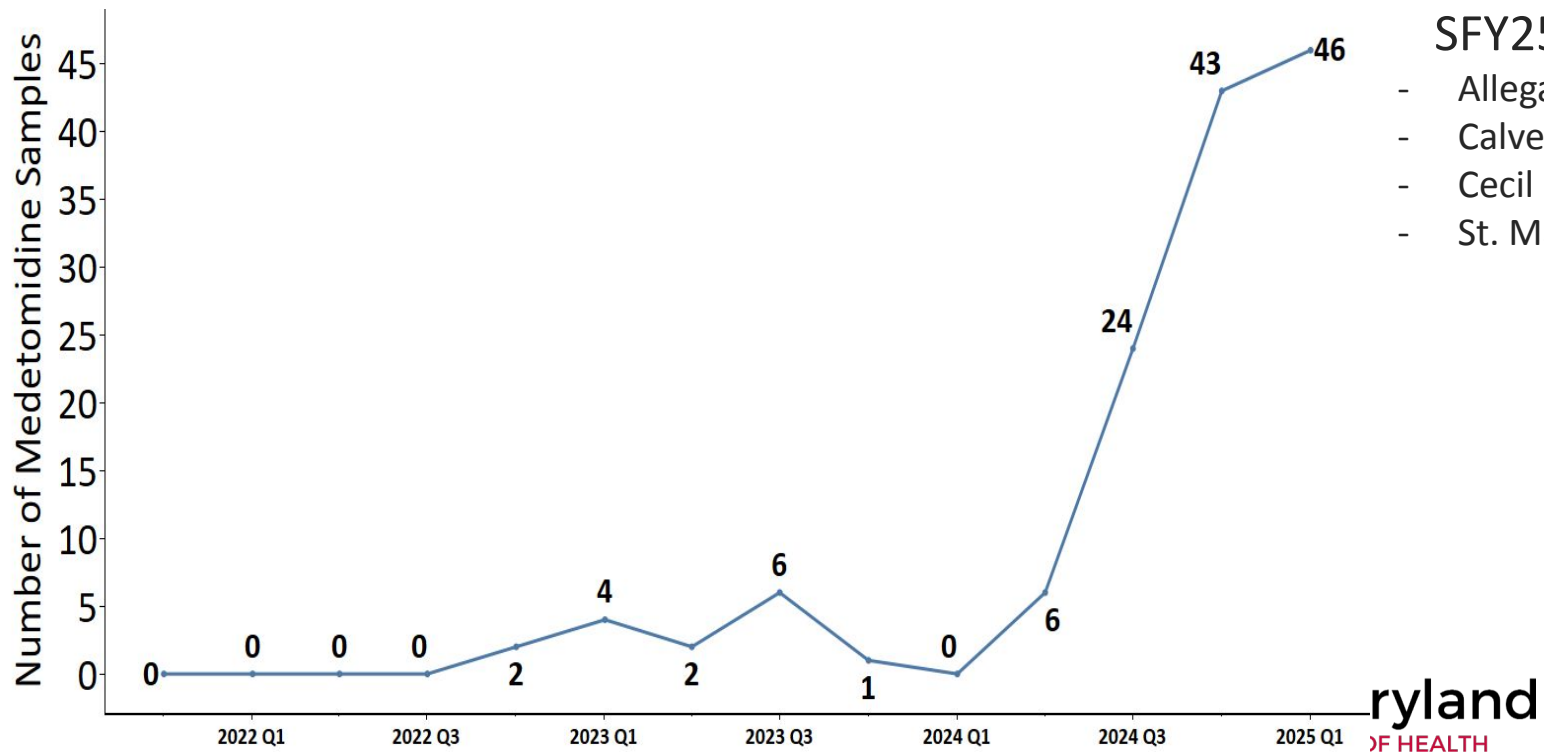
Polysubstance in RAD Samples



Bromazepam, OCT 2021 - MAR 2025

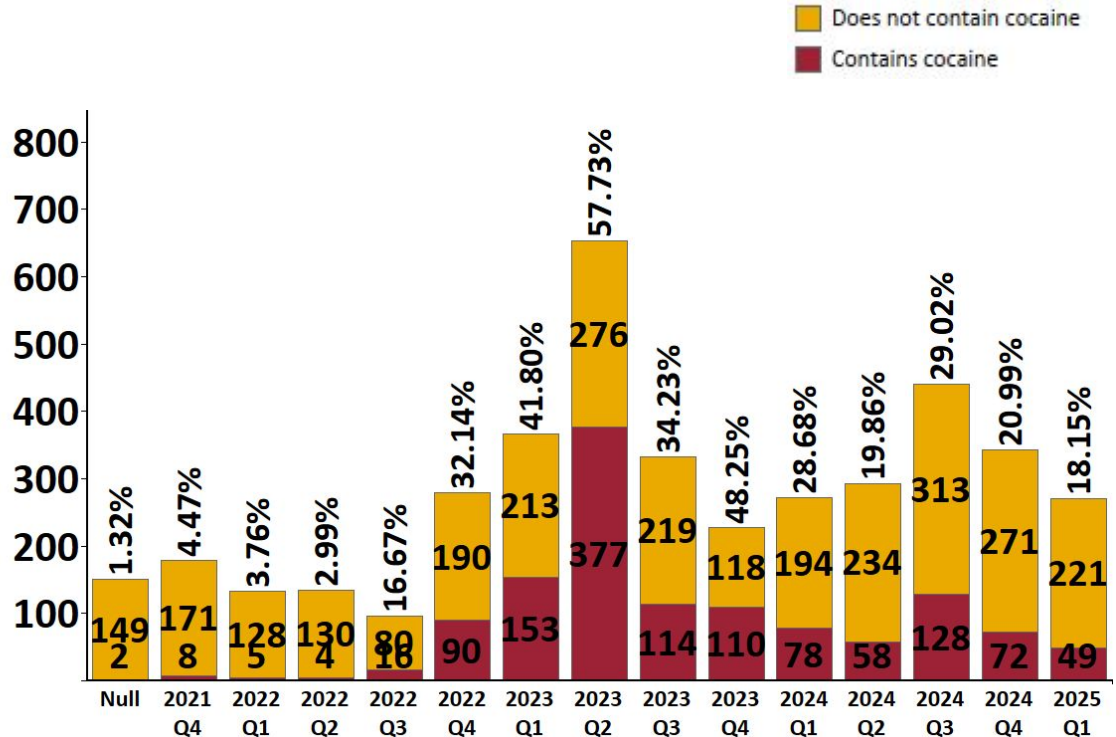


Medetomidine, OCT 2021 - MAR 2025



Samples Containing Cocaine

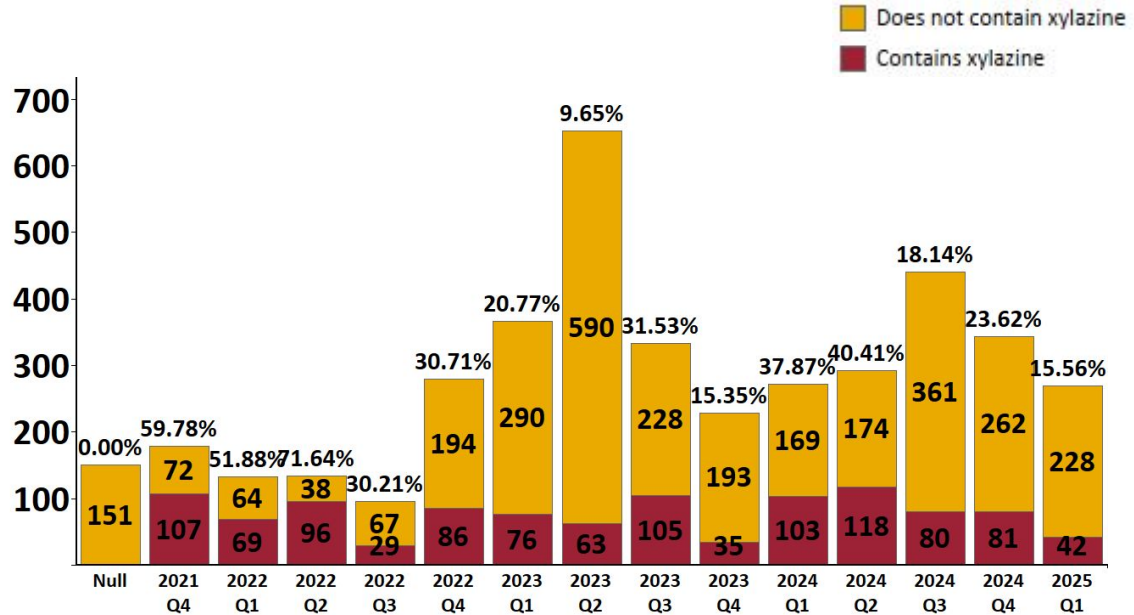
- 18.15% of samples tested in CY 25 Q1 (Jan-March) contained cocaine
- In CY 25 Q1 there were a total of 49 samples that contained cocaine.
- 32 % decrease from the previous quarter (CY24 Q4)
- 37 % decrease in samples containing cocaine from same time last year (CY4 Q1)



Note: Data is preliminary and subject to change

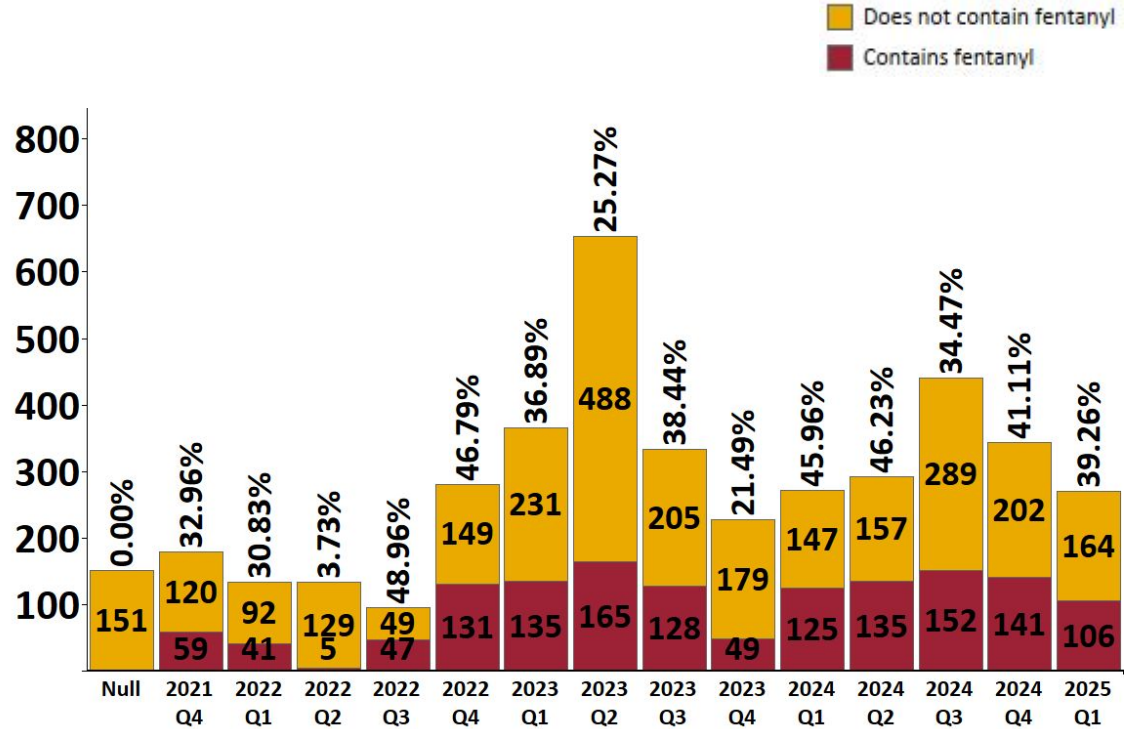
Samples Containing Xylazine

- 15.56 % of samples tested in CY 25 Q1 (Jan-March) contained Xylazine
- In CY 25 Q1 there were a total of 42 samples that contained Xylazine.
- 48% decrease from the previous quarter (CY24 Q4)
- 59 % decrease in samples containing Xylazine from same time last year (CY4 Q1)



Samples Containing Fentanyl & Fentanyl Analogs

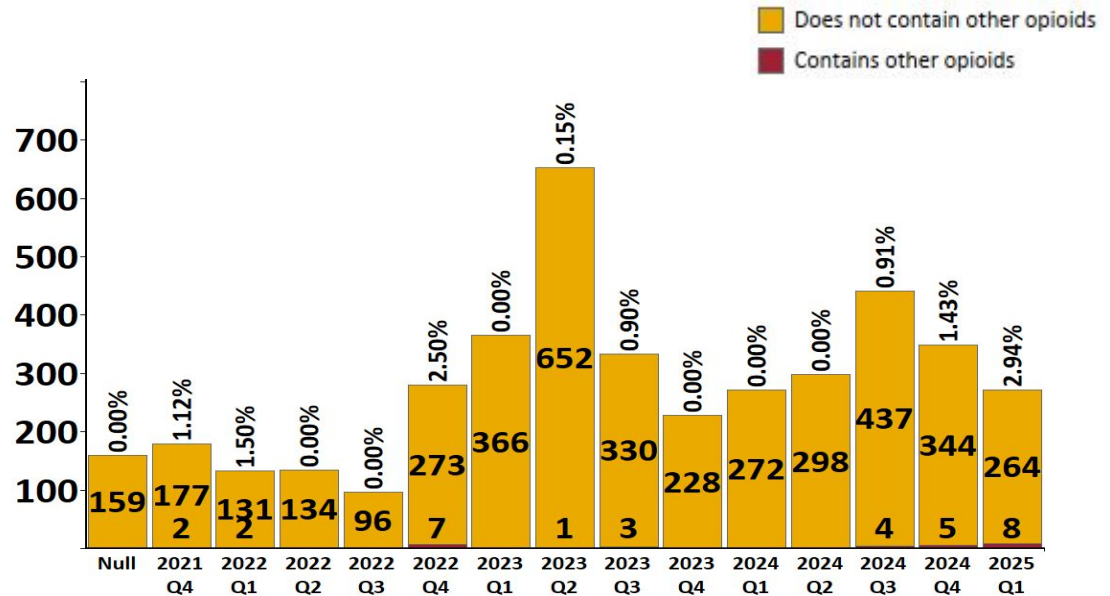
- 39.26 % of samples tested in CY 25 Q1 (Jan-March) contained Fentanyl
- In CY 25 Q1 there were a total of 106 samples that contained Fentanyl
- 25% decrease from the previous quarter (CY24 Q4)
- 16 % decrease in samples containing Fentanyl from same time last year (CY4 Q1)



Note: Data is preliminary and subject to change.

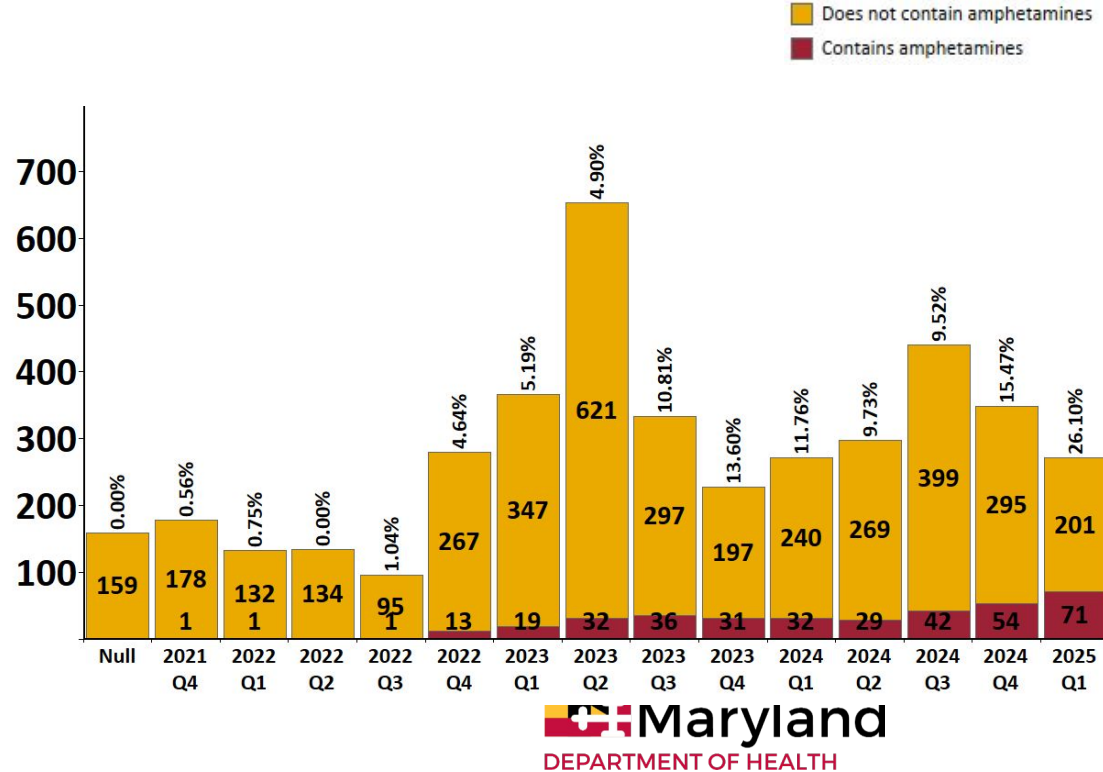
Samples Containing Other Opioids

- 2.94 % of samples tested in CY 25 Q1 (Jan-March) contained other opioids
- In CY 25 Q1 there were a total of 8 samples that contained other opioids
- 60 % decrease from the previous quarter (CY24 Q4)
- There were zero samples containing other opioids from same time last year (CY4 Q1)



Samples Containing Amphetamines

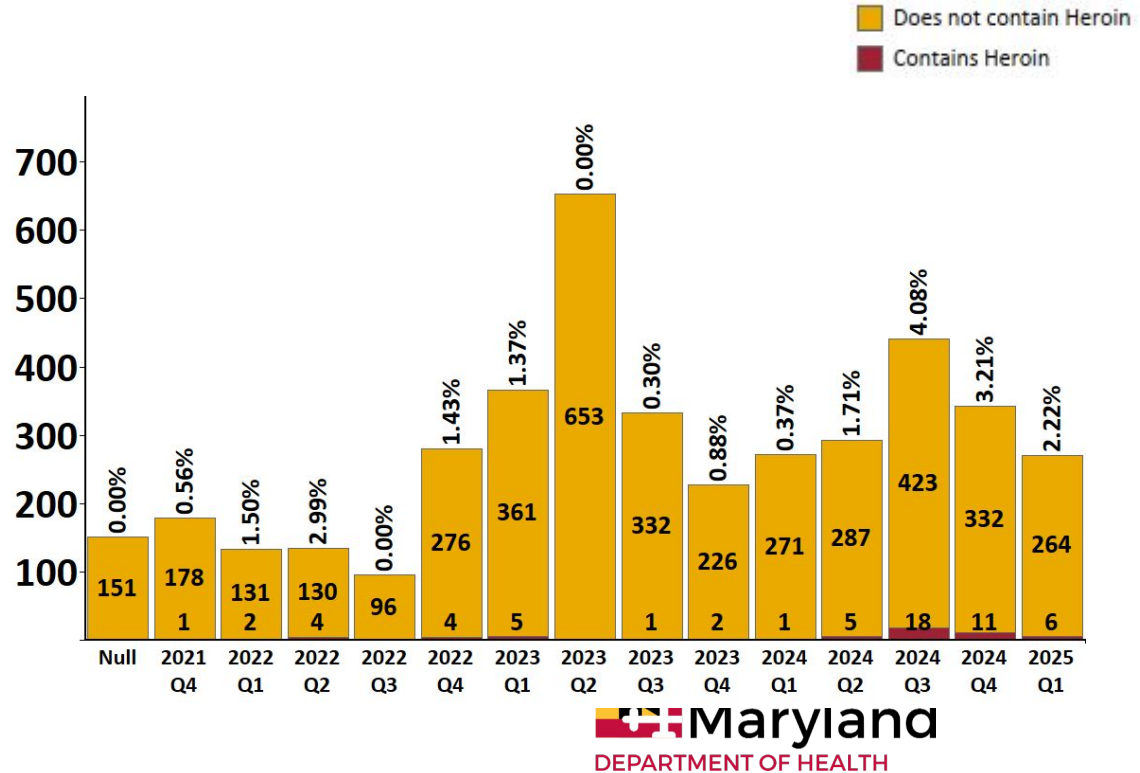
- 26.10 % of samples tested in CY 25 Q1 (Jan-March) contained Amphetamines
- In CY 25 Q1 there were a total of 71 samples that contained Amphetamines
- 31% increase from the previous quarter (CY24 Q4)
- 122% increase in samples containing Amphetamines from same time last year (CY4 Q1)



Note: Data is preliminary and subject to change.

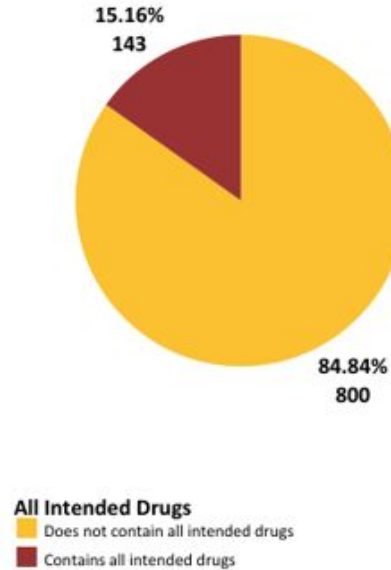
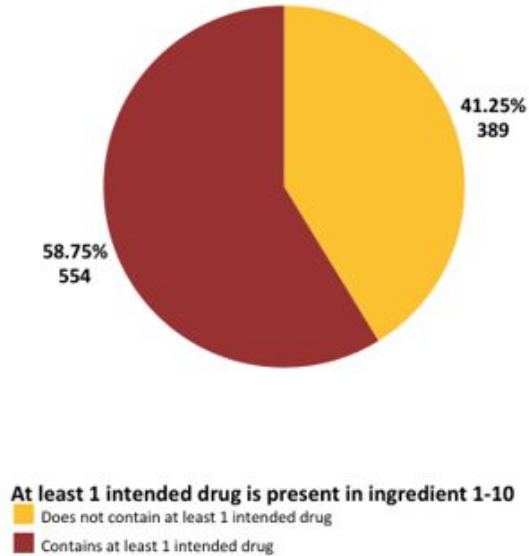
Samples Containing Heroin & Related Compounds

- 2.22 % of samples tested in CY 25 Q1 (Jan-March) contained Heroin
- In CY 25 Q1 there were a total of 6 samples that contained Heroin
- 45 % decrease from the previous quarter (CY24 Q4)
- 500 % increase in samples containing Heroin from same time last year (CY4 Q1)



Note: Data is preliminary and subject to change.

Intent vs. Actual OCT 21 - MAR 25



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Note: Data is preliminary and subject to change.

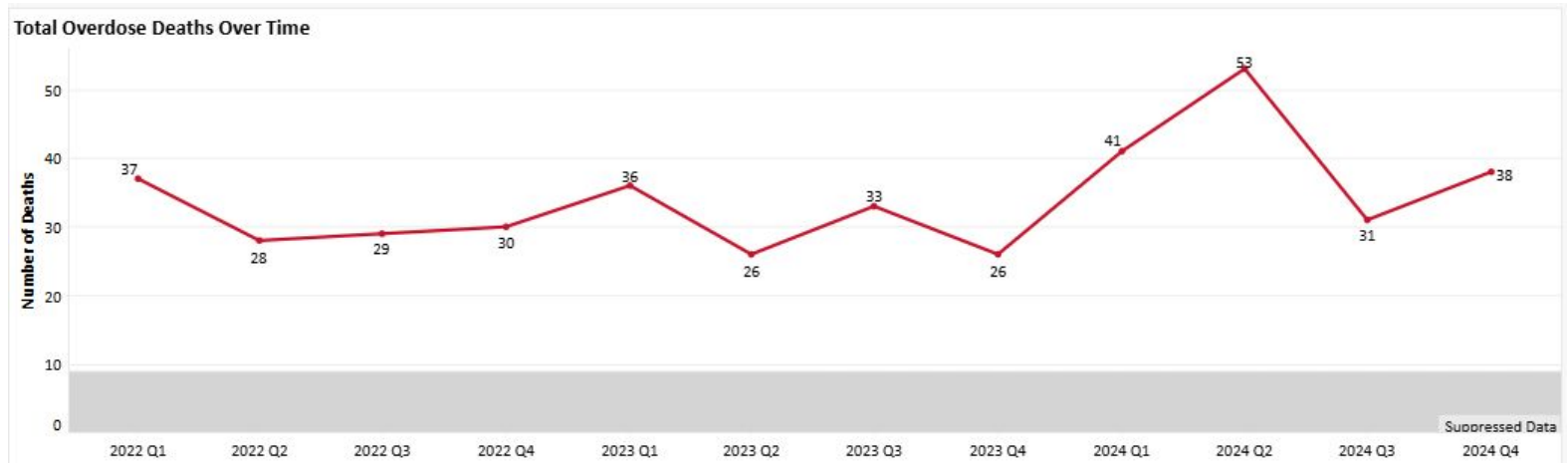
Emerging Trends Discussion

Medetomidine Increase

- Medetomidine is a sedative similar to xylazine that has been increasing in prevalence across the east coast in 2024.
 - Medetomidine seems to be replacing xylazine in the drug market, likely as a result of efforts to schedule xylazine
 - Seen in 8 of the 10 jurisdictions that sample for RAD.
- Philly continues to see a similar trend in medetomidine
 - [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 - still not being seen in fatal overdose data as of 3/19.
- We encourage emphasis on still administering naloxone and responding with rescuing breathing/ CPR.

Heroin Increase

- RAD has seen an increase in heroin in samples in 2024.
- Heroin is now present in 2-4% of the sample (previously always less than 2%).
- This is being seen in fatal overdose trends in Maryland as well.



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 103 confirmed samples containing BTMPS
 - AHEC West (Allegany)
 - Howard
 - OOH (Baltimore City)
 - VOH (Cecil)
 - VOH (Harford)
 - Wicomico
 - Washington
 - St.Mary's
 - Frederick

Bromazepam and Carfentanil

- We are continuing to use RAD to monitor Bromazepam and Carfentanil
 - 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?
- Any new successes?
- How can we support?

Future Collaborative Call Schedule

The next call will be Wednesday, May 14th at 11 a.m.

CHRS Contacts

Maggie Rybak - margaret.rybak@maryland.gov (programmatic)

Janelle Acevedo Hodgson - janelle.hodgson@maryland.gov (data)

Thank you! We appreciate you!