



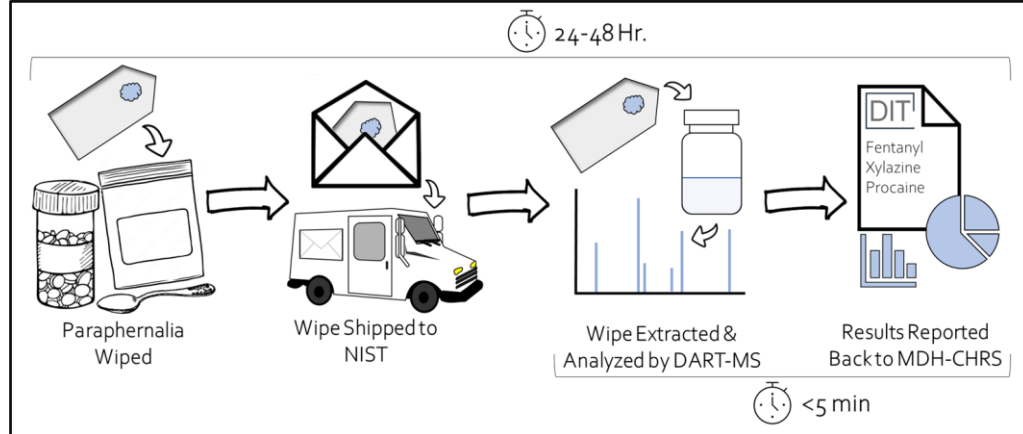
Rapid Analysis of Drugs (RAD)

Collaborative Call

February 18th, 2026

Rapid Analysis of Drugs (RAD)

RAD tests equipment that are routinely returned to Maryland Opioid -Associated Disease Prevention and Outreach Programs (OADPOP) participants.



Goals of Rapid Analysis of Drugs (RAD)

- Increase stakeholder understanding of the Maryland drug market landscape.
- Empower people who use drugs with knowledge about the drug supply that enables them to make informed decisions and employ risk reduction strategies.
- Provide critical, timely information about new and emerging trends in the drug supply, informing the statewide and local response to mitigate harm.

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](#)
- [Maryland OADPOP Law Fact Sheet](#)

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

If you are running low on mailing envelopes, mail Maggie
(margaret.rybak@maryland.gov)

NIST Updates

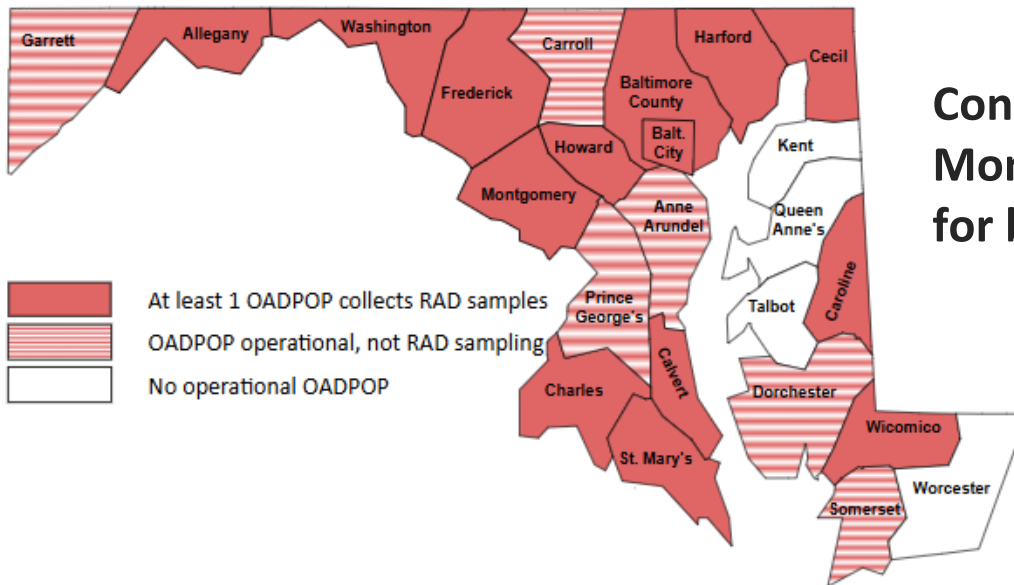
- Do not mail equipment
- Avoid swabbing blood or other biohazards
- Reach out to NIST if you are interested in quantitative sampling
- NIST can pay for overnight/rush shipping for priority samples when needed - ***reach out to NIST directly (radar@nist.gov) and copy Maggie***

RAD Data/Publication Updates

- RAD on the public overdose dashboard - *coming soon!*
- [Pre-print RAD Impacts Paper](#) - Journal of Harm Reduction
- [RAD CY2025 Q3 Newsletter](#)
- [RAD CY2025 Q4 Newsletter](#)
- [NIST December Newsletter](#)

Want to get started?

- If you are an OADPOP not currently sampling for RAD and you want to get involved, please reach out to Maggie



Congratulations to Caroline and Montgomery County Health Depts for beginning to sample!

Recent Results

RAD Data Disclaimers

- Convenience Sampling -
 - RAD is a voluntary program that Maryland OADPOP participants can choose to engage
 - Not all MD jurisdictions have an OADPOP 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

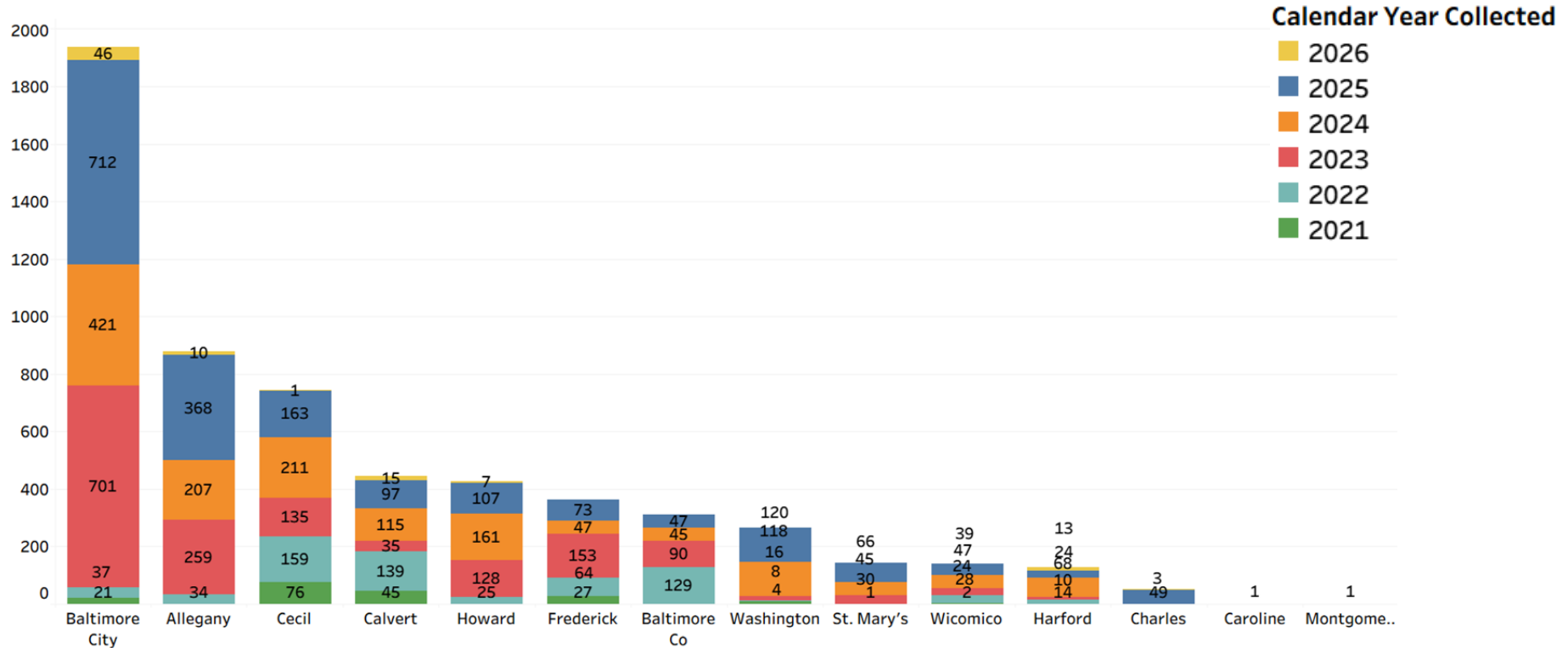
RAD gives us some indication of the near real time drug market in Maryland, but it should not be considered as fully representative.

Key Findings

Q4 CY 2025 (Oct-Dec)

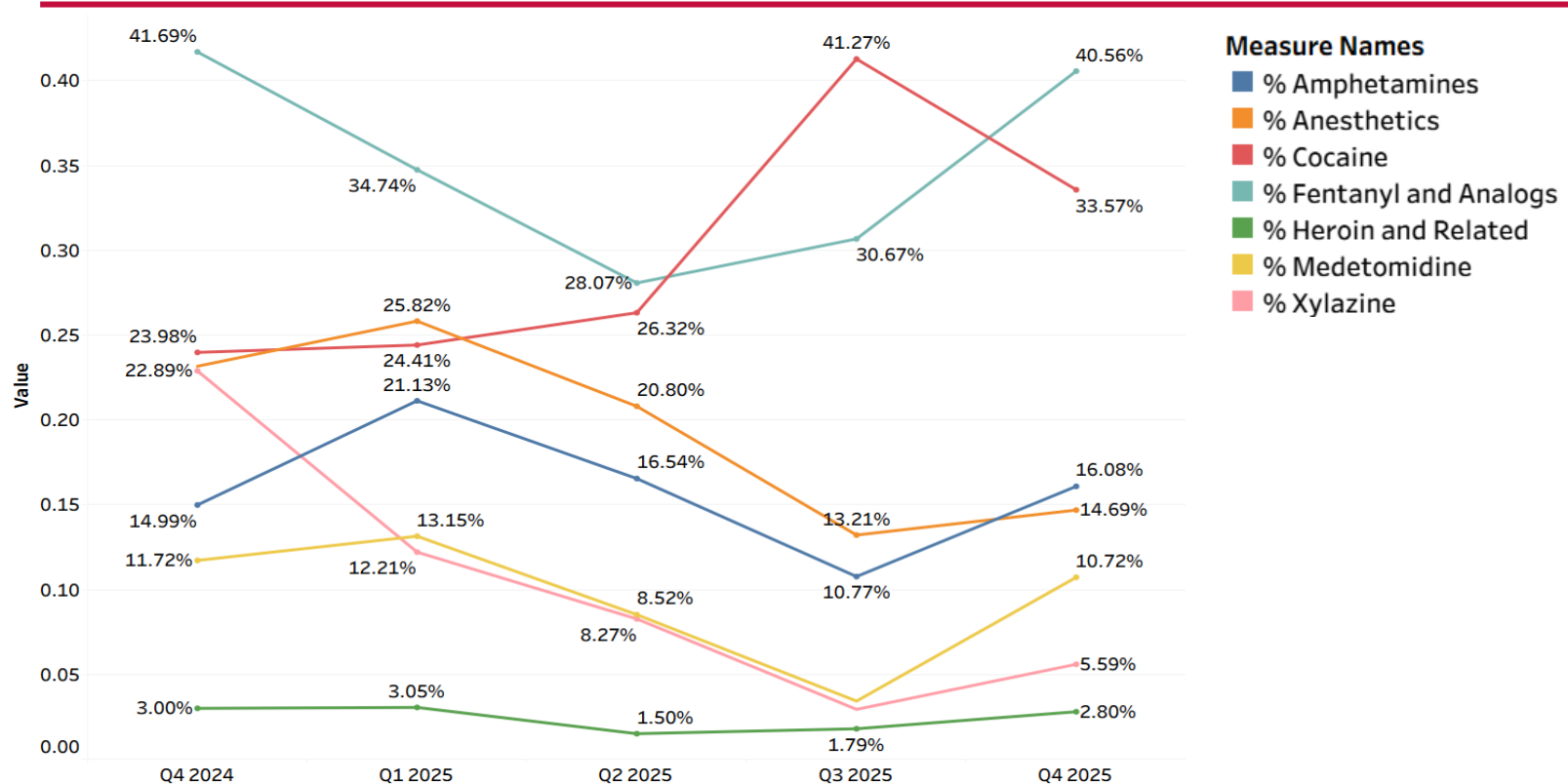
- In Q4 CY2025 (10/1/25 - 12/31/25), **429 samples** were collected from 21 OADPOPs in 14 jurisdictions. Of those samples:
 - **58.7% contained opioids**
 - *Of those samples, 94% contained fentanyl.*
 - **33.57% contained cocaine**
 - **16.08% contained amphetamines**
 - **10.72% contained medetomidine**
 - **5.59% contained xylazine**
- **46.37%** of samples were collected through street outreach or mobile units.
- **55.24%** of samples had multiple active ingredients.

RAD Sampling by Jurisdiction, OCT 2021- JAN 2026



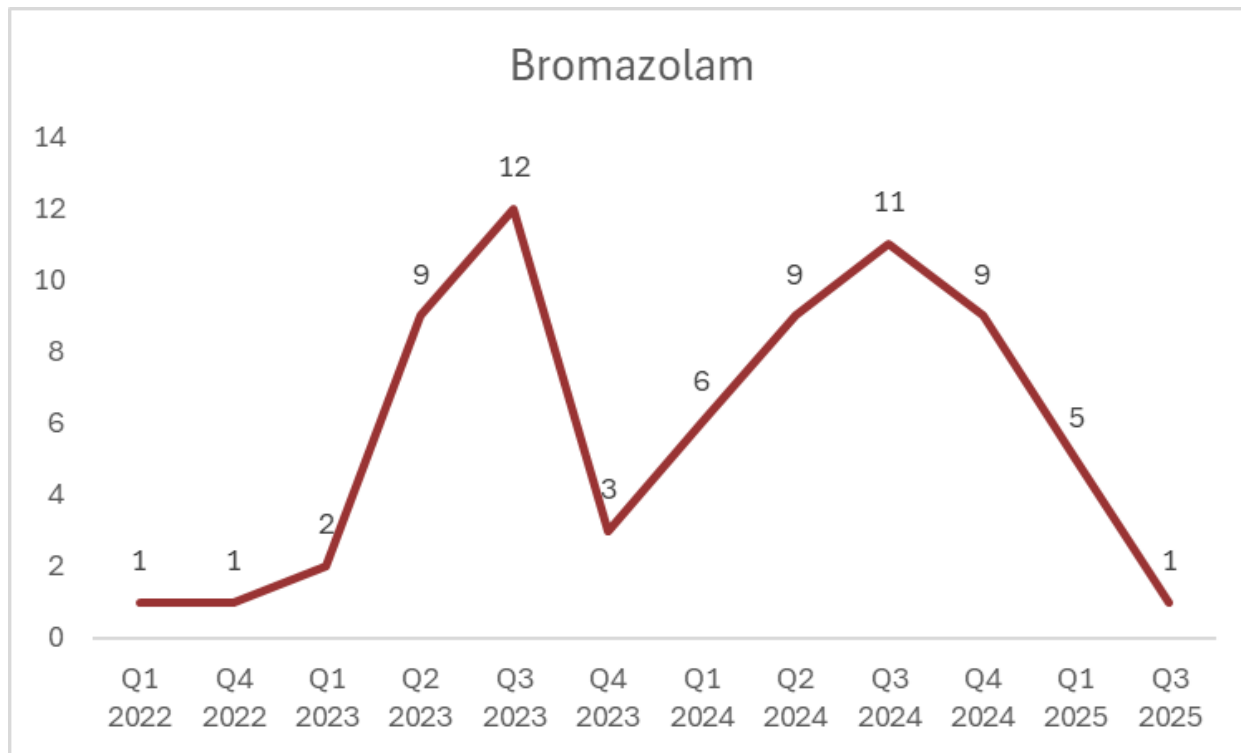
Note: Data is preliminary and subject to change.

RAD Compounds, October 2024- December 2025



Note: Data is preliminary and subject to change.

Bromazepam, OCT 2021 - DEC 2025

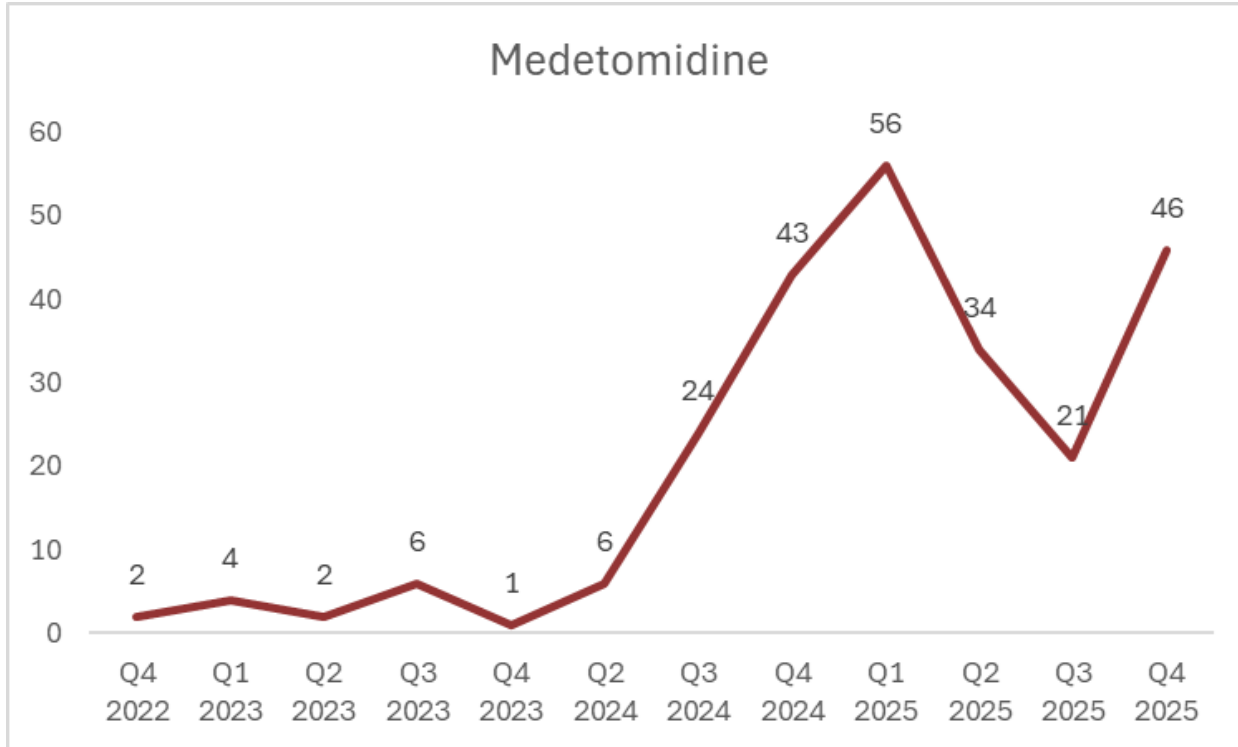


SFY24 Counties:

- 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)

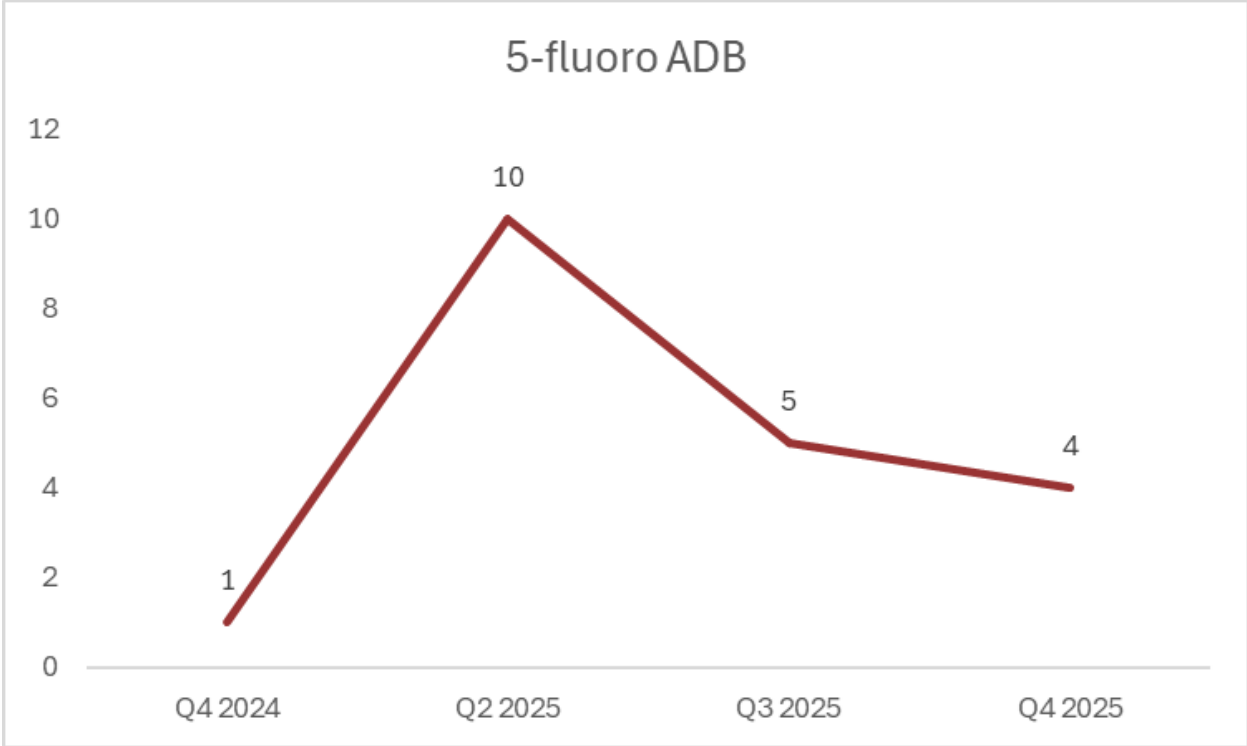
Medetomidine, OCT 2021 - DEC 2025



SFY25 Counties:

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

5-fluoro ADB, OCT 2024 - DEC 2025

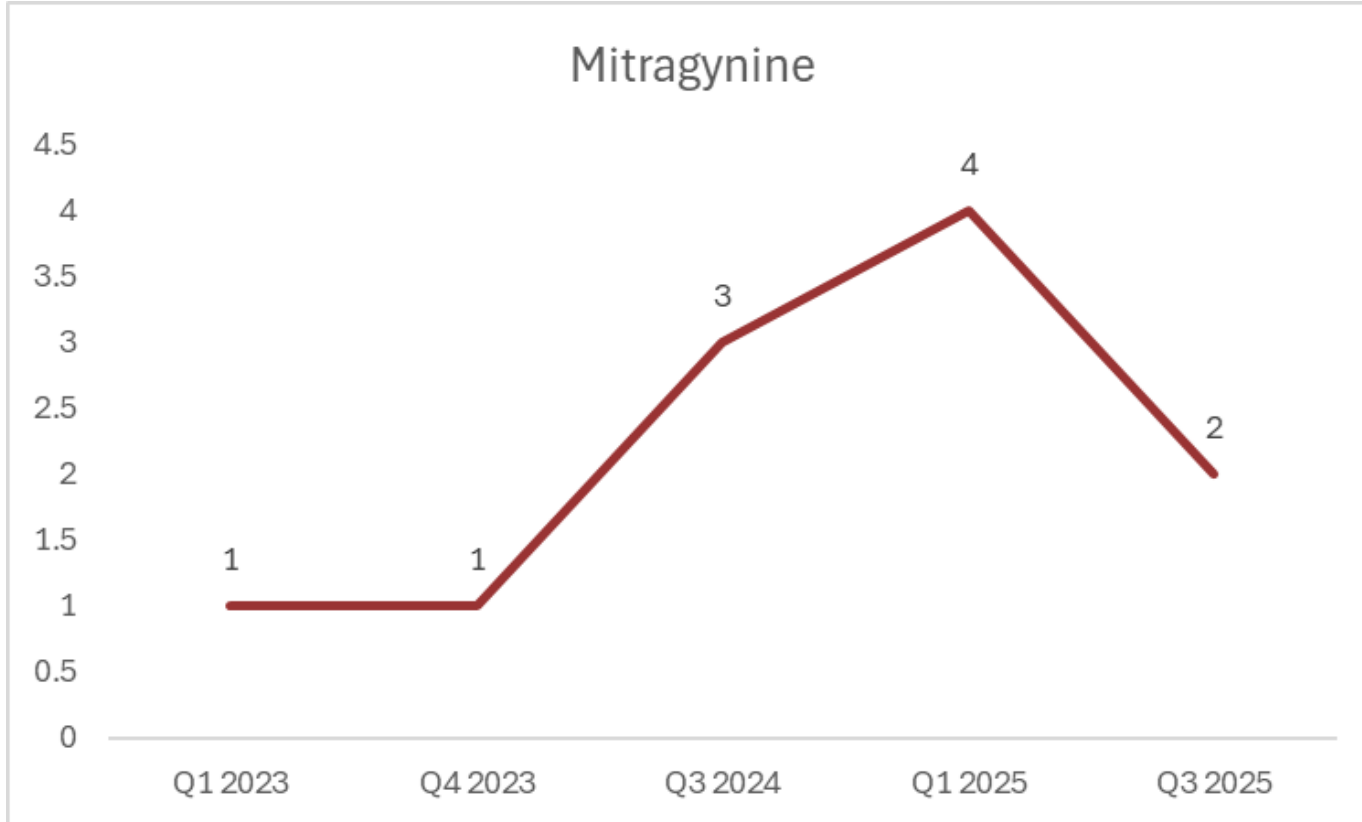


SFY25 Counties:

- Frederick County
- St. Mary's County



Mitragynine, OCT 2021 - DEC 2025

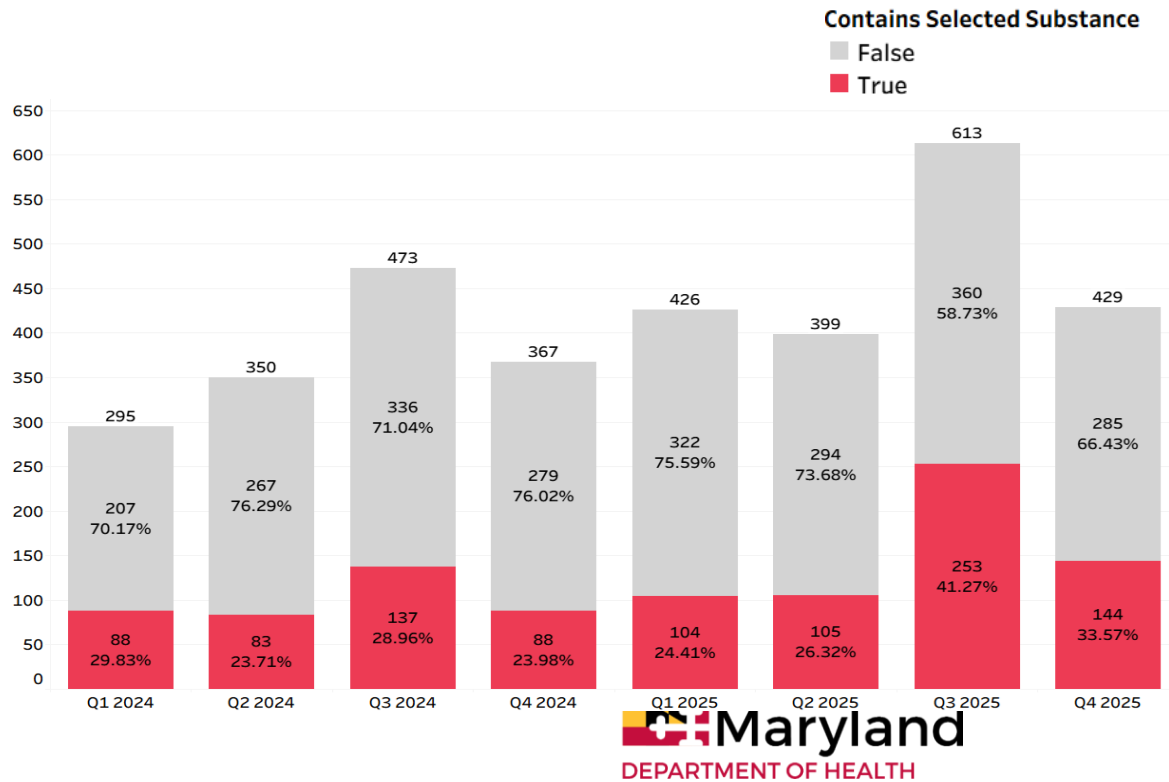


SFY25 Counties:

- Baltimore Co
- Baltimore City
- Frederick County
- St. Mary's County

Samples Containing Cocaine

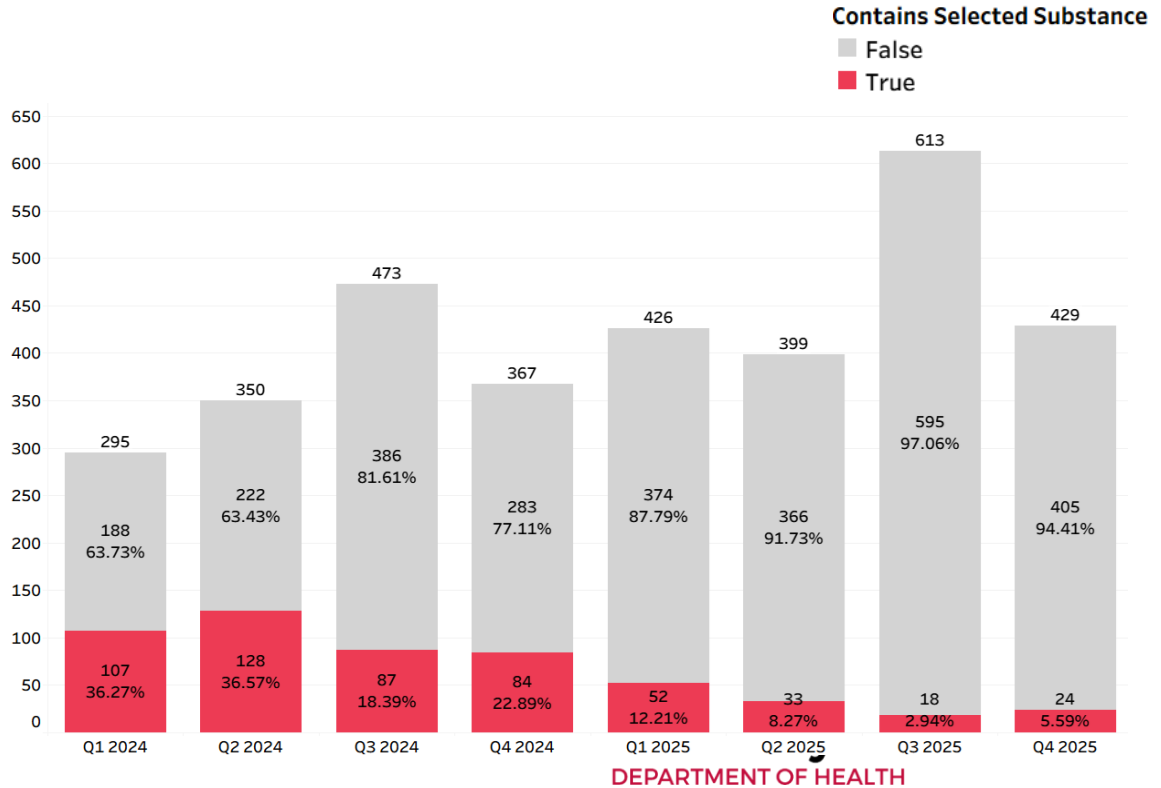
- 33.57 % of samples tested in Q4 of CY 25 contained cocaine
- There were a total of 144 samples that contained cocaine in this time period
- Comparing Q4 of CY 2024 to Q4 of CY 2025 there was a 63.6% increase in samples that contained cocaine.



Note: Data is preliminary and subject to change.

Samples Containing Xylazine

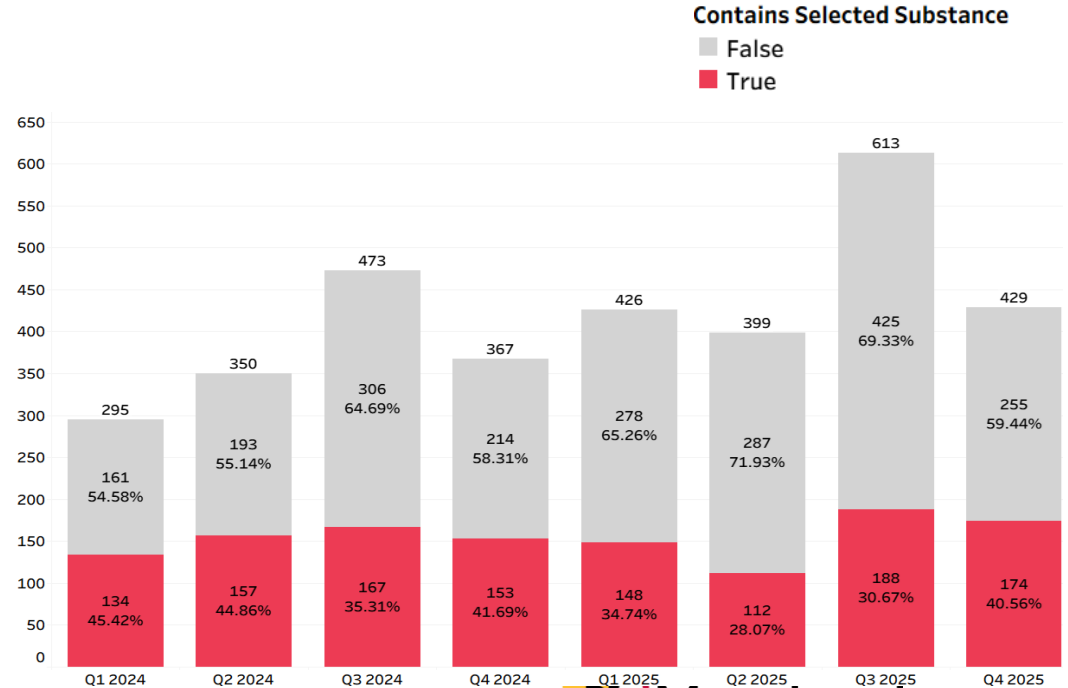
- 5.59% of samples tested in Q4 of CY 25 contained xylazine
- There were a total of 24 samples that contained xylazine in this time period
- Comparing Q4 of CY 2024 to Q4 of CY 2025 there was a 71.42% decrease in samples that contained xylazine.



Note: Data is preliminary and subject to change.

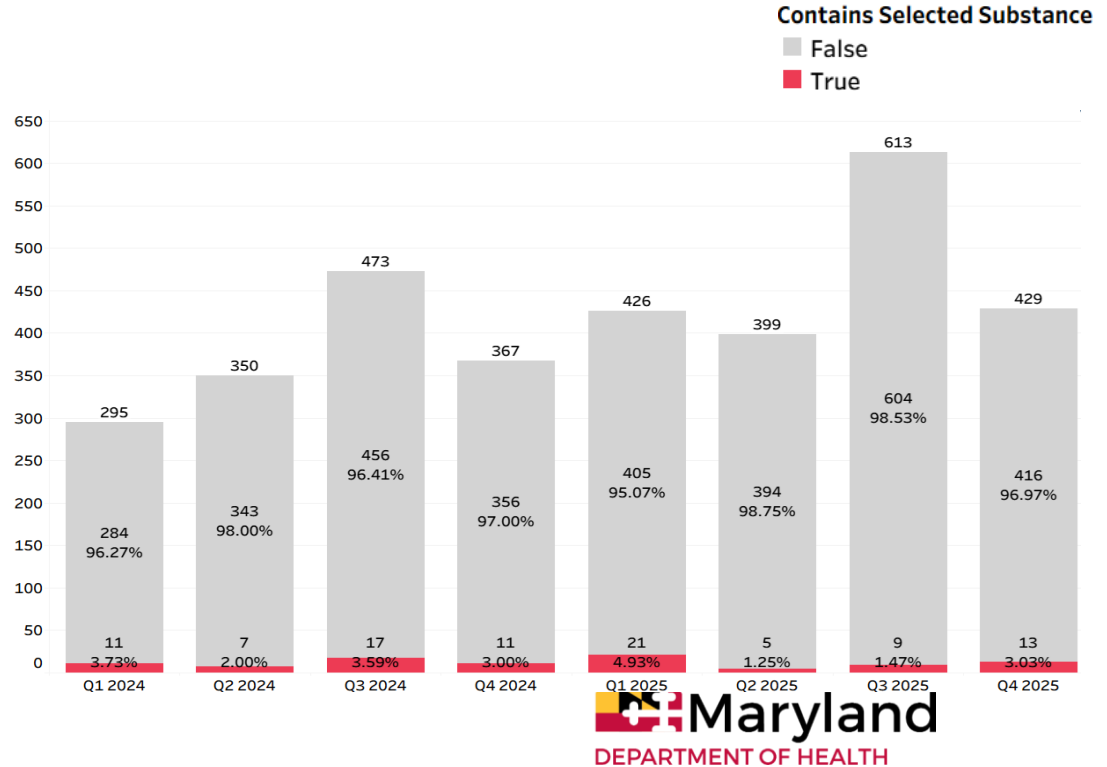
Samples Containing Fentanyl & Fentanyl Analogs

- 40.56% of samples tested in Q4 of CY 25 contained fentanyl & fentanyl analogs.
- There were a total of 174 samples that contained fentanyl & fentanyl analogs in this time period
- Comparing Q4 of CY 2024 to Q4 of CY 2025 there was a 13.73% increase in samples that contained fentanyl & fentanyl analogs.



Samples Containing Other Opioids

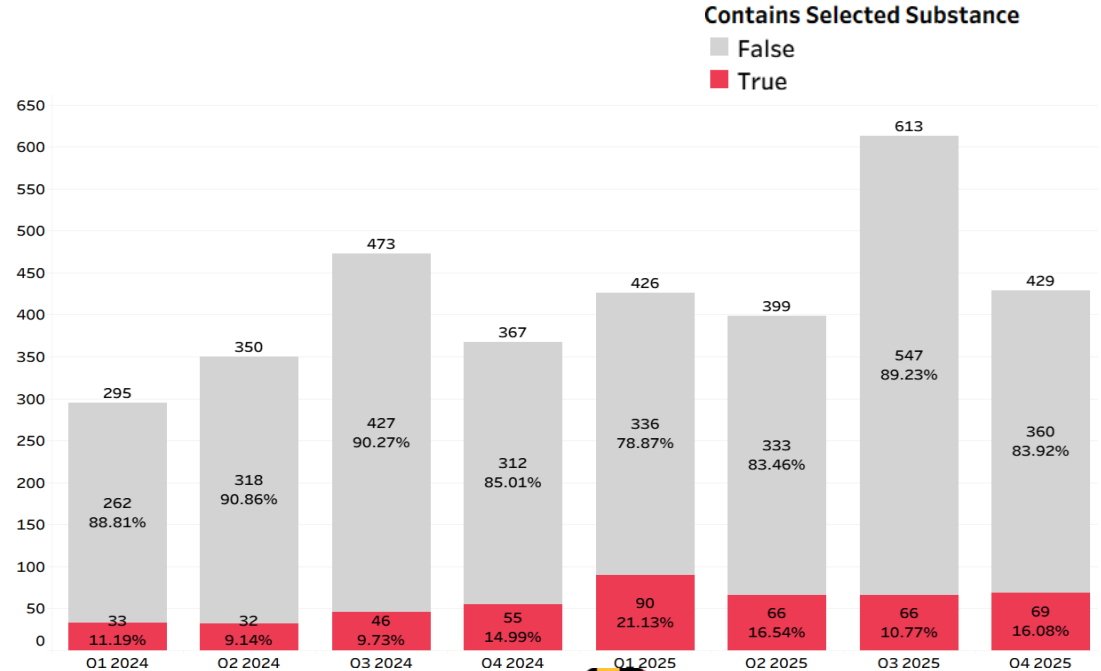
- 3.03% of samples tested in Q4 of CY 25 contained other opioids.
- There were a total of 13 samples that contained other opioids in Q4 CY 25.
- Comparing Q4 of CY 2024 to Q4 of CY 2025 there was a 18.18% increase in samples other opioids.



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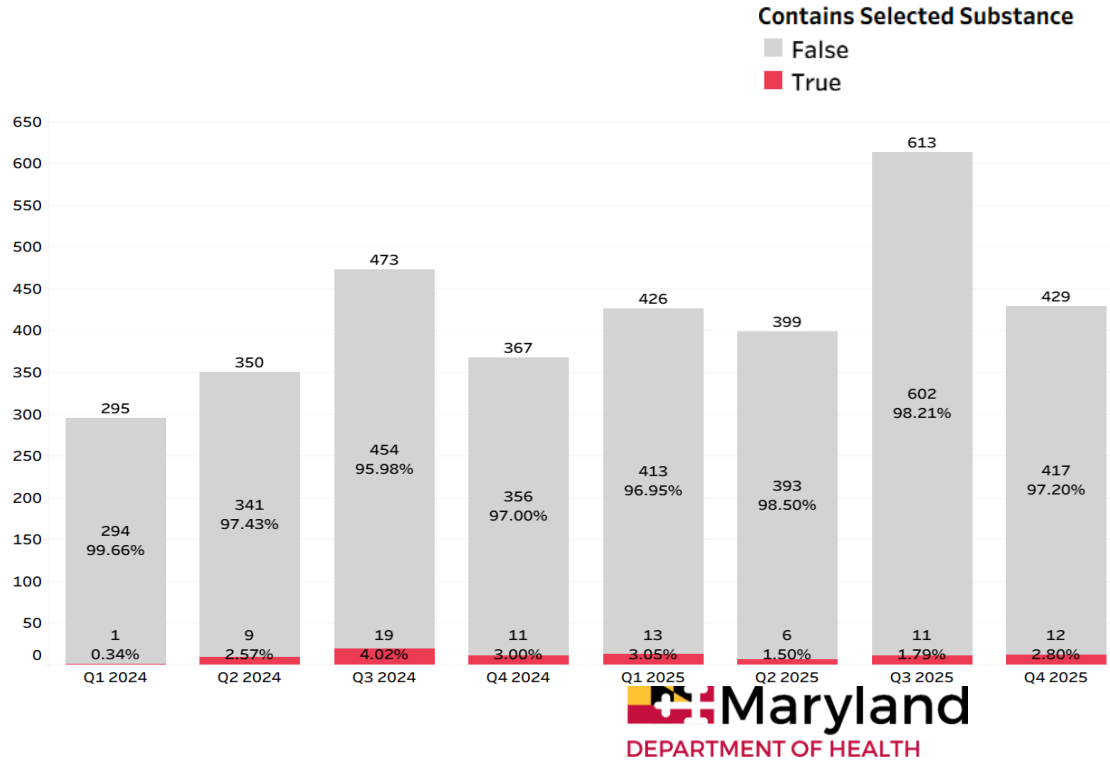
Samples Containing Amphetamines

- 16.08% of samples tested in Q4 of CY 25 contained amphetamines
- There were a total of 69 samples that contained amphetamines in this time period
- Comparing Q4 of CY 2024 to Q4 of CY 2025 there was a 25.45% increase in samples that contained amphetamines.



Samples Containing Heroin & Related Compounds

- 2.80 % of samples tested in Q4 of CY 25 contained heroin & related compounds
- There were a total of 12 samples that contained heroin in this time period
- Comparing Q4 of CY 2024 to Q4 of CY 2025 there was a 9.1% increase in samples that contained heroin.



Note: Data is preliminary and subject to change.

Emerging Trends Discussion

Emerging Trends

- **Medetomidine** - Prior to Q4 of 2025, medetomidine was preliminarily seen in Cecil County. Trending up in Baltimore City and statewide as of Q4
- **Local Anesthetics** - [Anesthetics](#) are most commonly seen in combination with fentanyl and sedatives (medetomidine / xylazine)
- **BTMPS** - Part of the “other” compound class category. Seen widely throughout MD, in combination with fentanyl.
- **Kratom/ Mitragynine** - regulated in MD. Seen in 11 samples from 4 jurisdictions (Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Frederick, and St. Mary’s). Most reported they were purchased in WV.
- **Azaperone** - veterinary sedative, not yet seen in MD RAD, seen in [other eastern states](#).

Medetomidine Increase

- Medetomidine has now been seen in 12 of the 14 RAD jurisdictions.
 - Cecil and Harford Counties have the largest impact
- Baltimore City, Harford, St. Mary's, and Wicomico Counties all saw an increase in medetomidine samples from Q3 to Q4 of CY25
- Encourage administration of naloxone and responding with rescuing breathing/ CPR.
- Philadelphia has published [comprehensive withdrawal management protocols](#) for medetomidine.
- [Maryland Addiction Consultation Services \(MACS\) withdrawal one - pager](#)
- CDC Epi Aid Project results - coming soon!

Carfentanil in RAD Samples

5 samples containing carfentanil have been sampled through RAD

- 8/4/25, 8/8/25, 10/3/25, and 11/10/25 in Baltimore City
- 8/6/25 in Cecil County
- Previously only seen in Maryland's fatal overdose data
 - [34 fatality cases involving carfentanil this year, 16 in 2024](#)
- Carfentanil made up less than 2% of the sample and there were a number of other substances in each sample

**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, April 15th 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!