

ANKORS

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ANKORS Weekly Drug Checking Report

Week of May 2nd

Hi everyone,

I hope you are all doing well and taking care.

I was back at work this week after two weeks off and was very busy with testing! Over the course of the week I tested **38 samples!** 17 of these samples were tested in Grand Forks on Tuesday, and 21 samples were tested in Nelson. Here is the breakdown of samples by expected substance: down or fentanyl (23); methamphetamine (7); cocaine (4); MDMA (2); benzodiazepines (1); and ketamine (1).

Please be aware that **benzodiazepines continue to be frequently found in illicit opioids** (down and fentanyl samples). Of the 23 down samples that I tested this week, 20 samples contained benzodiazepines (**87%**). Fentanyl percentage continues to vary in down samples that are tested at ANKORS. This week, fentanyl amounts varied from less than **5% to up to 20%**. For context, provincial data from March 2022 showed that most down samples contained 10-15% fentanyl (median value was **13.5%**). In Grand Forks, there were three down samples that I tested that contained a **slightly higher than average fentanyl percentage – about 15-20%**. These samples were all granular or pebbly in texture and were light green, light yellow, and pink in colour.

***Disclaimer:** While drug checking can help reduce the risk of using drugs by allowing users to make better informed decisions, please recognize that the use of FTIR spectrometry and test strips has limitations. Notably, the FTIR cannot detect substances that are present in amounts below its detection limit (5%) or substances that are absent from the reference databases. Test strips may fail to detect certain drug analogues and the binary results cannot be translated to parts of the sample that were not tested with the strips. No drug use is completely safe, and checking your drugs does not eliminate all risk.*

Next week, I will be testing in Castlegar on Tuesday and in Trail at the Community Inclusion Centre on Wednesday. Monday and Thursday I will be at the ANKORS office in Nelson. Please spread the word and encourage folks to come by to have their samples tested! Additionally, samples can be dropped off at ANKORS anytime for testing – just be sure to leave the appropriate contact information with the sample(s) so that results can be shared with the service user. Samples will be tested as soon as possible upon returning to the office and results will be provided in a timely and discreet manner.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

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