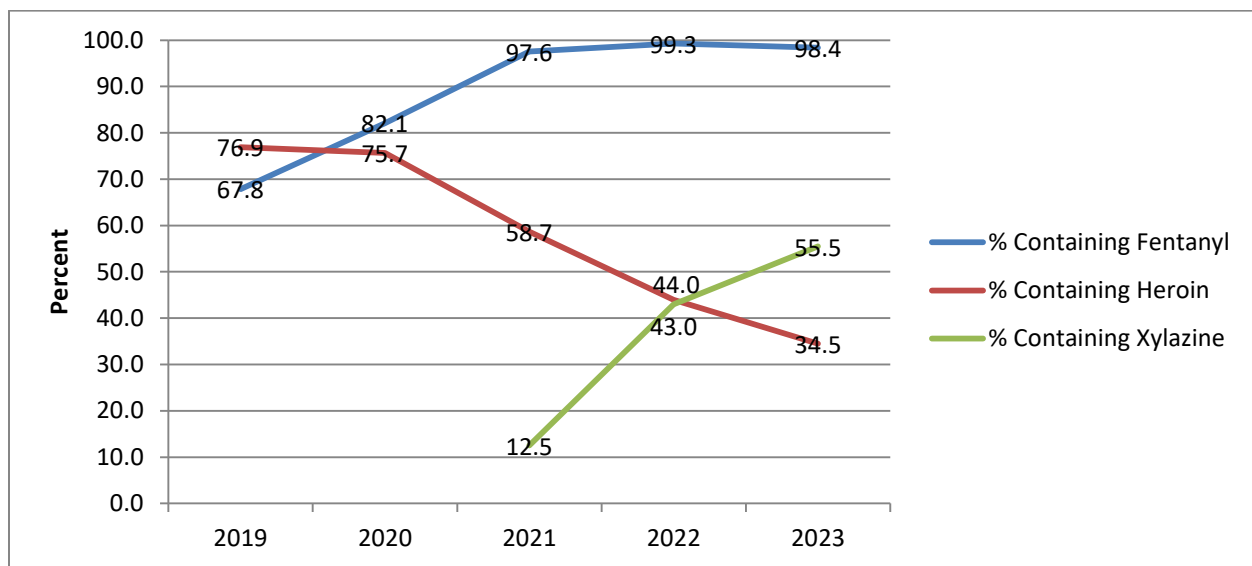


VERMONT FORENSIC LABORATORY

DRUG ANALYSIS

In the past 10 years, Vermont has experienced an explosion in drug use, particularly fentanyl which poses public health threats. The VFL has played a critical role in keeping up with analysis and identifying potential supply sources since all law enforcement agencies in the State submit drugs to the VFL. Information obtained during analysis is shared with the Vermont Intelligence Center as part of the Drug Monitoring Initiative so that law enforcement agencies are aware of the type of drugs involved and use that information in public service announcements in an attempt to prevent future tragedies.



*Xylazine data collection started in 2021

- Drug Chemistry section comprised of three analysts and a Supervisor
 - Annually ~900 drug cases are submitted to the VFL (current backlog is ~650)
- Case priority as follows: upcoming court dates (ex. trials, hearings, motions to dismiss), overdoses, DUIs, intelligence regarding a particular sample/logo, negative/unusual field tests.
 - Arraignment dates or cases without field testing do not warrant expedited analysis
- Analysis at the VFL is QUALITATIVE (not quantitative) and identifies the compounds present in a sample (not the amount of each compound or its purity).
 - Analytical approach is based on the case circumstances (possession, sales, etc.) and type/volume of evidence submitted
 - determination made regarding what thresholds to meet in conjunction with Title 18 and Regulated Drug Rule