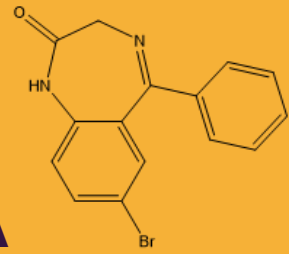


EMERGENCE OF

Desalkylgidazepam

A NOVEL BENZODIAZEPINE IN CANADA



INFOSHEET BY HEALTH CANADA'S DRUG ANALYSIS SERVICE

Health Canada's Drug Analysis Service (DAS) operates laboratories across Canada that analyze suspected illegal drugs seized by Canadian law enforcement agencies and samples submitted by public health partners. DAS data is solely based on samples submitted to our laboratories and as such, samples analyzed by DAS may not be completely representative of drug seizure in Canada, including substances circulating on the market. DAS data should therefore be used with caution when determining trends or drawing conclusions about the type and nature of substances circulating in the illicit market. The data below represent the number of times a substance was identified in submitted samples. A single sample may contain more than one substance. For the purpose of this publication, one identification represents a unique sample as Desalkylgidazepam can only be identified once in each sample.

Data from April 25, 2022 to April 24, 2023

Other names: Bromo-nordazepam, Bromonordiazepam

IUPAC: 7-bromo-5-phenyl-1,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one

Controlled status in Canada: Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, Schedule IV, Item 18

Chemical (Pharmacological) Class: Benzodiazepine (BZD) Class (Sedative/ Hypnotic)

First identification by the Drug Analysis Service (DAS): April 25, 2022, Drayton Valley, Alberta

OVERVIEW

Desalkylgidazepam was first identified by DAS on April 25, 2022 in a sample submitted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police from Drayton Valley in Alberta. In the year following its first identification (April 25, 2022 to April 24, 2023), 563 samples analysed by DAS contained Desalkylgidazepam. 37.5% of samples containing Desalkylgidazepam were submitted by law enforcement agencies from Ontario, 32.7% from British Columbia and 26.8% from Alberta (Figure 1).

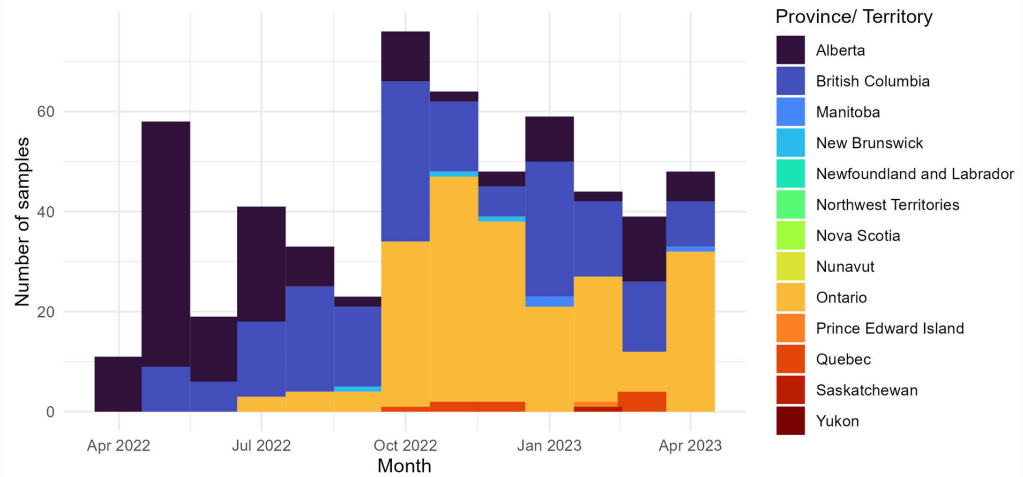
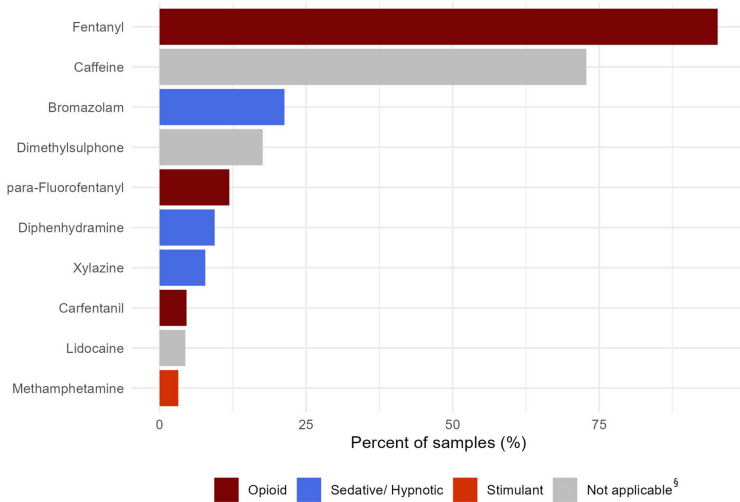


FIGURE 1. NUMBER OF SAMPLES CONTAINING DESALKYLGIDAZEPAM PER PROVINCE/ TERRITORY

CO-OCCURRING SUBSTANCES

Fentanyl was identified in 95.2% of samples containing Desalkylgidazepam. Meanwhile, Bromazolam and Para-Fluorofentanyl were identified in 21.3% and 11.9% of the samples containing Desalkylgidazepam respectively (Figure 2, data from April 25, 2022 to April 24, 2023).



⁵ Includes cutting agents, precursors/key intermediates/reagents, prescription drugs, over the counter drugs and non-drugs

FIGURE 2. TOP 10 CO-OCCURRING SUBSTANCES WITH DESALKYLGIDAZEPAM

QUICK STATISTICS

563
samples contained
Desalkylgidazepam in the year
following the first
identification.

97.3%
of samples containing
Desalkylgidazepam were in
powder form.

79.2%
of samples containing
Desalkylgidazepam contained
2 or more co-occurring
substances.

95.2%
of samples containing
Desalkylgidazepam contained
Fentanyl