

Wastewater drug testing in New Zealand: Quarter 1 findings

National overview



Background: Testing occurs during one week per month, however the frequency of testing varies between regions due to available resources.

Notes: (1) Baseline usage across drug types and sample regions is unclear at present, but will become evident in due course as testing continues. Therefore, cautious interpretation is advised.

(2) In December 2018, values for two Tier 1 sites were estimated using average flow rates from the previous month because no water flow data was available.

(3) Heroin was not detected at any sample location between November 2018 and January 2019, whilst fentanyl has not been detected at any Tier 2 Group B site to date.

	Test frequency	Proportion of national population	Regions
Tier 1	Monthly	64%	Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington, Waikato, Dunedin, Palmerston North, New Plymouth, Tauranga, Nelson, Whangarei, Queenstown
Tier 2 (Group A)	Bimonthly	6%	Ashburton, Greymouth, Invercargill, Kerikeri, Paraparaumu, Rotorua, Taupo, Wanganui
Tier 2 (Group B)	Bimonthly	6%	Hastings, Napier, Blenheim, Timaru, Levin, Whakatane, Masterton, Westport

