

Testing for the Drugs People Use: Beyond a 5 Panel Test

Which drugs to include in a panel may depend on:

- applicable state law requirements or limitations
- federal regulations
- the type of work performed by those being tested
- the drug test method (lab-based vs. rapid-result)
- in some cases, corporate policy or culture

A SAMHSA Drug-Test Panel?

The **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**, a federal agency that regulates government-mandated drug testing, traditionally required a 5-panel drug test that included:



Amphetamines (Amphetamines, Methamphetamines)



Cocaine (Cocaine, Crack, Benzoyllecognine)



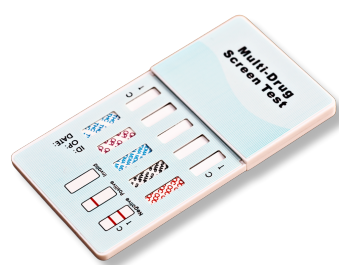
Marijuana – THC Tetrahydrocannabinol (Cannabinoids)



Opiates (Heroin, Opium, Codeine, Morphine)



Phencyclidine (PCP)



Other Drugs to Test For May Include...

Regardless of the federal standard, other substances often included in a drug-test panel include:

- Alcohol (Ethanol)
- Barbiturates (Phenobarbital, Secobarbital, Butabital)
- Benzodiazepines (Valium, Librium, Serax, Rohypnol)
- Buprenorphine (BUP)
- Ecstasy / Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)

Fentanyl and Other Dangerous Drugs

- According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), “Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is similar to morphine but is **50 to 100 times more potent.**”
- Up to **100 times more powerful than morphine!**
- Potentially far more deadly to those who use it knowingly or unknowingly, as in the case of using other drugs that have been laced with fentanyl.
- In January of 2025, the Senate introduced a bill: **Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act or the HALT Fentanyl Act.**
 - This bill permanently places fentanyl-related substances as a class into schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. A schedule I controlled substance is a drug, substance, or chemical that has a high potential for abuse; has no currently accepted medical value; and is subject to regulatory controls and administrative, civil, and criminal penalties under the Controlled Substances Act.¹



1. S.331 – 119th Congress (2025–2026): HALT Fentanyl Act. (2025, June 12). <https://www.congress.gov/bills/119th-congress/senate-bill/331>

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