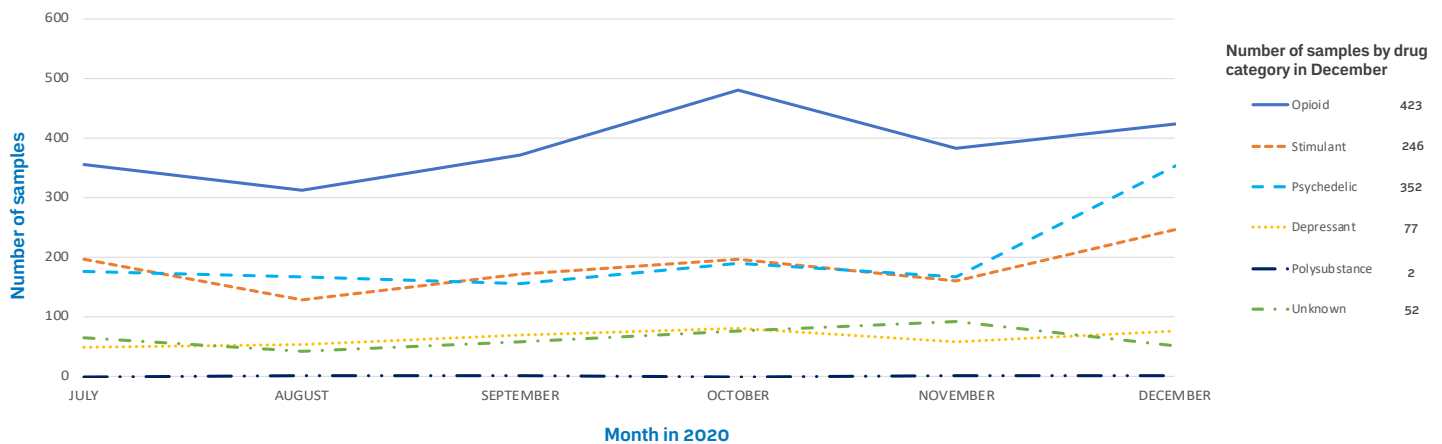


## Key Findings

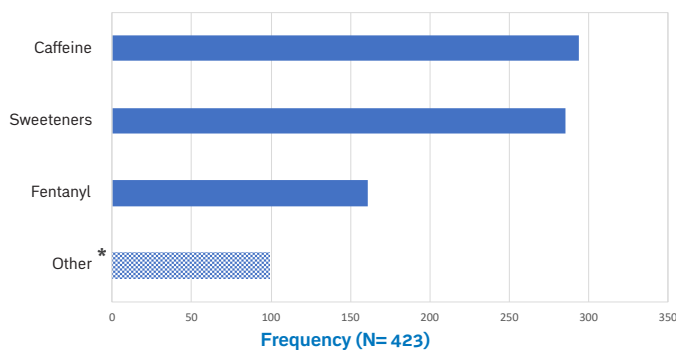
- An increase in the number of samples of MDMA and ketamine over the holidays caused an uptick in the number of psychedelics checked in December.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines (15.5%) has continued on an upward trend since August.
- Two alerts were sent this month for counterfeit medications (“fake oxy” and “fake Xanax”).
- Three samples of methamphetamine tested positive for fentanyl this month.

## Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months

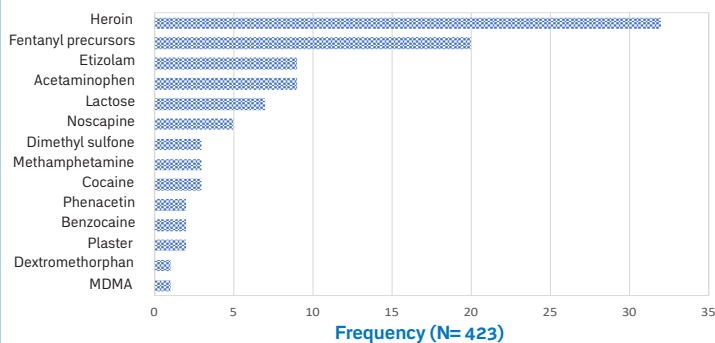


## Components found in drug samples in December

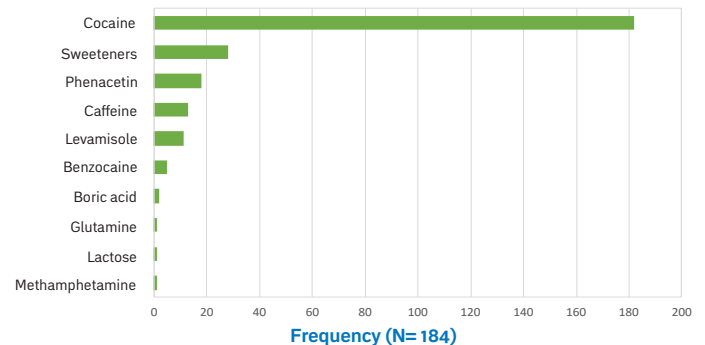
### Components in opioids



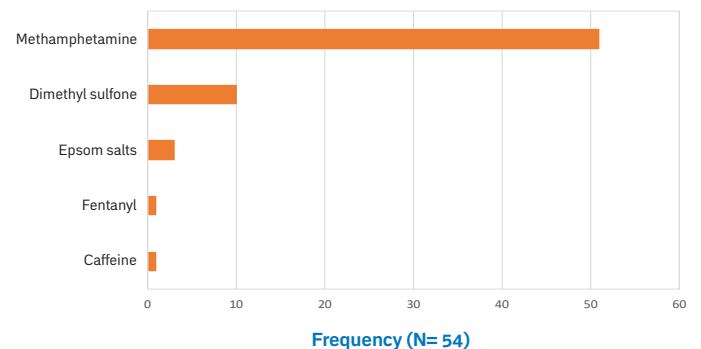
### \* Other components found in opioids



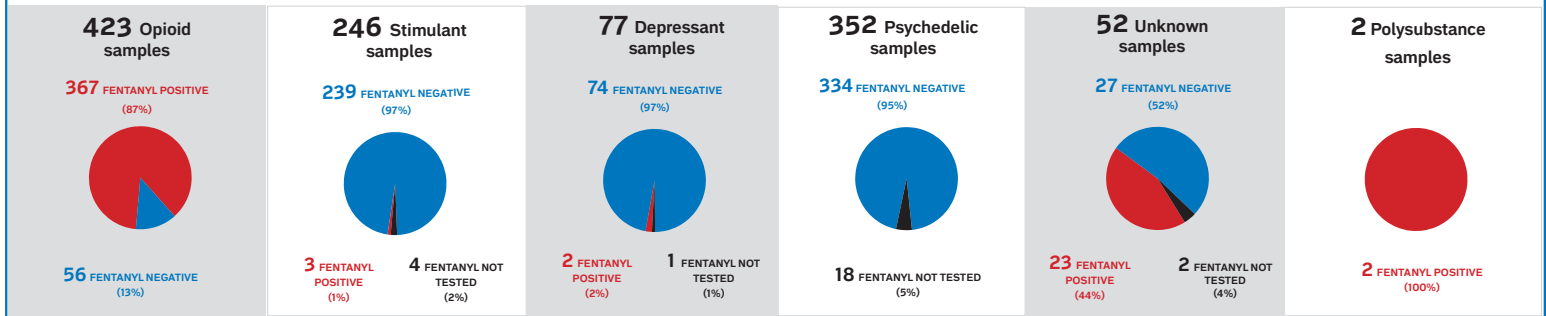
### Components in cocaine



### Components in methamphetamine



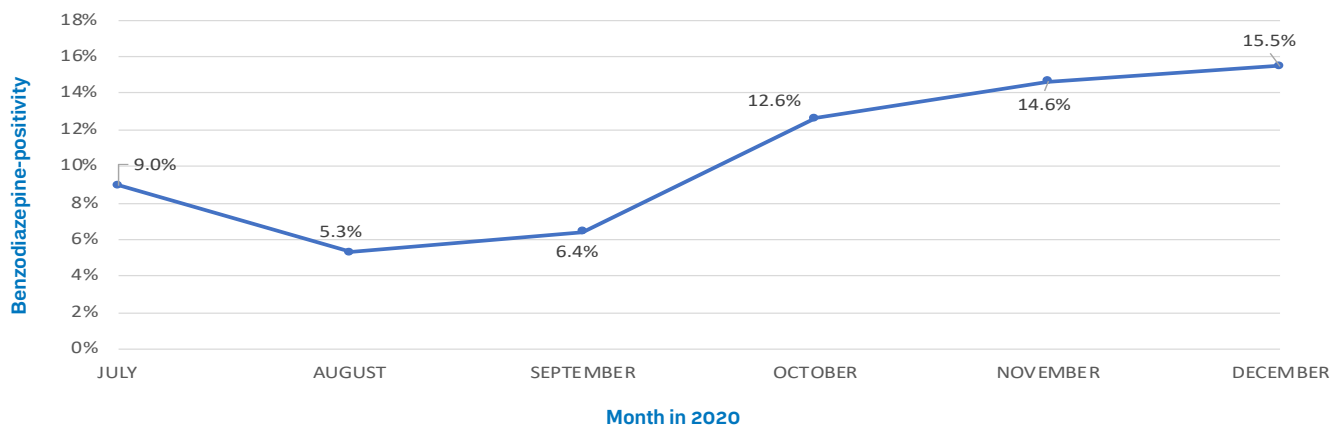
## Number of samples tested with **fentanyl** present



## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
10 December 2020- Overdose Prevention Society OPS, Vancouver	Fentanyl/ down	Caffeine, inositol, fentanyl	Positive	Positive	DTES	Benzos combined with down can lead to prolonged symptoms - Check your drugs at any OPS.
8 December 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Oxycodone	Microcrystalline cellulose, AMB-FUBINACA	Positive	Negative	Unknown	AMB-FUBINACA is a synthetic cannabinoid and can have adverse effects.
5 December 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Alprazolam (Xanax)	Microcrystalline cellulose, adinazolam	Negative	Positive	Unknown	Adinazolam is a benzodiazepine - derivative that is not used in North America. Check your drugs!

## Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the past 6 months



During the month of December, **15.5%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites around BC (**59 samples of 381 tested**).

*Opioid samples are tested for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips. The results presented above are presumptive and tentative until confirmed by a laboratory.*

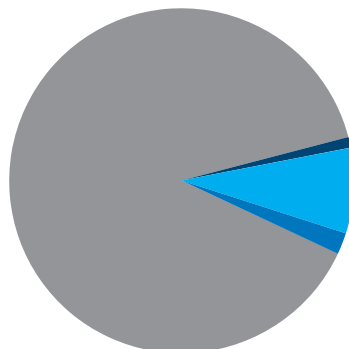
December  
2020

# Drug Checking in British Columbia

## Number of samples tested by region:

Total #: 1157

1048: Vancouver Coastal  
Health region (89%)



13: Fraser Health region (1%)

79: Interior Health region (8%)

17: Vancouver Island  
Health Region (2%)

## Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

### EXPECTED DRUG: Depressant

77 Samples Tested



Matched: 33  
Did not match: 44

### EXPECTED DRUG: Psychedelic

352 Samples Tested



Matched: 315  
Did not match: 32  
Match not determined: 5

### EXPECTED DRUG: Stimulant

246 Samples Tested



Matched: 238  
Did not match: 7  
Match not determined: 1

### EXPECTED DRUG: Polysubstance

2 Samples Tested



Matched: 2

### EXPECTED DRUG: Unknown

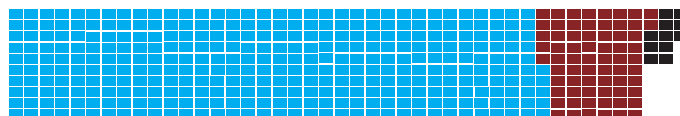
52 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 52

### EXPECTED DRUG: Opioid

423 Samples Tested



Matched: 345  
Did not match: 67  
Match not determined: 11

### Total

1157 Samples Tested



Matched: 935  
Did not match: 153  
Match not determined: 69

Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents

**Depressant may include:**  
benzodiazepines, etizolam,  
GHB, hypnotics

**Opioid may include:**  
"down," heroin, fentanyl,  
pharmaceutical opioids

**Polysubstance includes:**  
cross-category mixtures

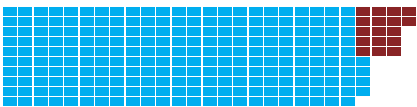






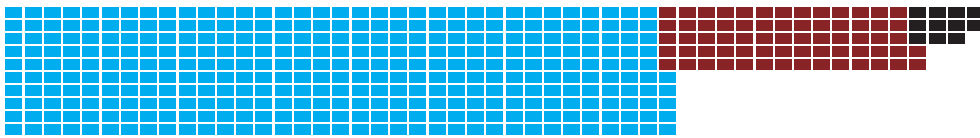
**Psychedelic may include:**  
MDMA and related,  
2C-family, tryptamines,  
ketamine, LSD

**Stimulant may include:**  
methamphetamine,  
"speed," cocaine and crack  
cocaine, cathinones

**Unknown includes:**  
samples where the individual  
was unable to identify an  
expected substance - this  
includes found samples.

## Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Fentanyl</b> 251 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 234 Did not match: 17</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Heroin</b> 59 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 26 Did not match: 33</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Fentanyl and Heroin</b> 3 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1 Did not match: 2</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Other Opioid</b> 2 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Did not match: 2</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Down</b> 87 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 80 Did not match: 7</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Pharmaceutical</b> 20 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 3 Did not match: 6 Match not determined: 11</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Opium</b> 1 Sample Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>	
<p><b>Total</b> 423 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 345 Did not match: 67 Match not determined: 11</p>			

Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.  
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Data represented here are collected from our partner sites across the province. Drug samples are tested using the Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrometer in combination with fentanyl test strips and benzodiazepine test strips.

There is 5% fentanyl detection limit on the FTIR spectrometer (McCrae, 2019), and a drug check on any given sample consists of both the FTIR and BTNX fentanyl immunoassay test strip testing done in combination. When applicable, BTNX benzodiazepine immunoassay test strips are also used.

BCCSU gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following partners:

