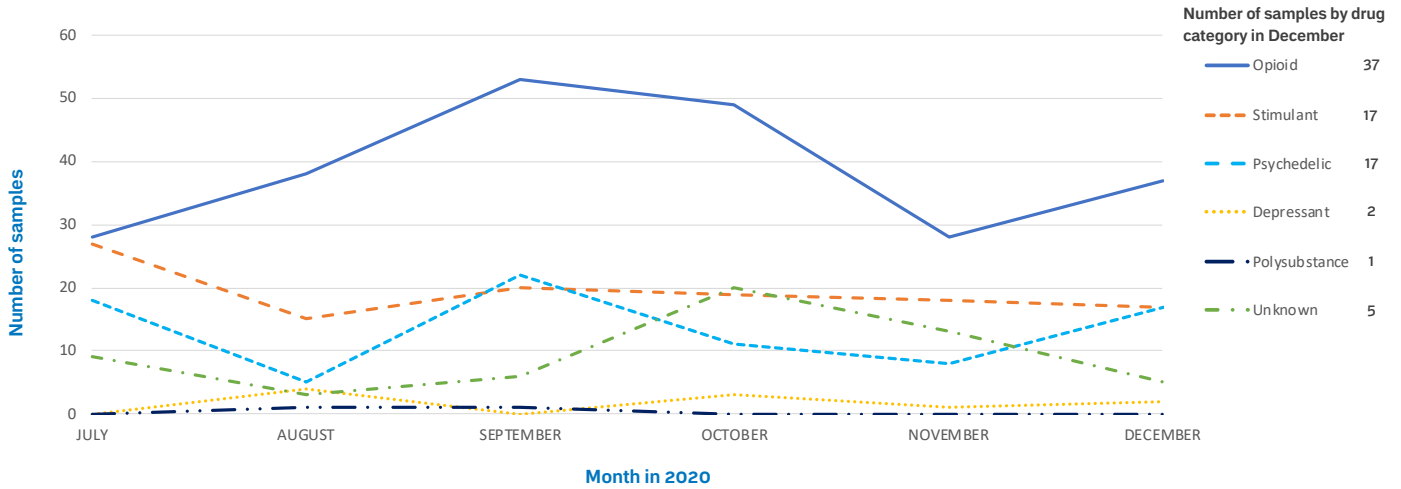


## Key Findings

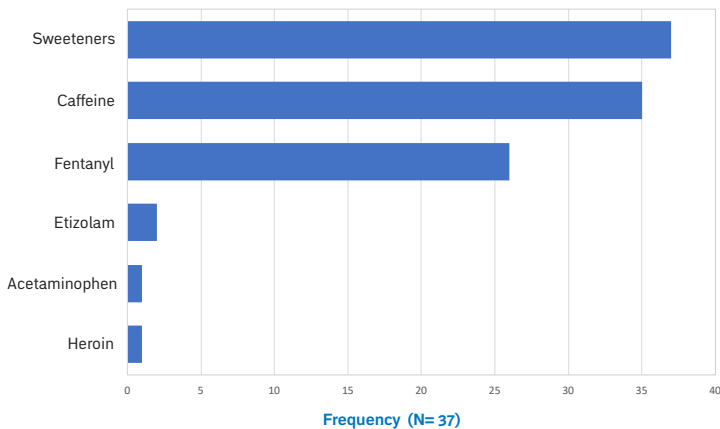
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines (22.9%) in the Interior Health region has continued on an upward trend since September.
- No alerts were issued for samples checked at FTIR/test strip checking services this month.

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

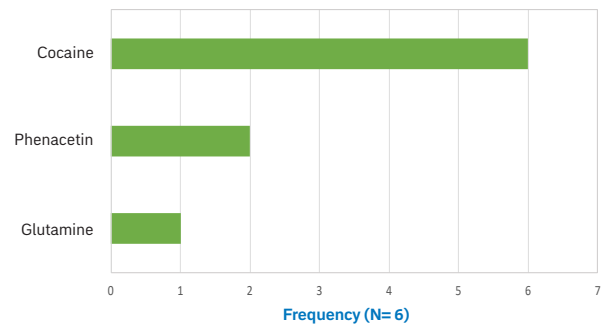


### Components found in drug samples in December

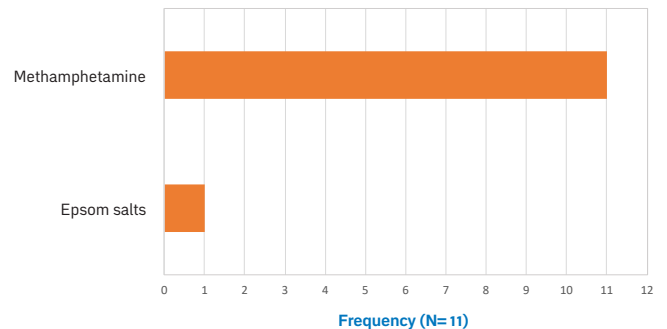
#### Components in opioids



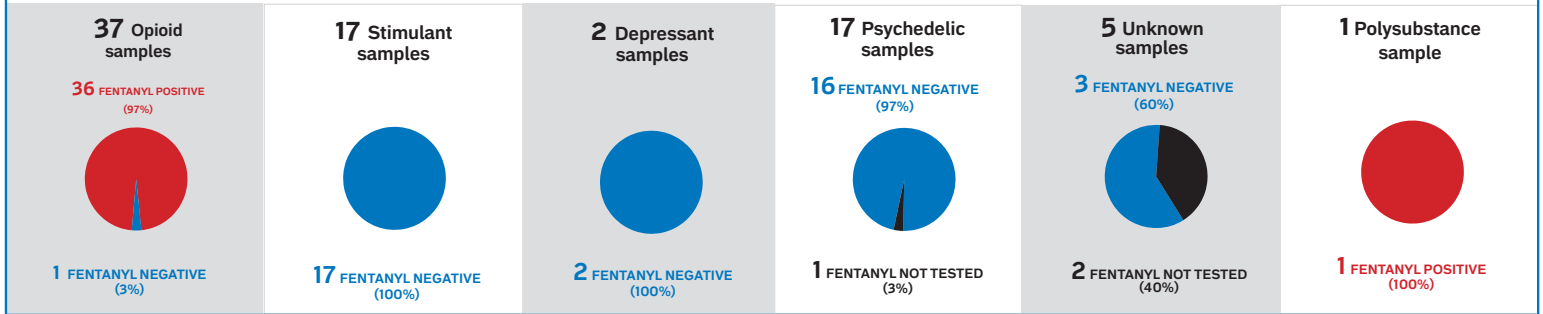
#### Components in cocaine



#### Components in methamphetamine



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

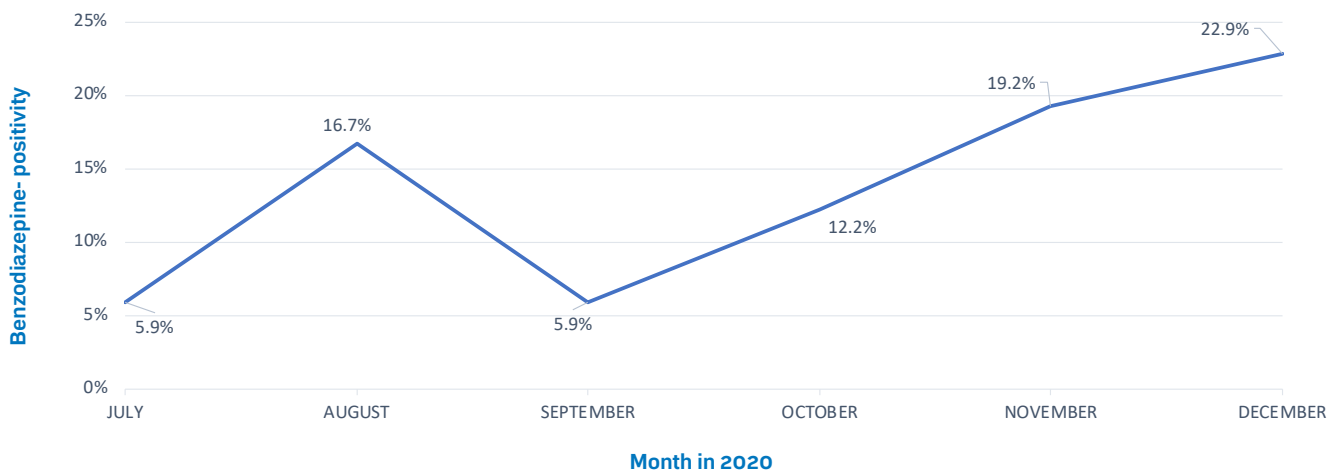


## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
No alerts from Interior Health partners this December						

For information about public health alerts in the Interior Health region, please visit:  
<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/Leadership/MHQ/Pages/PHEmergency.aspx>

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



During the month of December, **22.9%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in the Interior Health region (**8 samples of 35 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.*

## Number of drugs checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Nelson)	43
ASK Wellness Head Office (Kamloops)	11
ASK Wellness Burdock House (Penticton)	3
ASK Wellness (Merritt)	9
Interior Health (Kelowna)	8
Interior Health (Vernon)	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>

## Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:  
**Depressant**  
2 Samples Tested



Matched: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:  
**Psychedelic**  
17 Samples Tested



Matched: 14  
Did not match: 3

EXPECTED DRUG:  
**Stimulant**  
17 Samples Tested



Matched: 17

EXPECTED DRUG:  
**Polysubstance**  
1 Sample Tested



Matched: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:  
**Unknown**  
5 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 5

EXPECTED DRUG:  
**Opioid**  
37 Samples Tested



Matched: 36  
Did not match: 1

**Total**  
79 Samples Tested



Matched: 70  
Did not match: 4  
Match not determined: 5

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.

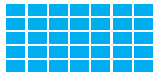
## Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Fentanyl**

35 Samples Tested



Matched: 35

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Heroin**

2 Samples Tested



Matched: 1

Did not match: 1

**Total**

37 Samples Tested



Matched: 36

Did not match: 1

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: