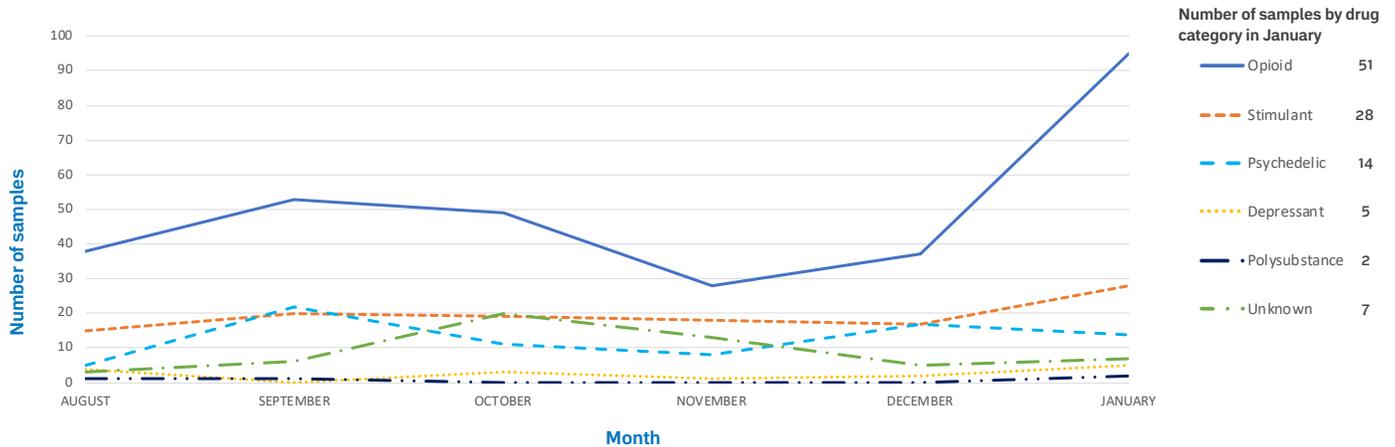


Key Findings

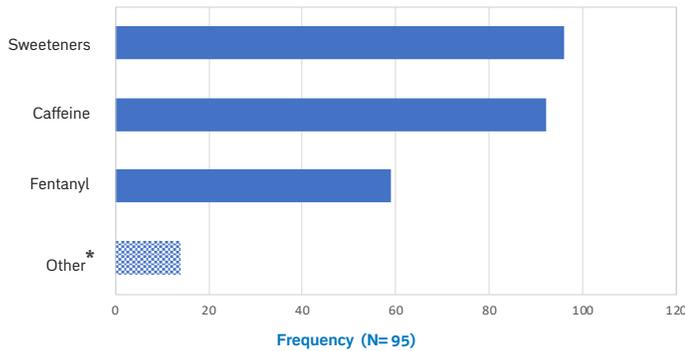
- The number of opioids being tested (51) has increased significantly this month. This increase is due to the addition of a new drug checking service at UBCO.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the Interior Health region has continued on an upward trend from December (22.9%) to January (38%).
- There were 8 drug checking alerts in Interior Health for this month highlighting drugs adulterated with benzodiazepine and synthetic cannabinoids.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months

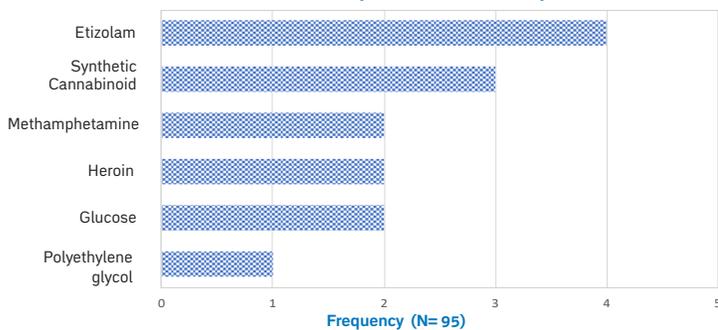


Components found in drug samples in January

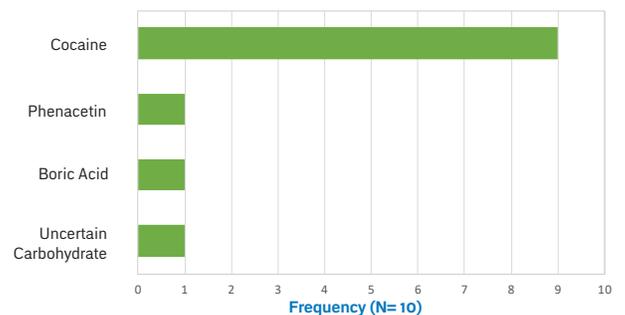
Components in opioids



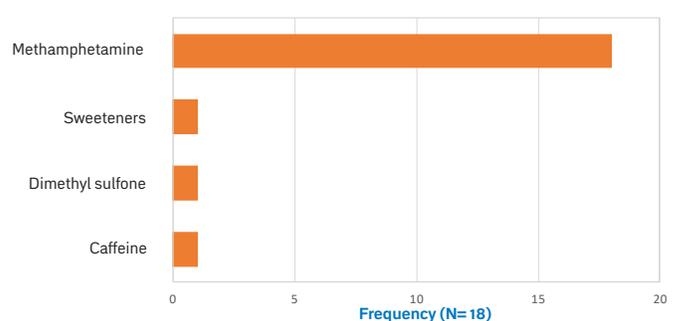
* Other components found in opioids



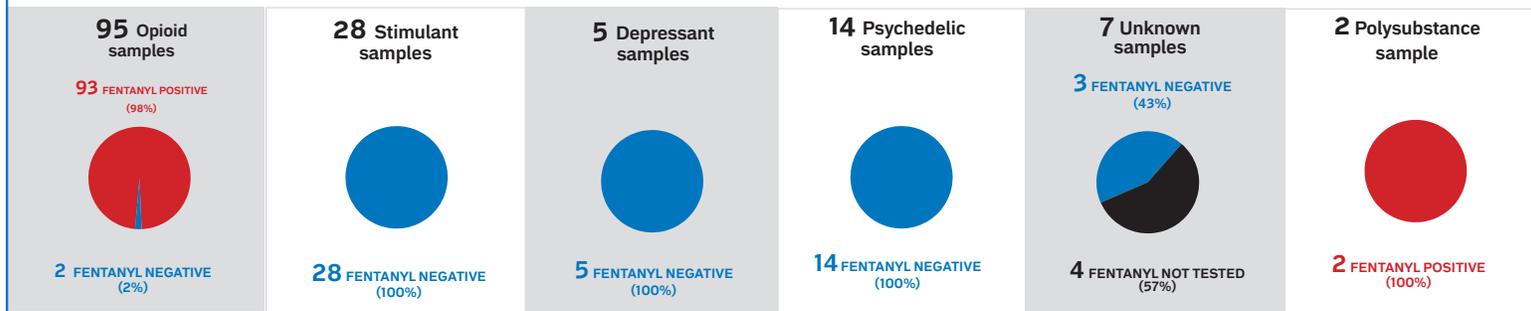
Components in cocaine



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
21 January 2021- ASK Wellness, Kamloops	Down	Caffeine, mannitol, fentanyl, benzodiazepines	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	High risk of overdose with prolonged sedation. Check your drugs!
8 January 2021- ASK Wellness, Kamloops	Down	Fentanyl, AMB-FUBINACA, and may contain benzodiazepines	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	May have side effects like hallucinations or agitation. Check your drugs!
8 January 2021- ASK Wellness, Kamloops	Down	Fentanyl and benzodiazepines	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	Check your drugs at any OPS and SCS for benzos!
8 January 2021- ASK Wellness, Kamloops	Down	Benzodiazepines, fentanyl and may contain AMB-FUBINACA	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	Check your drugs!
8 January 2021- ASK Wellness, Kamloops	Down	Etizolam, fentanyl and AMB-FUBINACA	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	High risk of overdose and AMB-FUBINACA (synthetic cannabinoid) may cause side effects such as hallucination, or agitation. May present as an atypical overdose.
8 January 2021- ASK Wellness, Vernon	Fentanyl	Caffeine, etizolam, and fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Vernon	High risk of overdose with prolonged sedation-Use at an OPS!
8 January 2021- ASK Wellness, Vernon	Fentanyl	Caffeine, mannitol, fentanyl, and AMB-FUBINACA	Positive	Positive	Vernon	Check for benzos in your drugs at any SCS or OPS!
5 January 2021- Interior Health, Pentiction	Fentanyl	Fentanyl and benzodiazepines	Positive	Positive	Pentiction	High risk of overdose with prolonged sedation

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

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



During the month of January, **38%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in the Interior Health region (**35 samples of 92 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

Organization	City/Town	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS	Cranbrook	12
	Nelson	39
ASK Wellness	Kamloops	44
	Merritt	0
	Vernon	4
UBC Okanagan	Kelowna	44
	Penticton	8
Total		151

Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:
Depressant

5 Samples Tested



Matched: 2
Did not match: 3

EXPECTED DRUG:
Psychedelic

14 Samples Tested



Matched: 10
Did not match: 3
Match not determined: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:
Stimulant

28 Samples Tested



Matched: 27
Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:
Polysubstance

2 Samples Tested



Matched: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:
Opioid

95 Samples Tested



Matched: 91
Did not match: 3
Match not determined: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:
Unknown

7 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 7

Total

151 Samples Tested



Matched: 132
Did not match: 10
Match not determined: 9

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: Fentanyl 86 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 86</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Heroin 5 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 2 Did not match: 3</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl & Heroin 1 Sample Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Down 3 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 3</p>
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Total

95 Samples Tested



Matched: 92
Did not match: 3

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: