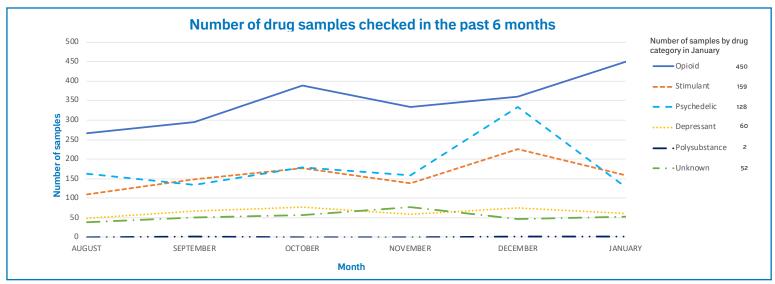
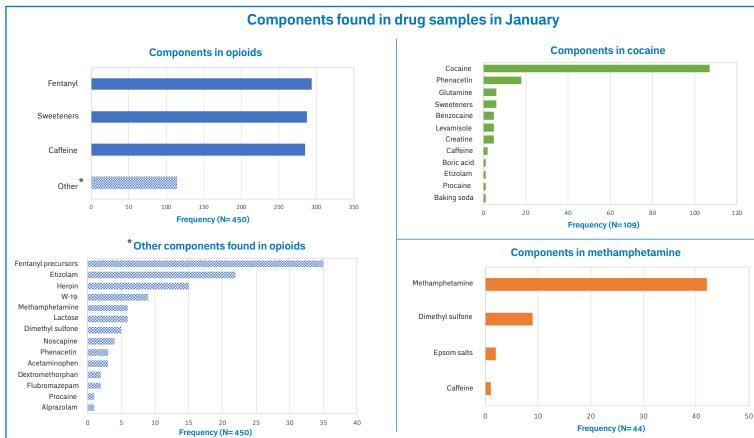
Drug Checking in Vancouver Coastal

Key Findings

- Several novel benzodiazepines have been identified in drug samples this month. Etizolam, bromazolam, flualprazolam, flubromazepam have been found in drugs expected to be opioids. These unregulated depressants can be significantly more potent than their regulated counterparts (e.g., diazepam (Valium), alprazolam (Xanax), clonazepam (Klonopin)).
- Two samples of depressants tested positive for fentanyl. These samples were sold as novel benzodiazepines (etizolam and flualprazolam).
- W-19 was identified in 9 opioid samples. Alerts were sent because the impact on human health is unknown but it is considered low overdose risk.

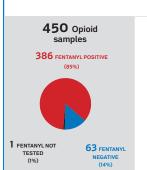


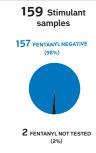


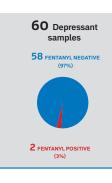


Drug Checking in Vancouver Coastal

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

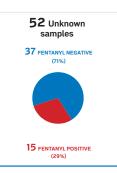








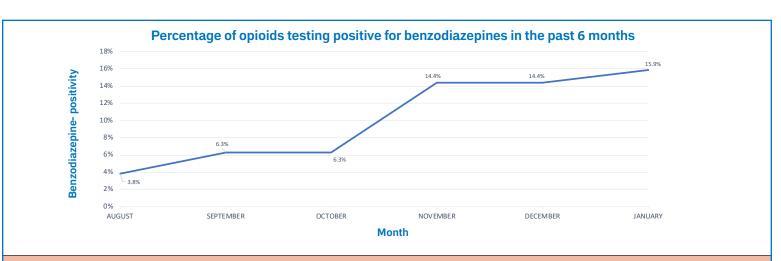






PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
28 January 2021- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Hydromorphone	Hydromorphone, fentanyl	Positive	Positive	DTES	Counterfeit hydromorphone pill containing fentanyl and hydromorphone- Check your drugs!
12 January 2021- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Fentanyl	Caffeine, mannitol, fentanyl or analogue	Positive	N/A	DTES	Check your drugs for unexpected substances at any OPS!
11 January 2021- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Fentanyl	Caffeine, W-19	Negative	Negative	Unknown	Check your drugs at any OPS and SCS for any unknown or unexpected substances!
11 January 2021- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Fentanyl	W-19	Negative	Negative	Unknown	Effects of W-19 are unknown. Check your drugs at any OPS and SCS!
7 January 2021- Overdose Prevention Society, Vancouver	Fentanyl	Etizolam	Negative	Positive	DTES	Benzos may cause prolonged drowsiness and decreased level of consciousness. Use at an OPS!



During the month of January, **15.9**% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in the Vancouver Coastal Health region **(59 samples of 372 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 and hours at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked	Hours
Get Your Drugs Tested	696	244
Insite	18	6
Overdose Prevention Society OPS	146	58.5
Total	860	308.5

Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG: Depressant

60 Samples Tested



Matched: 30 Did not match: 30

Unknown

52 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 52

EXPECTED DRUG:

Psychedelic
128 Samples Tested

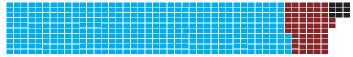


Matched: 117 Did not match: 11

EXPECTED DRUG:

Opioid

450 Samples Tested



Matched: 384 Did not match: 57 Match not determined: 9 **EXPECTED DRUG:**

Stimulant

159 Samples Tested



Matched: 152 Did not match: 7

EXPECTED DRUG:

Polysubstance

2 Samples Tested



Matched: 2

Total

860 Samples Tested



Matched: 690
Did not match: 106
Match not determined: 64

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

Drug Checking in Vancouver Coastal

EXPECTED DRUG:

Matched: 12

Did not match: 5

Pharmaceutical

26 Samples Tested

Match not determined: 9

Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Fentanyl

332 Samples Tested



Matched: 278 Did not match: 54

EXPECTED DRUG:

Down

86 Samples Tested



Matched: 80 Did not match: 6 EXPECTED DRUG:

Heroin

34 Samples Tested



Matched: 12 Did not match: 22

EXPECTED DRUG:

Opium

2 Samples Tested

Matched: 2

Total

450 Samples Tested



Matched: 384 Did not match: 87

Match not determined: 9

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 benzodiazapine test strips.

There is 5% fentanyl detection limit on the FTIR spectrometer (McCrae, 2019), and a drug check on any given sample consists of <u>both</u> the FTIR <u>and</u> 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:























