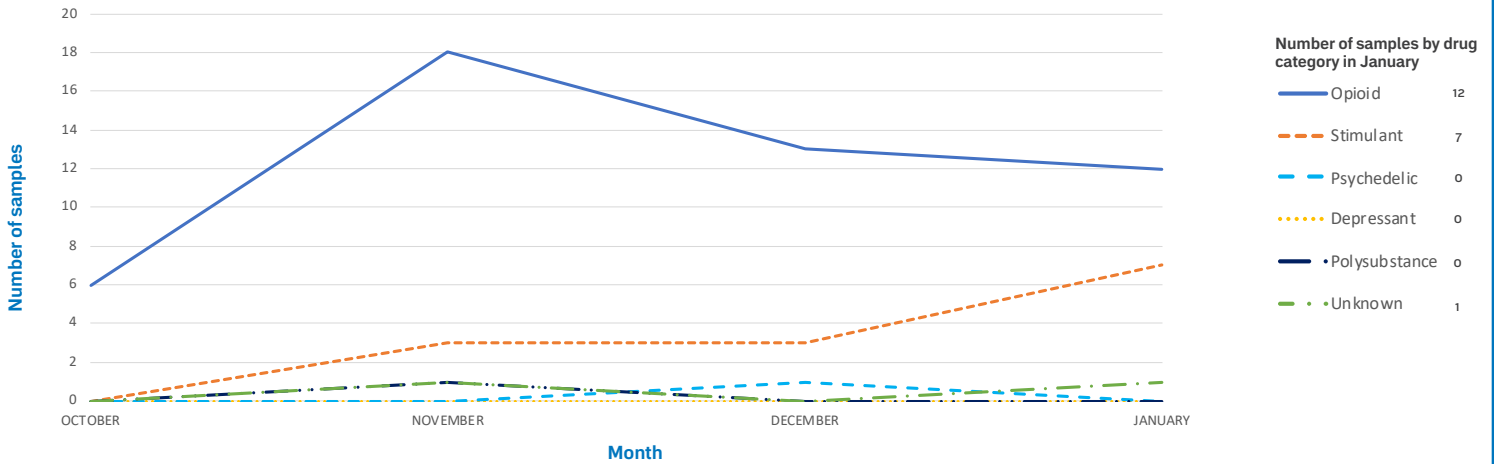


Key Findings

- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines has increased from December 2020 (16.7%) to January 2021 (25%).
- An increased number of stimulants (cocaine and methamphetamine) have been brought in for drug checking since the start of this drug checking service in October. All stimulants tested negative for fentanyl.
- Drug checking services have expanded to Thursdays and Fridays from 11:30am-3:30pm at 437 Wesley Street. Samples can also be dropped off any day of the week and results can be picked up during drug checking hours.
- The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project offers drug checking in Victoria. For more information about their project and more data about drug checking sample results, please visit www.substance.uvic.ca.

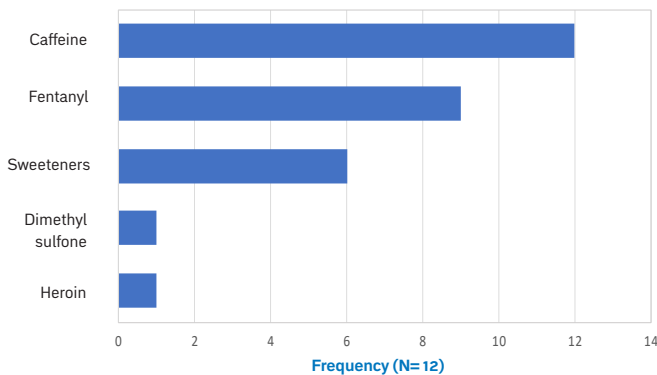
Number of drug samples checked in the past 4 months*



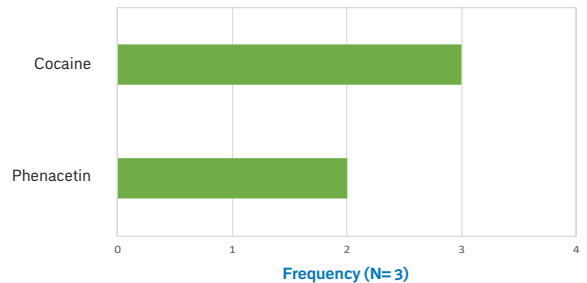
* Services in the Island region started in October 2020.

Components found in drug samples in January

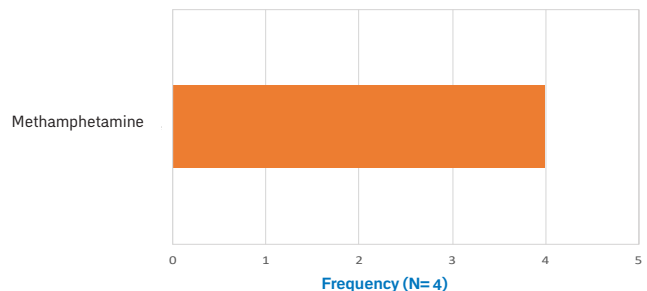
Components in opioids



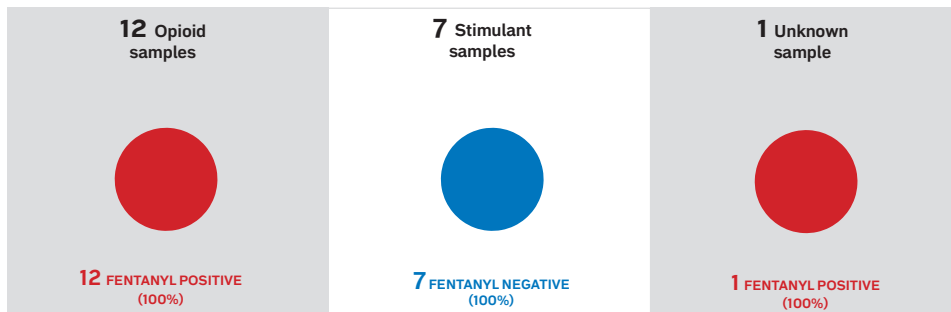
Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

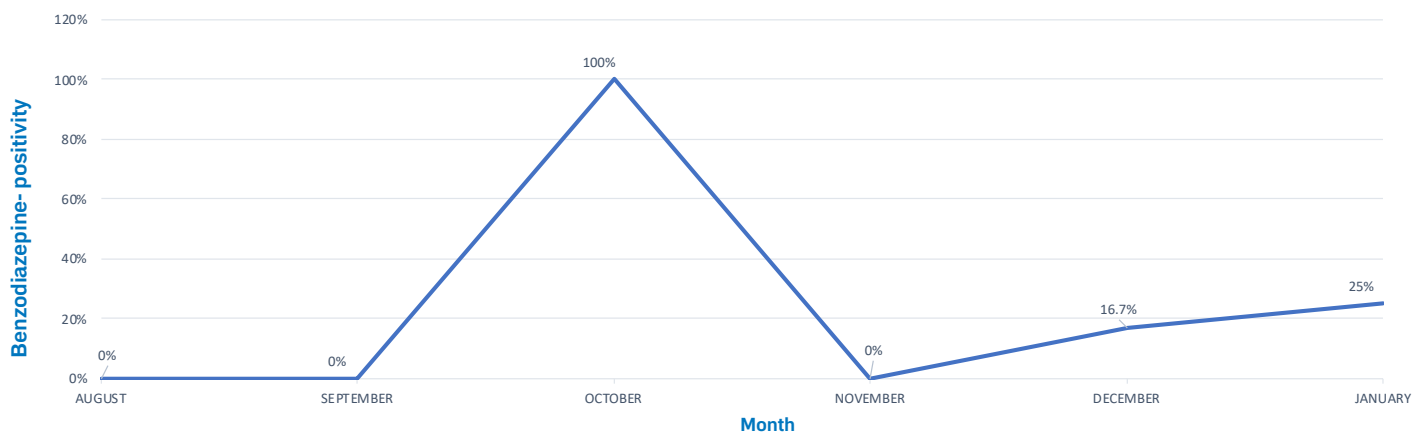


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts for Island Health this month					

For information about current substances in the Island Health region: <https://substance.uvic.ca/>

Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the past 3 months



During the month of January, **25%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in the Vancouver Island region (**3 samples of 12 tested**). *Sample numbers are low in Island Health so the higher percentages are less comparable to other regions.




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 Drug Checks	Hours
Wesley Street OPS (CMHA)	20	N/A

Number of samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Opioid 12 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 11 Did not match: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Stimulant 7 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 7</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Unknown 1 Sample Tested</p>  <p>Match not determined: 1</p>
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Total





20 Samples Tested



Matched: 18
Did not match: 1
Match not determined: 1

Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation

*using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Down 2 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 2</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl 7 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 7</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Heroin 1 Sample Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl & Heroin 2 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1 Did not match: 2</p>
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Total

12 Samples Tested



Matched: 11
Did not match: 1

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.

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: