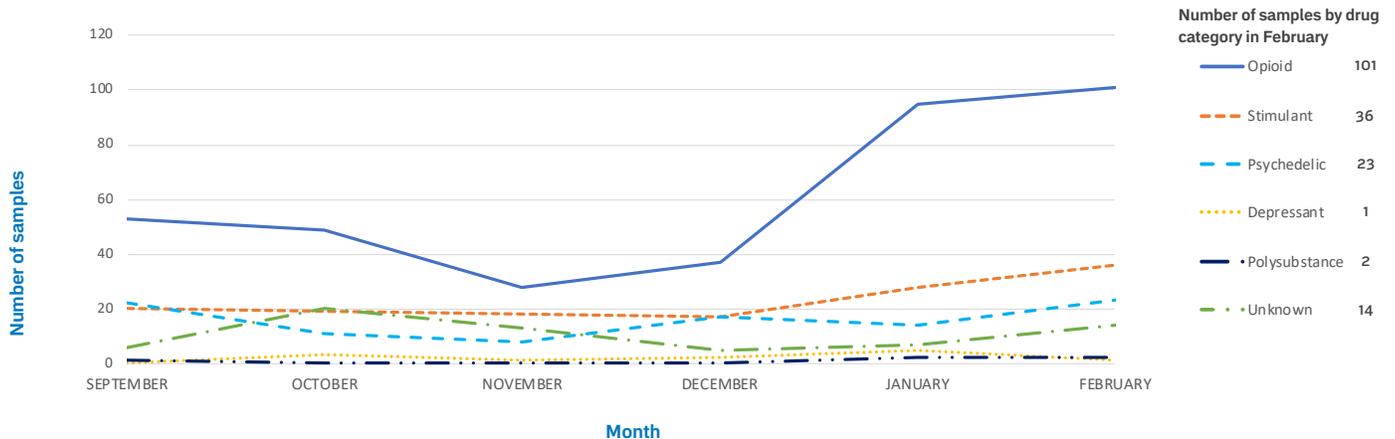


Key Findings

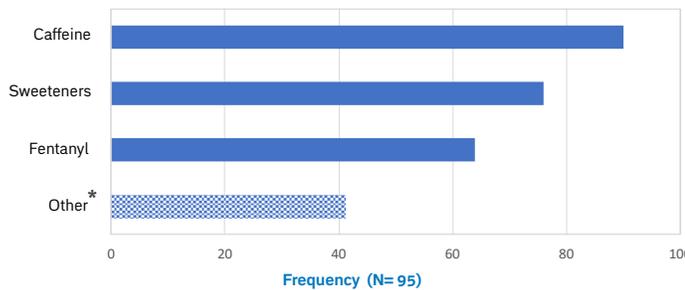
- The number of samples tested (176) has continued to increase this month. The increase is due to the addition of a new and growing service with the Harm Reduction Team (HaRT) at UBCO.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the Interior Health region (36%) has remained consistent from last month but has been on upward trend since September (6%).
- There were 8 drug checking alerts in Interior Health for this month highlighting drugs adulterated with benzodiazepines.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months

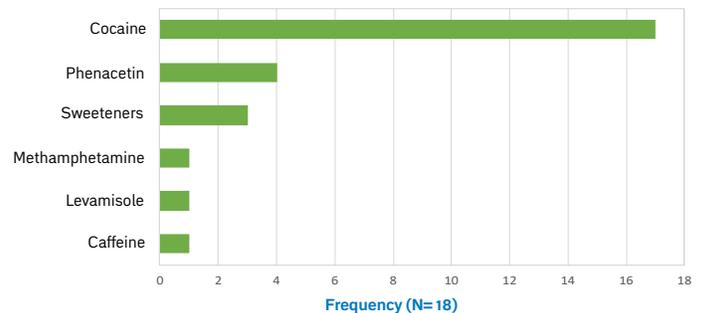


Components found in drug samples in February

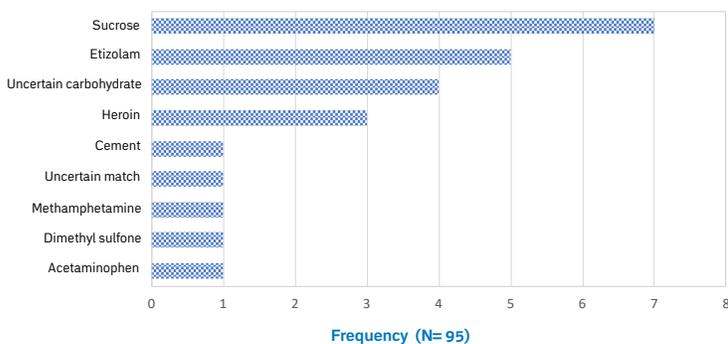
Components in opioids



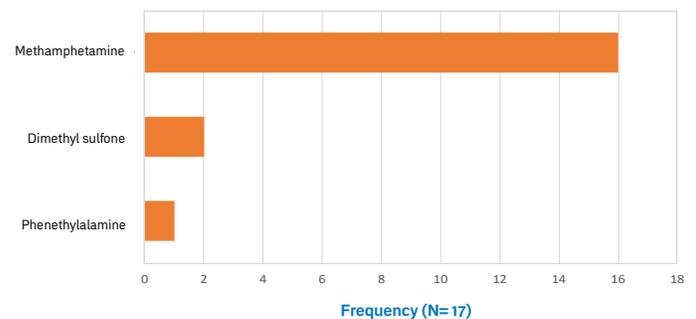
Components in cocaine



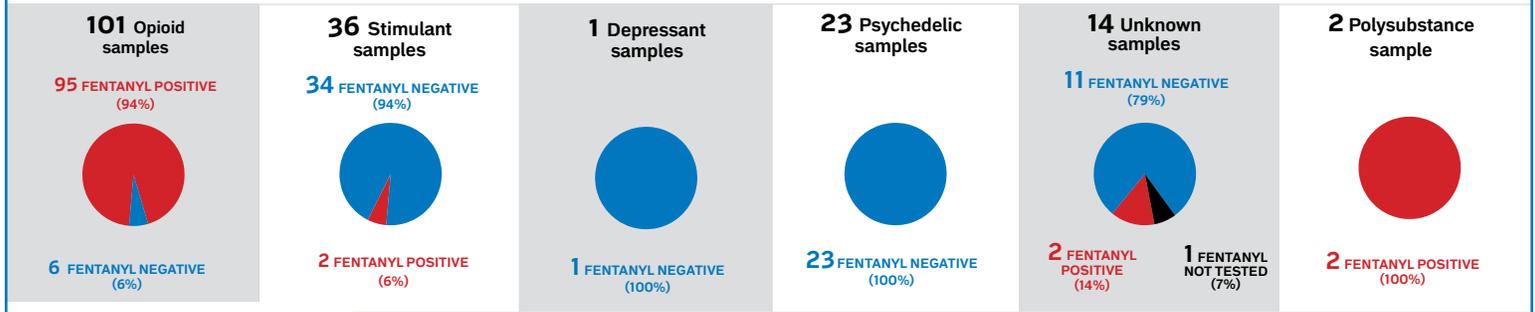
* Other components found in opioids



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
17 February 2021- ASK Wellness, Kamloops	Percocet	Acetaminophen and fentanyl	Positive	N/A	Kamloops	Unknown consumption of fentanyl poses a high risk for opioid overdose! Check your drugs at any local SCS/OPS!
6 February 2021- UBCO Kelowna/West Kelowna	Fentanyl	Contains benzodiazepines and fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Kelowna	Check your drugs for benzodiazepines at any local SCS/OPS.
5 February 2021- ANKORS, Cranbrook	Down	Contains benzodiazepines and high concentrations of fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Cranbrook	High risk of prolonged sedation and overdose-Check your drugs for benzodiazepines at any local SCS/OPS.
5 February 2021- ANKORS, Cranbrook	Down	High fentanyl concentration and benzodiazepines	Positive	Positive	Cranbrook	May not respond to naloxone- continue to give breaths and seek medical attention.
5 February 2021- ASK Wellness, Kamloops	Cocaine	Methamphetamine, cocaine, levamisole	N/A	N/A	Kamloops	Meth is a powerful stimulant that has longer lasting effects than cocaine. Check your drugs for unexpected substances!
4 February 2021- UBCO Kelowna/West Kelowna	Fentanyl	Benzodiazepines and fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Kelowna	High risk of overdose with prolonged sedation-may not respond to Naloxone. Use at an OPS!
3 February 2021- ANKORS, Castlegar	Fentanyl	Fentanyl and benzodiazepines	Positive	Positive	Castlegar	Check for benzos in your drugs at any SCS or OPS!
2 February 2021- IHA Penticton	Down	High concentration of fentanyl and benzodiazepines	Positive	Positive	Penticton	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/MHQ/Pages/PHEmergency.aspx>

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



During the month of February, **36%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in the Interior Health region (**36 samples of 100 tested**).

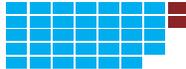
Opioid samples are tested for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips. The results presented above are presumptive and tentative until confirmed by a laboratory.

Number of drugs checks at each site

Organization	City/Town	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS	Cranbrook	10
	Nelson	36
ASK Wellness	Kamloops	45
	Merritt	9
	Vernon	8
	Mobile Bus	4
UBC Okanagan	Kelowna	24
	Penticton	30
	Vernon	10
Total		176

Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Depressant 1 Sample Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Psychedelic 23 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 23</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Stimulant 36 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 34 Did not match: 2</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Polysubstance 2 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 2</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Opioid 101 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 95 Did not match: 4 Match not determined: 2</p>		<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Unknown 14 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Match not determined: 14</p>	

Total

177 Samples Tested



Matched: 155

Did not match: 6

Match not determined: 16

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

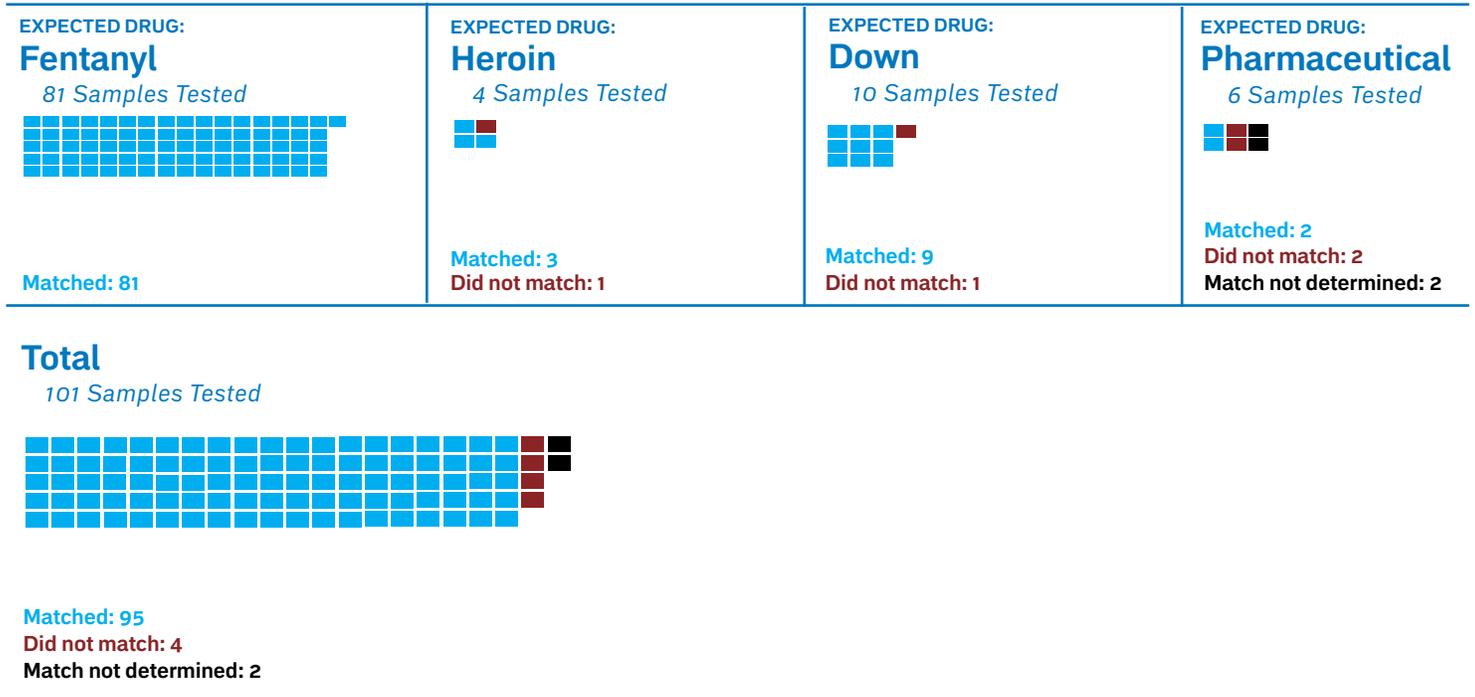
Psychedelic may include:
MDMA and related,
2C-family, tryptamines,
ketamine, LSD

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



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:

