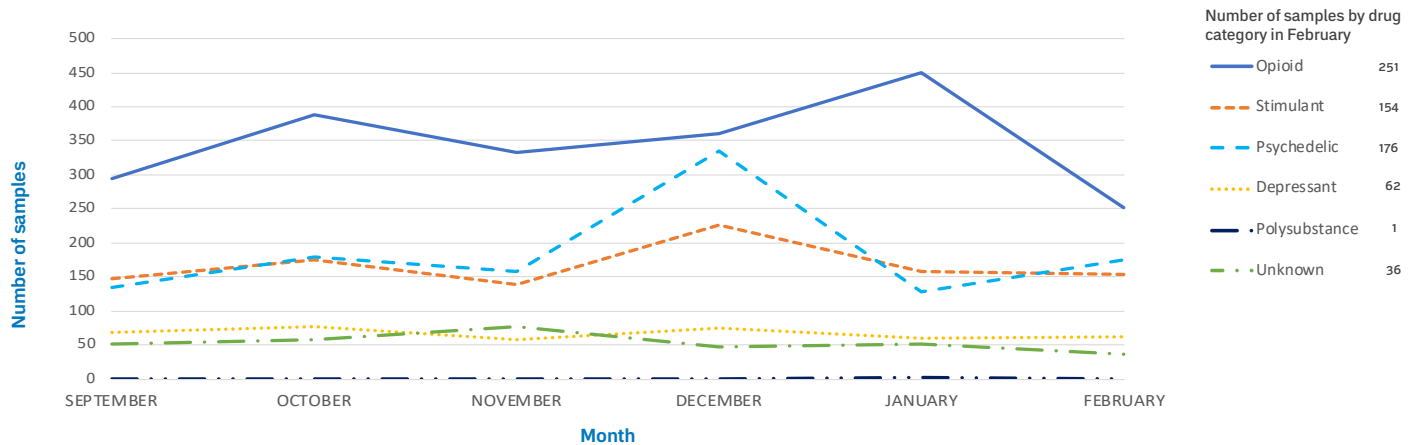


Key Findings

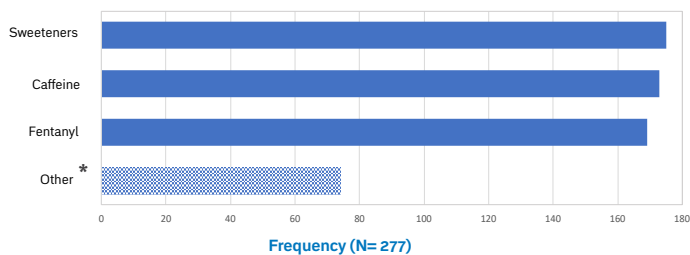
- Benzodiazepine-positivity of opioids was maintained at approximately 15%. However, etizolam, the predominant benzodiazepine in expected opioids, may be missed by drug checking technologies. It is therefore expected that this percentage may be higher. Always complement drug checking with other harm reduction measures like using at an OPS/SCS or with a buddy, doing a tester shot, and having and knowing how to use naloxone.
- Four samples of expected benzodiazepines tested positive for fentanyl. These samples were sold as alprazolam (Xanax) (3) and etizolam (1).
- Xylazine was detected in one sample of expected down in Vancouver. Xylazine is a veterinary sedative that may cause skin lesions when injected. It was last detected in an expected opioid in Vancouver July, 2020.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months

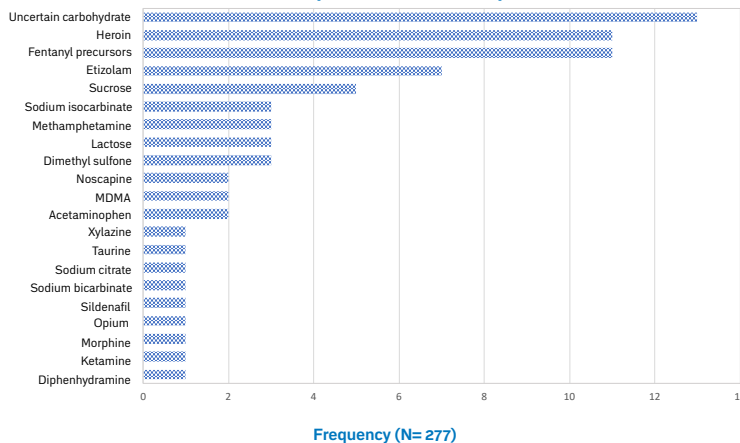


Components found in drug samples in February

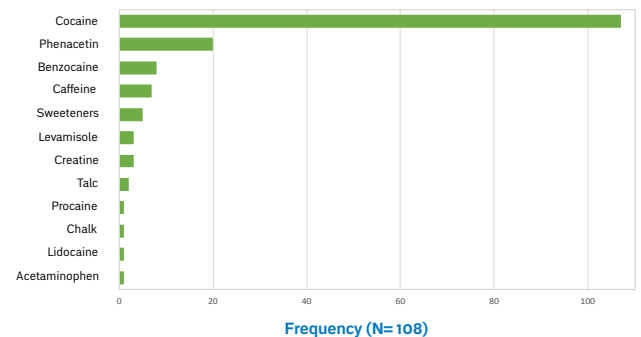
Components in opioids



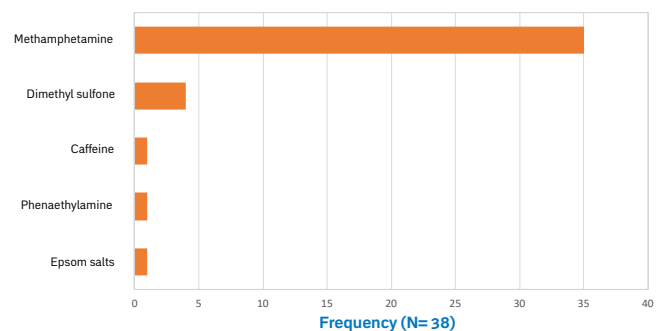
* Other components found in opioids



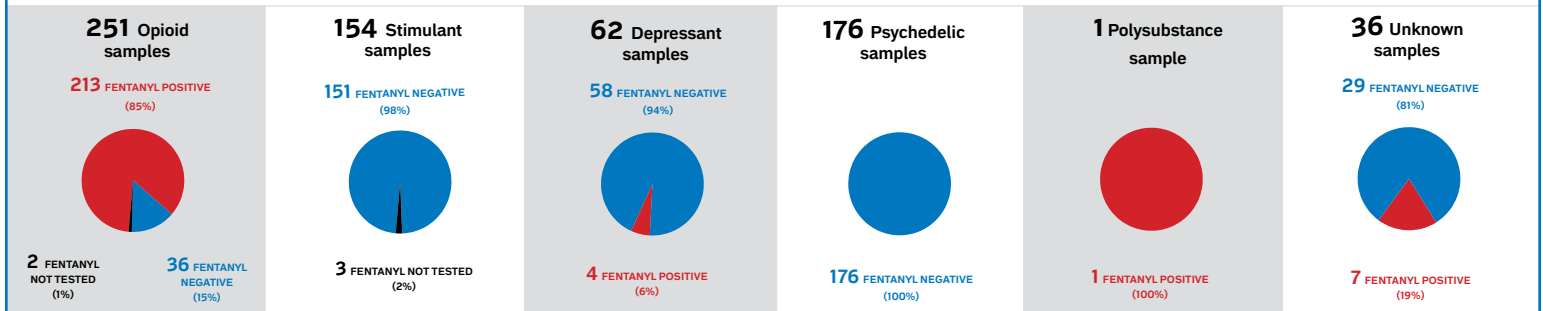
Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

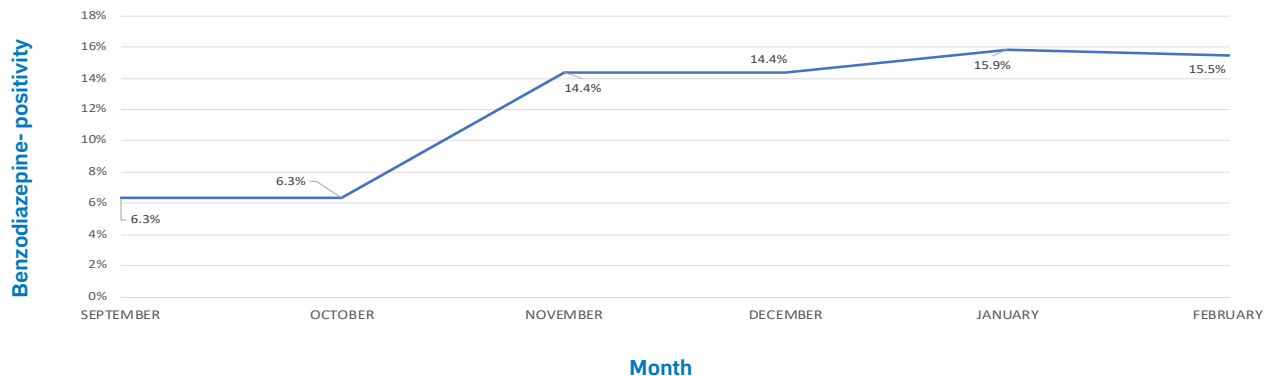


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts from Vancouver Coastal Health partners this February					

To receive drug contamination alerts, text "alert" to (236) 999-DOPE (3673)

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



During the month of February, **15.5%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in the Vancouver Coastal Health region (**33 samples of 213 tested**).

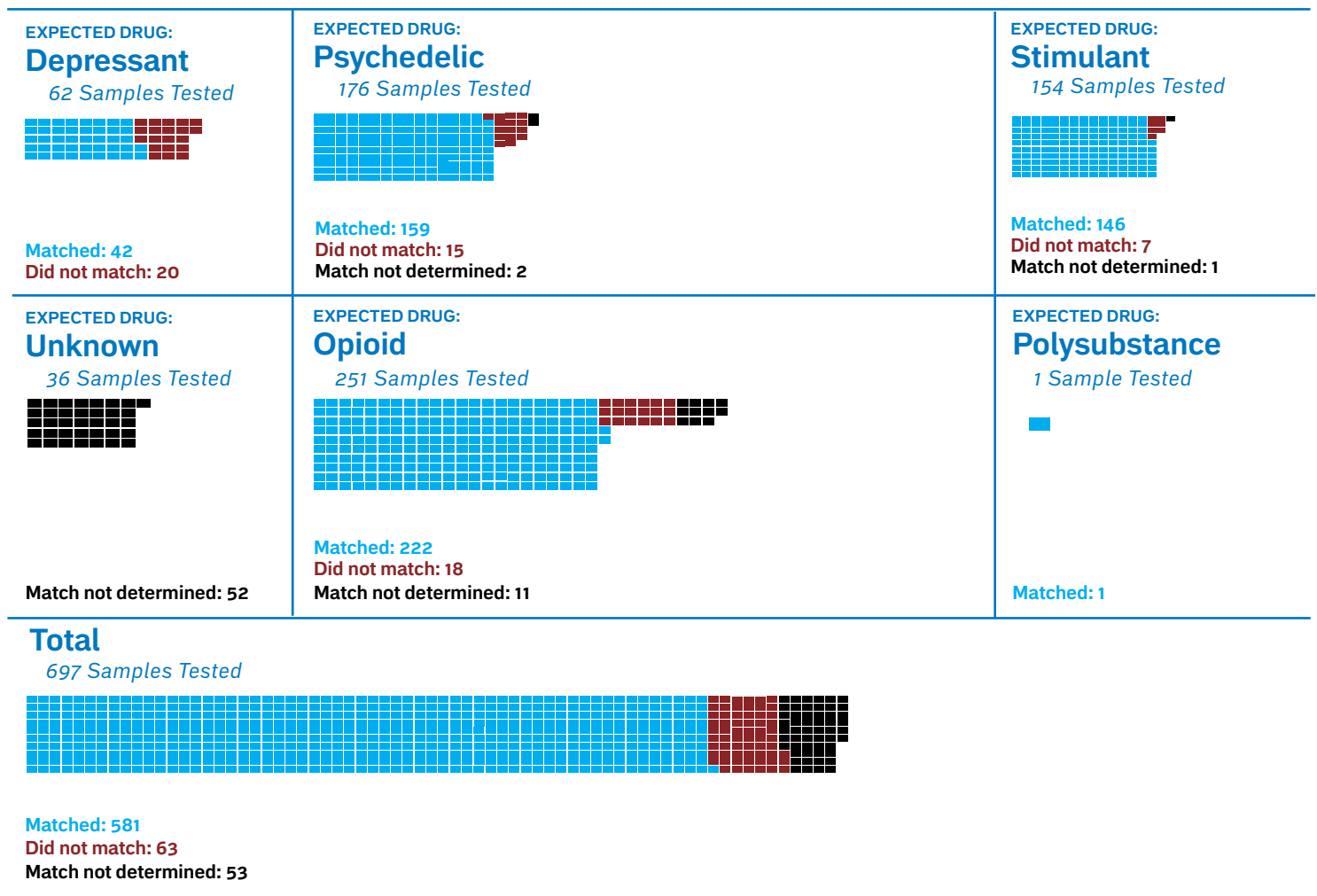
Opioid samples are tested for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips. The results presented above are presumptive and tentative until confirmed by a laboratory.

Number of drugs checks and hours at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Get Your Drugs Tested	612
Insite	6
Overdose Prevention Society OPS	79
Total	697

Number of 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

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.

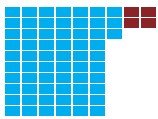
Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Fentanyl

67 Samples Tested



Matched: 63
Did not match: 4

EXPECTED DRUG:

Heroin

13 Samples Tested



Matched: 8
Did not match: 5

EXPECTED DRUG:

Pharmaceutical

24 Samples Tested



Matched: 8
Did not match: 5
Match not determined: 11

EXPECTED DRUG:

Down

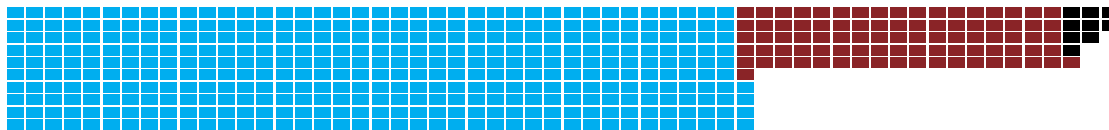
146 Samples Tested



Matched: 142
Did not match: 4

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 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:

