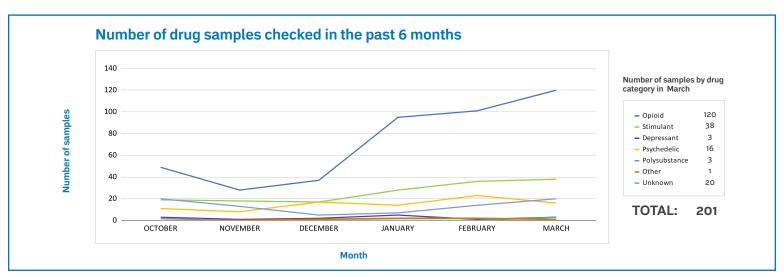
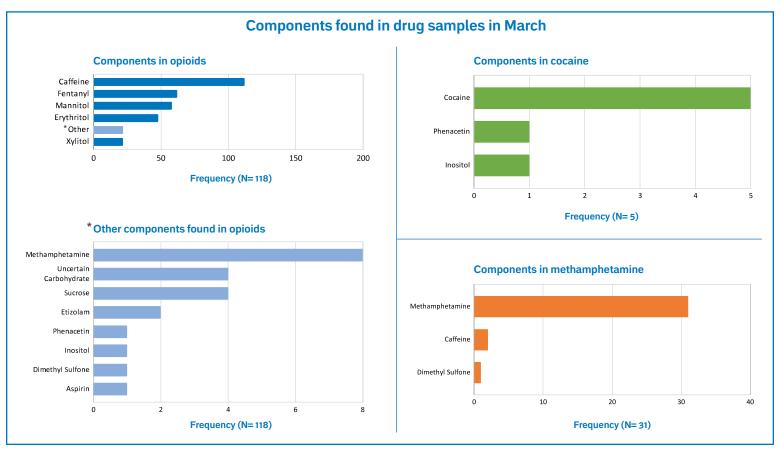
Key Findings

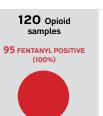
- The number of samples checked (201) was the highest ever for the Interior Health region. The increase is due to the addition of a new and growing service with the Harm Reduction Team (HaRT) at UBCO.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the Interior Health region (35%) has very slightly decreased, but overall is consistently on an upward trend since September (6%).
- One Xanax (alprazolam) tablet tested positive for fentanyl but the pill was stored in a container with down. Clean baggies are always available at harm reduction sites.

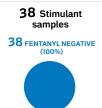






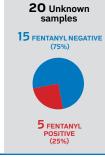
Number of samples tested with fentanyl present













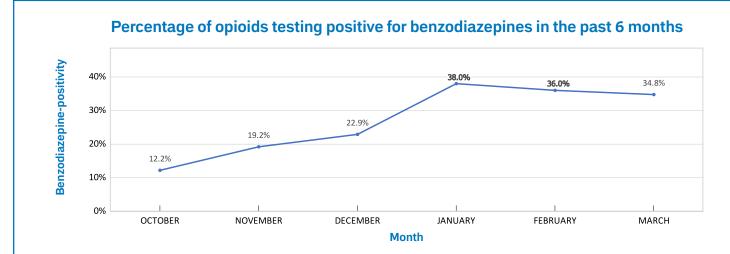




PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
31 March 2021- Burdock House, Penticton	Methamphetamine	Methamphetamine, fentanyl	Positive	N/A	Kamloops	Unexpected fentanyl presence can lead to overdose, even when smoking. Fentanyl test strips are effective for detecting fentanyl in stimulants.

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



During the month of March, 34.8% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in the Interior Health region (41 samples of 118 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	13	
ANNORS	Nelson	52	
	Kamloops	23	
ASK Wellness	Merritt	8	
	Mobile Bus	15	
	Kelowna	35	
UBC Okanagan	Penticton	29	
	Vernon	26	
Total		201	

Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG: Depressant

3 Sample Tested

Matched: 2

Opioid

Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

EXPECTED DRUG: Psychedelic

16 Samples Tested



Matched: 14 Did not match: 2 EXPECTED DRUG: **Stimulant**

38 Samples Tested



Matched: 37 Did not match: 1 EXPECTED DRUG:

Matched: 1

Other

EXPECTED DRUG:

3 Samples Tested

Match not determined: 1

Polysubstance

1 Samples Tested

EXPECTED DRUG: Unknown

20 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 20



Matched: 1 Did not match: 1

Matched: 112 Did not match: 7

Match not determined: 1

120 Samples Tested

Total

201 Samples Tested



Matched: 167

Did not match: 12

Match not determined: 22

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

EXPECTED DRUG:

6 Samples Tested

Down

Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Fentanyl

106 Samples Tested



Matched: 106

EXPECTED DRUG:

Fentanyl and Heroin

2 Samples Tested

Did not match: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

Heroin

4 Samples Tested



Did not match: 3

Match not determined: 1

Matched: 6

EXPECTED DRUG:

Pharmaceutical

2 Samples Tested



Did not match: 2

Total

120



Matched: 112

Did not match: 7

Match not determined: 1

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 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:









