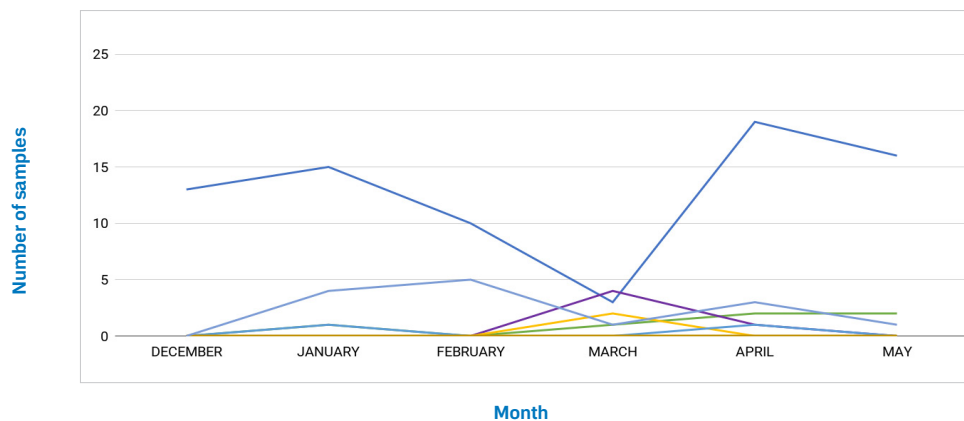


Key Findings

- 56% (9 of 16) of opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines. Etizolam, the predominant benzodiazepine in expected opioids, may be missed by drug checking technologies. This means that the true rate may be higher than reported here. 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.
- Carfentanil is increasingly being detected by point-of-care and confirmatory drug checking in Fraser Health. When carfentanil is detected, fentanyl is detected alongside it over half of the time. It is recommended to be cautious even when fentanyl is expected in a sample, as there may also be carfentanil in the dose as well.
- Safepoint is currently operating a drop-off drug checking service. Samples can be dropped-off during operating hours (7am–1am) and results are available after Tuesday morning each week.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



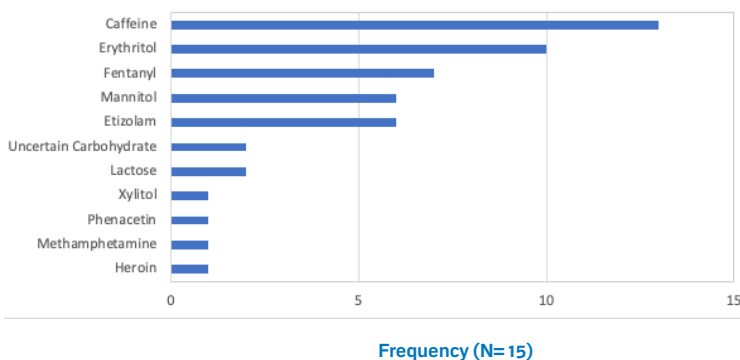
Number of samples by drug category in May

Opioid	16
Stimulant	2
Depressant	0
Psychedelic	0
Polysubstance	0
Other	0
Unknown	1

TOTAL: 19

Components found in drug samples in May

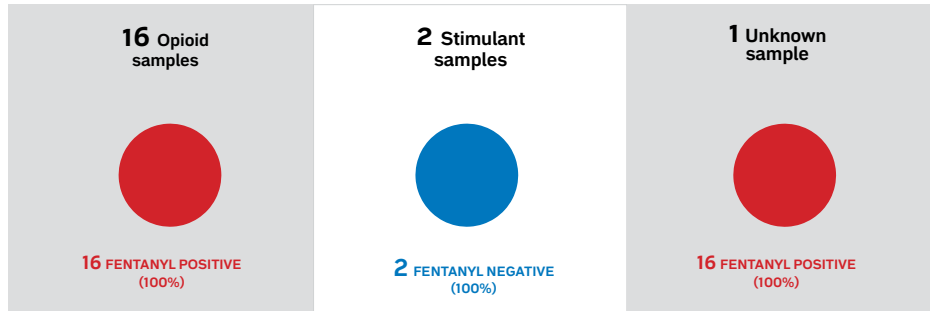
Components in opioids



2 samples

of expected methamphetamine contained only methamphetamine

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

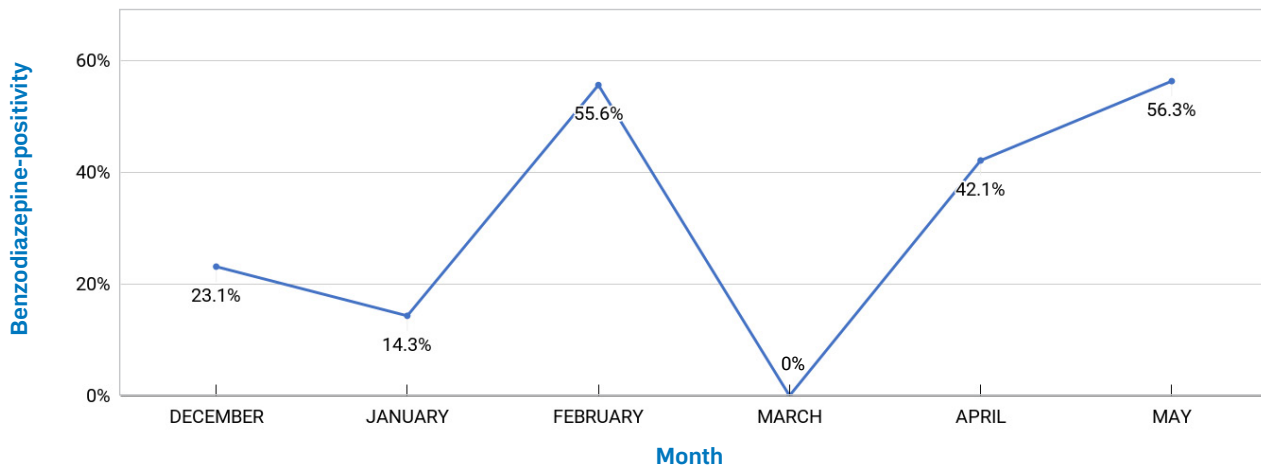


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts from Fraser Health partners this May					

For information about current substances in the Fraser Health region: overdose@fraserhealth.ca

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



During the month of March, **56.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips or FTIR in our partner sites in the Fraser Health Region (**6 samples of 16 tested**). *These numbers should be taken with caution as this trend is based on low samples.

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
SafePoint (Surrey)	16	SafePoint is currently accepting samples for checking during operating hours. A technician checks samples every Tuesday morning and results are available after 12PM. For details visit https://drugcheckingbc.ca/drug-checking-sites/fraser-health/

of samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Opioid

16 Samples Tested



Matched: 7

Did not match: 9

EXPECTED DRUG:

Stimulant

2 Samples Tested



Matched: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

Unknown

1 Samples Tested



Matched not determined: 1

Total

19 Samples Tested



Matched: 9

Did not match: 9

Matched not determined: 1

Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Fentanyl and Heroin

11 Samples Tested



Matched: 1

Did not match: 9

EXPECTED DRUG:

Down

4 Samples Tested



Matched: 4

EXPECTED DRUG:

Pharmaceutical

1 Samples Tested



Did not match: 1

Total

16 Samples Tested



Matched: 5

Did not match: 11

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: