

DRUG CHECKING ALERT ARCHIVE

OCTOBER 2021

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectroscopy Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
October 14, 2021 ASK Wellness Kamloops	Methamphetamine	Methamphetamine, Caffeine	Positive	N/A	Kamloops	The unexpected presence of fentanyl poses significant risk of opioid toxicity, especially for opioid-naïve individuals.
October 20, 2021 Overdose Prevention Society Vancouver	Fentanyl	Metonitazene	Positive	Negative	Unknown	Metonitazene is a new opioid with limited information on its toxicity and effects.
October 28, 2021 Vernon MHSU Vernon	Fentanyl	Caffeine, Fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Vernon	Benzodiazepines combined with opioids can cause prolonged sedation and increases the risk of overdose.

During the month of October, **30.4%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in our partner sites around BC (**140 samples of 460 checked**). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are derived from both of these technologies and are presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory.

SEPTEMBER 2021

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectroscopy Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
September 23, 2021 Kamloops & Merritt	Down (unknown opioid)	Caffeine, Xylitol, Fentanyl, Possible synthetic cannabinoid	Positive	Negative	Merritt	Although this sample was not confirmed by laboratory testing, synthetic cannabinoids are known to cause hallucinations and disorientation if ingested accidentally.

September 13, 2021 Kamloops	Down (unknown opioid)	Cocaine base, Phenacetin	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	Combining depressants increases the risk of overdose, and stimulants don't decrease that risk. Phenacetin and cocaine base don't dissolve well in water which could lead to vein damage.
September 13, 2021 Get Your Drugs Tested Vancouver	Alprazolam (XANAX)	Microcrystalline cellulose	Positive	Negative	Vancouver	Fentanyl can cause opioid toxicity especially for opioid-naïve individuals. Combining depressants also increases the risk of overdose.
September 13, 2021 Get Your Drugs Tested Vancouver	Flualprazolam	Flualprazolam, Uncertain match	Positive	Positive	Unknown	Fentanyl can cause opioid toxicity especially for opioid-naïve individuals. Combining depressants also increases the risk of overdose.
September 7, 2021 Get Your Drugs Tested Vancouver	MDMA	Dimethyl sulfone, N-Ethylpentylone	Negative	Negative	Vancouver	This synthetic cathinone is associated with health harms including overdose.
September 3, 2021 Overdose Prevention Society Vancouver	Down (unknown opioid)	Caffeine, Erythritol, Fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Vancouver	Benzodiazepines combined with opioids can cause prolonged sedation and increases the risk of overdose.

During the month of September, **25.5%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in our partner sites around BC (**90 samples of 353 checked**). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are derived from both of these technologies and are presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory.

AUGUST 2021

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectroscopy Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
August 30, 2021 Get Your Drugs Tested Vancouver	2C-B	Dimethyl Sulfone, 3-MeO-PCP, MDMA, Uncertain match	Positive	Negative	Vancouver	3-MeO-PCP can cause psychosis in high doses and fentanyl can cause opioid toxicity especially for opioid-naïve individuals.
August 24, 2021 Get Your Drugs Tested Vancouver	Down (Unknown Opioid)	Flualprazolam, Fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Vancouver	Flualprazolam is a potent benzodiazepine that may cause drowsiness, especially when consumed unintentionally.

August 11, 2021 Get Your Drugs Tested Vancouver	Cocaine	Etizolam	Negative	Positive	Vancouver	Etizolam is a benzodiazepine derivative that may cause drowsiness, especially when consumed unintentionally.
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During the month of August, **25.2%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in our partner sites around BC (**132 samples of 524 checked**). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are derived from both of these technologies and are presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory.

JULY 2021

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectroscopy Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
July 30 2021 Living Positive Resource Centre Kelowna	Cocaine	Cocaine, Phenacetin	Positive	N/A	Kelowna	There is a risk of opioid toxicity when stimulants are contaminated with fentanyl.
July 23 2021 Insite Vancouver	Xanax (Alprazolam)	Microcrystalline cellulose	Positive	Positive	Vancouver	Counterfeit Xanax may contain a variety of different drugs other than the expected alprazolam. Drug checking Xanax can help you avoid ingesting unexpected adulterants.
July 21 2021 Get Your Drugs Tested Vancouver	Cocaine	Flubromazepam	Negative	Positive	Vancouver	Benzodiazepines can cause intense drowsiness. Many drugs are white powders, so always get your drugs checked to confirm what you think you have.
July 21 2021 ASK Wellness Kamloops	Methamphetamine	Caffeine, Xylitol, Methamphetamine, Fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	The risk of overdose is increased when combining depressants (i.e., benzodiazepines with opioids) especially for people who don't regularly use opioids. Always be suspicious of methamphetamine if it's not a colourless, clear crystal—but still get it checked!
July 19 2021 Get Your Drugs Tested Vancouver	MDMA	Xylazine	Negative	N/A	Unknown	Checking your drugs before you use them can remove your risk of exposure to harmful adulterants. Not much is known about the effect of xylazine in humans since it is only used in veterinary medicine.

During the month of July, **24.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in our partner sites around BC (**105 samples of 433 checked**). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are derived from both of these technologies and are presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory.

JUNE 2021

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectroscopy Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
29 June 2021 ASK Wellness Kamloops	Fentanyl	Fentanyl, Flubromazepam, Erythritol	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	Flubromazepam is a benzodiazepine. Using even small amounts may increase the risk of overdose. Avoid combining depressants if possible.
4 June 2021 ASK Wellness Kamloops	<i>Down</i> (Unknown Opioid)	Fentanyl, Erythritol	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	The combination of opioids and benzodiazepines can cause prolonged sedation. Using even small amounts may cause overdose. Use with caution.

During the month of June, **16.9%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in our partner sites around BC (**87 samples of 516 checked**). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are derived from both of these technologies and are presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory.

MAY 2021

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectroscopy Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
21 May 2021 ASK Wellness Merritt	MDMA/Ecstasy	MDA, Caffeine, Lactose, Microcrystalline cellulose	Positive	N/A	Lower Mainland	For people without an opioid tolerance, small amounts of fentanyl can lead to opioid toxicity.
19 May 2021 Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Cocaine	Cocaine, Caffeine	Positive	N/A	Unknown	A good harm reduction tip is to be cautious when white-coloured drugs have coloured flecks. In this case, the purple flecks were caffeine and fentanyl, typical ingredients in <i>down</i> .

4 May 2021 Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Down/Fentanyl	Caffeine, Fentanyl, Xylazine	Positive	Positive	Unknown	Xylazine is a veterinary tranquilizer that may complicate overdoses and is linked to skin lesions and ulcers after injecting. A sample containing three different depressants poses a high risk for overdose.
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During the month of May, 23.8% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites around BC (**134 samples of 563 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.

APRIL 2021

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectroscopy Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
24 April 2021 UBCO Harm Reduction (HaRT) Penticton	Crack cocaine	Cocaine base, Phenacetin	Positive	N/A	Penticton	Unexpected fentanyl presence can lead to overdose, even when smoking.
18 April 2021 UBCO Harm Reduction (HaRT) Penticton	Crack cocaine	Mannitol, Fentanyl	Positive	Negative	Penticton	Drugs may contain any of the drug they are sold as. Drug checking can help confirm you have what you think!
12 April 2021 Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Down/Fentanyl	Fentanyl, Etizolam, Xylazine	Positive	Positive	Unknown	Xylazine is a veterinary tranquilizer that may complicate overdoses and is linked to skin lesions and ulcers after injecting. Ingesting multiple depressants increases the risk of overdose.

8 April 2021 Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Crack cocaine	Fentanyl	Positive	N/A	Unknown	This substance was found and based on appearance was thought to be crack. Only after drug checking was it found to contain fentanyl with no cuts or buffs. Many drugs look alike, so get them checked to make sure!
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During the month of April, 24.7% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites around BC (**142 samples of 574 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.

MARCH 2021

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
31 March 2021- Burdock House, Penticton	Methamphetamine	Methamphetamine, fentanyl	Positive	N/A	Penticton	Unexpected fentanyl presence can lead to overdose, even when smoking.
10 March 2021- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Ketamine	Ketamine, etizolam	Negative	Positive	Unknown	Etizolam is a benzodiazepine that can cause extreme sedation and blackouts, especially when consumed unexpectedly in high amounts. Check your drugs before consuming them.

During the month of March, 25.8% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites around BC (**103 samples of 438 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.

FEBRUARY 2021

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
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- IHA.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 fentanyl concentration	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	Stimulant overdose/over-amping; Levamisole can cause fever, skin colour changes (purplish), and other severe brain disorders. Risks increase with regular use (2 or more days/week).
4 February 2021- IHA/UBCO, Kelowna/West Kelowna	Fentanyl	Benzodiazepines and fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Kelowna	High risk of overdose with prolonged sedation- may not respond to naloxone. Check your drugs
3 February 2021- ANKORS, Castlegar	Down	High concentrations of fentanyl and benzodiazepines	Positive	Positive	Castlegar	High risk of overdose with prolonged sedation- may not respond to naloxone. Check your drugs!

2 February 2021- Penticton	Fentanyl	Fentanyl and Benzodiazepines	Positive	Positive	Penticton	Check your drugs for benzos at any local SCS and OPS!
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During the month of February, **22.9%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites around BC (**77 samples of 336 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.

JANUARY 2021

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
28 January 2021- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Hydromorphone	Microcrystalline cellulose, hydromorphone, uncertain match	Positive	Positive	DTES	Counterfeit hydromorphone pill containing very high levels of fentanyl and hydromorphone- Check your drugs!
13 January 2021, Vancouver	Multiple suspected fentanyl overdoses reported in DTES- Don't use alone and check your drugs!					
13 January 2021- ASK Wellness, Kamloops	Down	Caffeine, mannitol, fentanyl, benzos	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	High risk of overdose with prolonged sedation. Check your drugs!
12 January 2021- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Fentanyl	Caffeine, mannitol, fentanyl or analogue	Positive	N/A	DTES	Check your drugs for unexpected substances at any OPS!
11 January 2021- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Fentanyl	Caffeine, W-19	Negative	Negative	Unknown	Check your drugs at any OPS and SCS for any unknown or unexpected substances!
11 January 2021- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Fentanyl	W-19	Negative	Negative	Unknown	Effects of W-19 are unknown. Check your drugs at any OPS and SCS!

8 January 2020- ASK Wellness, Kamloops	Down	Fentanyl, AMB-FUBINACA and may contain benzos	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	High risk of overdose with prolonged sedation with other side effects like hallucinations or agitation. May not respond to naloxone- Check your drugs!
8 January 2020- ASK Wellness, Kamloops	Down	Fentanyl and benzos	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	High risk of overdose and prolonged sedation that may not respond to naloxone. Check your drugs!
8 January 2020- ASK Wellness, Kamloops	Down	Benzos, fentanyl and may also contain AMB-FUBINACA	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	High risk of overdose and prolonged sedation that may not respond to naloxone. Continue to give breaths and seek medical attention.
8 January 2020- ASK Wellness, Kamloops	Down	Etizolam, fentanyl and AMB-FUBINACA	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	High risk of overdose and AMB-FUBINACA (synthetic cannabinoid) may cause side effects such as hallucination, or agitation. May present as an atypical overdose. Use at an OPS!
8 January 2020- Vernon OPS, Vernon	Fentanyl	Caffeine, etizolam, and fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Vernon	High risk of overdose with prolonged sedation-Use at an OPS!
8 January 2020- Vernon OPS, Vernon	Fentanyl	Caffeine, mannitol, fentanyl and AMB-FUBINACA	Positive	Positive	Vernon	AMB-FUBINACA is a synthetic cannabinoid that may cause hallucination, or agitation. Check your drugs!
7 January 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Fentanyl	Caffeine, fentanyl or analogue, uncertain match	Positive	Positive	DTES	Check for benzos in your drugs at any SCS or OPS!
7 January 2020- Overdose Prevention Society OPS, Vancouver	Fentanyl	Etizolam	Negative	Positive	DTES	Benzos may cause prolonged drowsiness and decreased level of consciousness. Use at an OPS!

5 January 2020- Interior Health, Penticton	Fentanyl	Fentanyl and benzodiazepines	Positive	Positive	Penticton	High risk of overdose with prolonged sedation!
During the month of January 20.2% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using benzo test strips in our partner sites around BC (99 samples of 490 tested)						

DECEMBER 2020

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
14 December 2020- Interior Health, Penticton	Down/Heroin	Fentanyl and benzodiazepines	Positive	Positive	Penticton	High risk of overdose with prolonged sedation!
10 December 2020- Overdose Prevention Society OPS, Vancouver	Fentanyl/down	Caffeine, inositol, fentanyl	Positive	Positive	DTES	Benzos combined with down can lead to prolonged symptoms. Check your drugs!
8 December 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Oxycodone	Microcrystalline cellulose, AMB-FUBINACA	Positive	Negative	Unknown	AMB-FUBINACA is a synthetic cannabinoid and can have adverse effects when cut into opioids.
5 December 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Alprazolam (Xanax)	Microcrystalline cellulose, adinazolam	Negative	Positive	Unknown	Adinazolam is a benzodiazepine – derivative that is not used in North America. Check your drugs!
During the month of December 15.49% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using benzo test strips in our partner sites around BC (59 samples of 381 tested)						

NOVEMBER 2020

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
25 November 2020- Overdose Prevention Society OPS, Vancouver	Fentanyl	Caffeine, erythritol, fentanyl	Positive	Positive	DTES	Combining down and benzos may cause prolonged symptoms- check your drugs!
20 November 2020- ASK Wellness, Vernon	Fentanyl	Fentanyl and etizolam	N/A	N/A	Vernon	High risk of overdose- may not respond to naloxone. Check your drugs!
4 November 2020- Interior Health	Large increase in the number of 911 calls for overdose in the South Okanagan (Penticton and Oliver/Osoyoos) form "down" being sold in the community.				Penticton and South Okanagan	Check your drugs!
3 November 2020- ANKORS, Cranbrook	Down	Fentanyl (toxic levels)	N/A	N/A	Cranbrook	High risk of overdose!! Check your drugs at any local OPS or SCS.
During the month of November 14.62% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using benzo test strips in our partner sites around BC (50 samples of 342 tested)						

OCTOBER 2020

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
29 October 2020- ANKORS	MDMA	Fentanyl (No MDMA detected)	N/A	N/A	Cranbrook	High risk of overdose!! Check your drugs at any local OPS or SCS.
27 October 2020- SafePoint, Surrey	Down	Caffeine, mannitol, fentanyl, etizolam	Positive	Positive	Unknown	Combining benzos and down can cause extreme and prolonged symptoms; test your drugs at any OPS.

22 October 2020- Overdose Prevention Society OPS, Vancouver	Down	Fentanyl, benzodiazepines	Positive	Positive	Vancouver	Check your drugs at any local SCS or OPS.
5 October 2020- Vancouver	Samples of Cocaine, Crack and MDA	Etizolam	Positive	Positive	Vancouver	High risk of overdose that may not respond to Naloxone; Use at any OPS/SCS!
During the month of October 12.65% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using benzo test strips in our partner sites around BC (43 samples of 340 tested)						

SEPTEMBER 2020

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
25 September 2020- Vancouver	Down	Fentanyl	N/A	N/A	Vancouver	May cause overdose due to high concentrations of fentanyl; take a tester shot and use at any OPS/SCS
25 September 2020- Vancouver	Unknown	Etodesnitazene (a novel opioid-like drug), crystal meth, cocaine, and fentanyl	N/A	N/A	Vancouver	Etodesnitazene is a new opioid-like drug and its safety is unknown. Check your drugs and don't use alone!
25 September 2020- ASK Wellness	Down	Etizolam and fentanyl	N/A	N/A	Kamloops	High risk of overdose that may not respond to Naloxone.
17 September 2020- ASK Wellness	Down	AMB-FUBINACA (synthetic cannabinoid), fentanyl, caffeine	N/A	N/A	Kamloops	Check your drugs for unknown and unexpected substances at any local OPS/SCS!
16 September 2020- ASK Wellness	Down	AMB-FUBINACA (synthetic cannabinoid)	N/A	N/A	Vernon	AMB-FUBINACA is a synthetic cannabinoid that can cause serious symptoms such as seizures, agitation, confusion, decreased breathing and hallucinations. Check your drugs!
9 September 2020- ASK Wellness	Fentanyl	Etizolam (benzo), fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Vernon	High risk of overdose that may not respond to Naloxone! Test your drugs at any local SCS or OPS.

4 September 2020- Vancouver	Unknown	Furanyl- UF 17, fentanyl and caffeine	N/A	N/A	North Vancouver	Test your drugs!
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During the month of September, **6%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using benzo test strips in our partner sites around BC (**21 samples of 327 tested**)

AUGUST 2020

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
14 August 2020- ANKORS, Nelson, BC	Down	Fentanyl, benzodiazepines	Positive	Positive	Nelson, Trail, Salmo, Castlegar area	High risk of overdose! Test your drugs at any local SCS or OPS.
13 August 2020- ANKORS, Nelson, BC	Down	Caffeine, erythritol, fentanyl, benzos	Positive	Positive	Grand Forks	Combining benzos and down can cause extreme and prolonged symptoms; test your drugs at any OPS.

During the month of August **9.2%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using benzo test strips in the Vancouver Coastal Health region (**26 samples of 284 tested**)

JULY 2020

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
15 July 2020- Overdose Prevention Site OPS, Vancouver	Unknown	Methylamine HCl	Negative	N/A	DTES	Methylamine causes irritation and burning when used; it causes no health issues just discomfort.

14 July 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Methamphetamine	Methamphetamine, methylamine HCl	Negative	N/A	DTES	Test your drugs at any OPS or SCS to check for any unexpected substances!
14 July 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Methamphetamine	Methamphetamine, dimethyl sulfone, methylamine HCl	Negative	N/A	DTES	
14 July 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Methamphetamine	Methylamine HCl	Negative	N/A	DTES	
14 July 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Methamphetamine	Methylamine HCl	Negative	N/A	DTES	
14 July 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Methamphetamine	Methylamine HCl	Negative	N/A	DTES	
12 July 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Down	Mannitol (sweetener), caffeine, fentanyl HCl (high percentage)	N/A	Positive	DTES	Combining benzos and opioids can make OD symptoms worse; Check your drugs!
12 July 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, water	Positive	Positive	DTES	Use slowly and check your drugs!
9 July 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Down	Etizolam	Negative	Positive	DTES	Etizolam is a benzodiazepine that is very dangerous to use at doses of Down. Check your drugs at any OPS/SCS!
2 July 2020- Overdose Prevention Site OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol and sucrose (sweeteners), fentanyl HCl	Positive	Positive	DTES	Use any local OPS or SCS to test your drugs for benzos!
2 July 2020- Overdose Prevention Site OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, fentanyl HCl, sucrose and erythritol (sweeteners)	Positive	Positive	DTES	Combining benzos and opioids can make OD symptoms worse.
During the month of July, 9.2% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using benzo test strips in the Vancouver Coastal Health region (26 samples of 284 tested)						

JUNE 2020

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
25 June 2020-OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, fentanyl HCL (high levels), erythritol and sucrose (sweeteners)	Positive	Positive	DTES	Use Slowly! Combining benzos and opioids can make OD symptoms worse; check your drugs at any OPS/SCS
25 June 2020-OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, fentanyl or analogue, mannitol and sucrose (sweeteners)	Positive	Positive	DTES	
25 June 2020-OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, mannitol (sweetener), fentanyl HCL	Positive	Positive	DTES	
25 June 2020-OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, mannitol (sweetener), fentanyl HCL	Positive	Positive	DTES	
25 June 2020-OPS, Vancouver	Down	Erythritol, caffeine, lactose	Positive	Positive	DTES	
19 June 2020-OPS, Vancouver	Cocaine	Caffeine, cocaine	Positive	N/A	DTES	Test your drugs for fentanyl at local OPS to test drugs for fentanyl!
19 June 2020-OPS, Vancouver	"W-18"	Caffeine, erythritol (sweetener), fentanyl HCL; (No W-18 present)	Positive	Positive	DTES	W-18 is a rare depressant not been seen by drug checking; Drugs are often reported to contain W-18 but don't.
19 June 2020-Kamloops, BC	Cocaine	Phenacetin, caffeine, cocaine	Positive	N/A	Kamloops	Use take home test strips available at your local OPS to test drugs for fentanyl!
18 June 2020-OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, mannitol (sweetener), fentanyl or analogue	Positive	Positive	DTES	Check your drugs at any OPS or SCS for benzos!
17 June 2020-OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol (sweetener), fentanyl or analogue	Positive	Positive	DTES	Combining benzos and opioids can make OD symptoms worse.
17 June 2020-OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol (sweetener), fentanyl or analogue	Positive	Positive	DTES	Use any local OPS or SCS to test your drugs for benzos!

17 June 2020- Cranbrook, BC	Down	High levels of fentanyl, benzos	Positive	Positive	Cranbrook	Buddy up when using drugs and carry naloxone!
10 June 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Methamphetamine	Meth, Caffeine	Positive	N/A	DTES	Use clean baggies and wash your hands after handling drugs!
7 June 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, mannitol (sweetener), fentanyl HCl	Positive	Positive	Unknown	Check your drug for benzos at any OPS or SCS
3 June 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol (sweetener)	Positive	Positive	DTES	Use any local OPS or SCS to test your drugs for Benzos!
3 June 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Fentanyl HCl (very high concentration)	Positive	Negative	DTES	Use slowly! And check your drugs at any OPS/SCS
3 June 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Unknown (Ground find)	Cocaine Base	Positive (very high concentration)	Negative	DTES	Check your drugs!

MAY 2020

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	What does this mean?
28 May 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, fentanyl HCl, licorice, erythritol (sweetener)	Positive	Positive	DTES	Use any local OPS or SCS to test your drugs for benzos!
27 May 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol (sweetener), sucrose (sugar), fentanyl or analogue	Positive	Positive	DTES	Combining benzos and opioids can make OD symptoms worse; check your drugs!
21 May 2020- ANKORS, Nelson	Down	Fentanyl or analogue and unknown benzo	Positive	Positive	Nelson	Buddy up when using drugs and check your drugs for benzos at any OPS or SCS.
21 May 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, mannitol (sweetener)	Positive	Positive	DTES	
20 May 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, mannitol (sweetener), fentanyl or analogue	Positive	Positive	DTES	Benzos may not respond to Naloxone; Check your drugs!

15 May 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, mannitol (sweetener)	Positive	Positive	DTES	Check for benzos your drugs at any local OPS and SCS; Benzos can cause prolonged ODs
15 May 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol (sweetener), and lactose	Positive	Positive	DTES	
7 May 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol (sweetener), sucrose (sugar)	Positive	Positive	DTES	Combining benzos and opioids can make OD symptoms worse; check your drugs!
7 May 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, mannitol (sweetener)	Positive	Positive	DTES	
6 May 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol and mannitol (sweeteners), ascorbic acid	Positive	Positive	DTES	Benzo OD symptoms may continue after Naloxone is given; Use at OPS and SCS
6 May 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol (sweetener), sucrose (sugar)	Positive	Positive	DTES (outside Insite)	
6 May 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, mannitol (sweetener)	Positive	Positive	DTES	
6 May 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol (sweetener), sucrose (sugar), fentanyl or analogue	Positive	Positive	DTES	
3 May 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, uncertain starch, fentanyl (5-10%)	Positive	Positive	DTES	Benzos can cause prolonged ODs; Check your drugs!
3 May 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, uncertain starch, fentanyl (5-10%)	Positive	Positive	DTES	

% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Vancouver Coastal Health Region

APRIL 2020

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	What does this mean?
29 April 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down (fentanyl)	Caffeine, mannitol (sweetener)	Positive	Positive	Check for benzos your drugs at any local OPS and SCS
28 April 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Down (fentanyl)	Caffeine, mannitol (sweetener)	Positive	Positive	Benzos can cause prolonged ODs
23 April 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol (sweetener), sucrose (sugar), fentanyl or analogue, possible carfentanil	Positive	Positive	Carfentanil is an extremely strong opioid; start slow and don't use alone!
22 April 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol (sweetener), ascorbic acid	Positive	Positive	Combining benzos and opioids can make OD symptoms worse; check your drugs!
23 April 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol (sweetener), sucrose (sugar), fentanyl or analogue	Positive	Positive	Benzo OD symptoms may continue after Naloxone is given; Use at OPS and SCS

18.1 % of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Vancouver Coastal Health Region

MARCH 2020

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	What does this mean?
12 March 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol and sucrose (sugars)	Positive	Positive	Test your drugs for benzos at any local OPS and SCS
10 March 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol (sweetener)	Positive	Positive	Benzos can cause prolonged ODs; Check your dr
9 March 2020- Safepoint, Surrey	Down	Caffeine, xylitol (sugar), fentanyl or analogue, and xylazine	Positive	Positive	Xylazine is an animal sedative not used in humans; It can increase the rise of ODs and won't respond to Naloxone

5.59% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Vancouver Coastal Health Region

FEBRUARY 2020

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	What does this mean?
26 February 2020- Insite, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, sugars, fentanyl or analogue	Positive	Positive	Benzos can cause prolonged ODs
26 February 2020- Insite, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, mannitol and inositol (sweeteners), fentanyl HCl	Positive	Positive	Check for benzos in your drugs
21 February 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, erythritol (sweetener)	Positive	Positive	Test your drugs for fentanyl at any local OPS and SCS
14 February 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, mannitol (sweetener), fentanyl or analogue	Positive	Positive	Use as an OPS or SCS
7 February 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, mannitol (sweetener), fentanyl or analogue	Positive	Positive	Benzo-complicated ODs can recur after Naloxone
6 February 2020- OPS, Vancouver	Fentanyl	Caffeine, mannitol (sweetener), fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Test your drugs!

6.1% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Vancouver Coastal Health Region

JANUARY 2020

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	What does this mean?
29 January 2020- Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, sugars, polyethylene glycol, fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Benzo complicated ODs can recur after Naloxone
29 January 2020- Insite, Vancouver	Down (fentanyl)	Caffeine, fentanyl or analogue (5-10%)	Positive	Positive	Use at an OPS or SCS

23 January 2020-Safepoint, Surrey	Fentanyl	Pseudoephedrine and cellulose	Negative	Negative	Pseudoephedrine is a stimulant used as a decongestant; Check your drugs!
23 January 2020-OPS, Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, sugar	Positive	Positive	Test your down for benzos at any local OPS or SCS
22 January 2020-Kamloops, BC	Crystal Meth	Crystal meth and fentanyl	Positive	N/A	Check your drugs for fentanyl at drug checking
22 January 2020-Insite, Vancouver	Down (fentanyl)	Caffeine, erythritol (sweetener), polyethylene glycol	Positive	Positive	Benzo-complicated ODs can recur after Naloxone
22 January 2020-Insite, Vancouver	Down (fentanyl)	Caffeine, sugar, polyethylene glycol	Positive	Positive	Combining depressants can increase risk of overdose- may cause extended blackouts

6.2% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Vancouver Coastal Health Region

DECEMBER 2019

Date & Location	Novel Psychoactive substances (NPS) Detected by Laboratory Analysis
December 2019-Insite, Vancouver	Flubromazepam: Benzodiazepines mixed with opioids increases the risk of overdose
December 2019-Insite, Vancouver	Flualprazolam, Etizolam: NPS benzodiazepines have unknown strength and potency. Check Down samples with test strips.

12.5% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Vancouver Coastal Health Region

11.8% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Fraser Health Region

NOVEMBER 2019

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	What does this mean?
13 November 2019-MOPS, Vancouver	Fentanyl	Suspected carfentanil and etizolam	Positive	Benzo complicated ODs can recur after Naloxone

Date & Location	Novel Psychoactive substances (NPS) Detected by Laboratory Analysis
November 2019-Safepoint, Surrey	Unknown U-Family opioid: U-Family (utopic opioids, utopioids) have unknown potency and effects. Fentanyl test strips cannot detect U-Family opioids.

OCTOBER 2019

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	What does this mean?
30 October 2019-Safepoint, Surrey	Down	Synthetic cannabinoid (suspected AMB-FUBINACA)	Positive	May cause cannabis-like hallucinations; Use at any OPS/
3 October 2019-MOPS, Vancouver	Fentanyl	Suspected etizolam and carfentanil	Positive	Benzo OD's can recur after Naloxone; Check your drugs at and OPS or SCS

Date & Location	Novel Psychoactive substances (NPS) Detected by Laboratory Analysis
October 2019-Safepoint, Surrey	FUB-AMB: Synthetic cannabinoids may cause hallucinations, agitation, seizure or other adverse effects
October 2019-Safepoint, Surrey	UF-17: Synthetic opioid with unknown potency and effects

SEPTEMBER 2019

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	What does this mean?
12 September 2019-Insite, Vancouver	Fentanyl	Suspected etizolam and carfentanil	Positive	May cause cannabis-like hallucinations; Use at any OPS/

AUGUST 2019

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	What does this mean?
24 August 2019- Safeport, Surrey	Down	N/A	N/A	Increased risk of overdoses; don't use alone and carry Naloxone
14 August 2019- Insite, Vancouver	Down	Etizolam	Positive	Benzos may increase the risk of an overdose; use at an OPS or SCS
8 August 2019- Safeport, Surrey	Down	Heroin and fentanyl	Positive	Check your drugs for fentanyl at any OPS or SCS

JULY 2019

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	What does this mean?
31 July 2019- DTES, Vancouver	Xanax	Various drugs	N/A	Many pills sold as Xanax contain drugs other than alprazolam; Check your drugs!
25 July 2019- DTES, Vancouver	Ketamine	Ketamine and methamphetamine	Negative	Meth is a strong stimulant that has much longer lasting effects than ketamine.
17 July 2019- DTES, Vancouver	Down	Fentanyl and benzos	Positive	Benzos may increase the risk of an overdose; use at any OPS or SCS
16 July 2019- MOPS, Vancouver	Fentanyl	Xylazine and fentanyl	Positive	Xylazine is a strong depressant that can increase the risk of overdose
8 July 2019- Powell River, BC	Down	Possible benzo contamination	N/A	Benzos can cause decreased level of consciousness and memory loss, especially when mixed with opioids.
2 July 2019- Vancouver	Down	Benzodiazepines	N/A	Benzos can cause severe drowsiness; use at an OPS or SCS.

JUNE 2019

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	What does this mean?
27 June 2019- OPS, Vancouver	Down	Benzo test strip positive	Positive	May cause OD and drowsiness
12 June 2019- Safepoint, Surrey	Alprazolam	Fentanyl, etizolam and Flubromazolam	Positive	Strong benzo, may cause prolonged OD and severe drowsiness.
12 June 2019- Insite, Vancouver	Down	Flubromazolam	Positive	Strong benzo, may cause prolonged OD and severe drowsiness.

MAY 2019

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	What does this mean?
22 May 2019- Insite, Vancouver	Fentanyl	Benzodiazepines	Positive	May cause prolonged ODs
10 May 2019- MOPS, Vancouver	Fentanyl	Carfentanil	Positive	Carfentanil is very strong opioid that may cause OD even in very small amounts
7 May 2019- MOPS, Vancouver	Down	Dextromethorphan, lidocaine, fentanyl	Positive	DXM may cause hallucinations or dissociation at higher doses

APRIL 2019

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	What does this mean?
17 April 2019- Insite, Vancouver	Cocaine	Cocaine with ~25% Meth	Negative	Check your drugs for unknown substances!
16 April 2019- Kamloops, BC	Heroin	Heroin and AMB-FUBINACA	Positive	AMB-FUBINACA is a synthetic cannabinoid; Check your drugs at any OPS or SCS!
9 April 2019- MOPS, Vancouver	Heroin	Heroin with ~25% Dextromethorphan	Negative	DXM may cause hallucinations or dissociation at higher doses