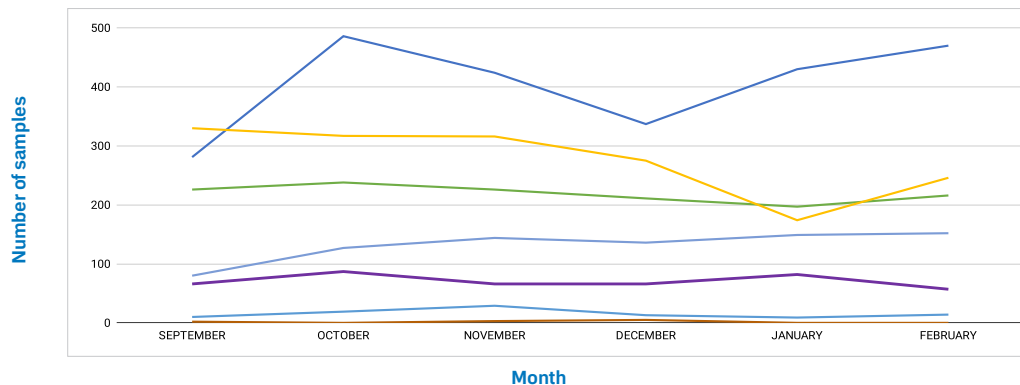


Key Findings

- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines (28.3%, 133 of 470 samples) rose dramatically to the highest point since the start of the project. The true rate may be higher than reported here because etizolam, the predominant benzodiazepine in expected opioids, may be missed by drug checking technologies.
- 9 stimulant samples (5 methamphetamine, 2 cocaine, 2 crack cocaine), 3 depressant samples (2 etizolam, 1 flualprazolam), and 3 samples of submitted MDMA tested positive for fentanyl this month.
- Nitazene opioids (benzimidazole) are increasingly being detected by point-of-care and confirmatory methods. Metonitazene, isotonitazene, etodesnitazene, and protonitazene have been identified in samples submitted as opioids.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



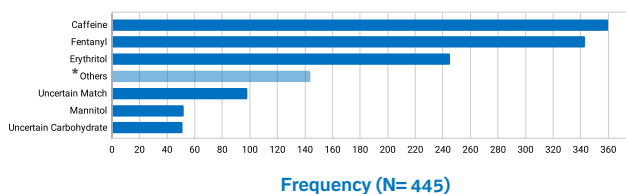
Number of samples by drug category in February

Opioid	470
Stimulant	216
Depressant	57
Psychedelic	246
Other	14
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	152

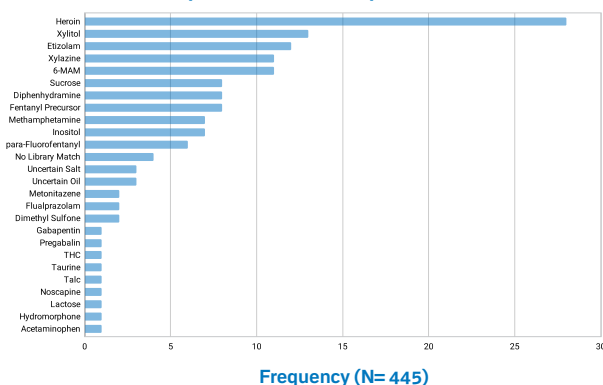
TOTAL: 1,155

Components found in drug samples in February

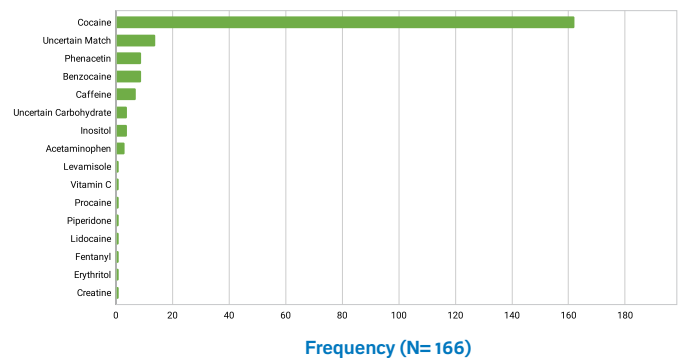
Components in opioids



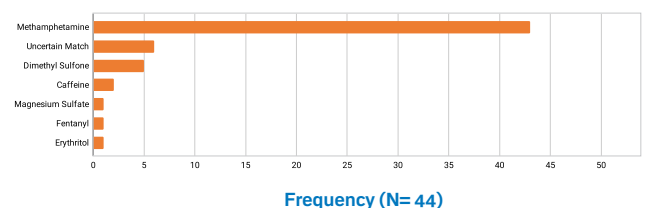
* Other components found in opioids



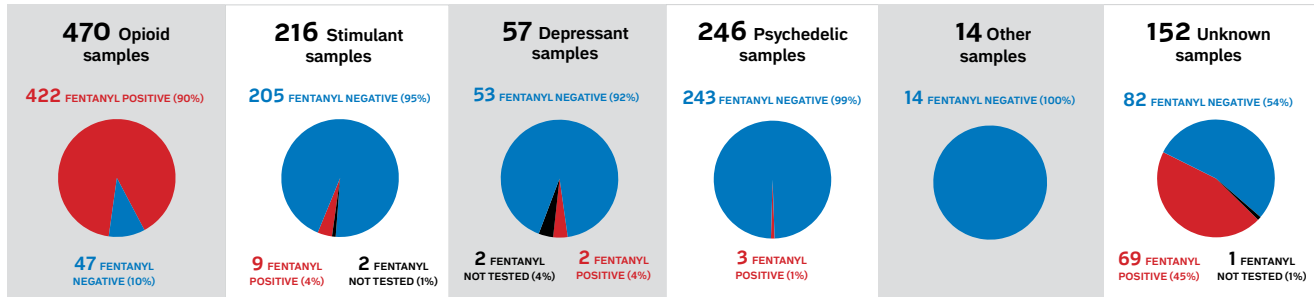
Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

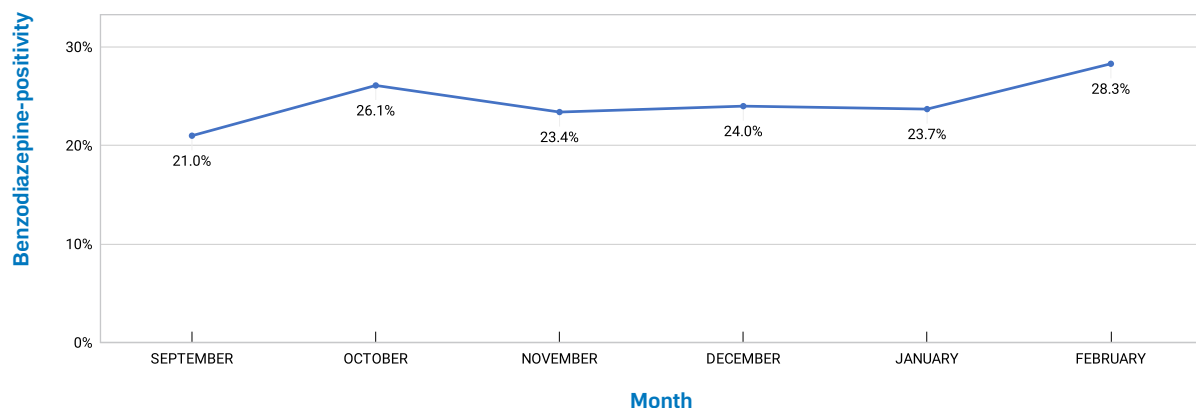


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

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

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, **28.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Vancouver Coastal Health (**133 samples of 470 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.

Number of drugs checks and hours at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Get Your Drugs Tested	975
Insite	97
Overdose Prevention Society	25
Molson OPS	58
Total	1,155

Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG: Depressant

57 Samples Tested



Matched: 26
Did not match: 30
Match not determined: 1

EXPECTED DRUG: Psychedelic

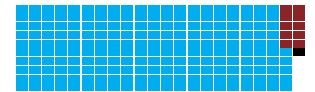
246 Samples Tested



Matched: 207
Did not match: 38
Match not determined: 1

EXPECTED DRUG: Stimulant

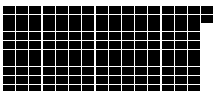
216 Samples Tested



Matched: 205
Did not match: 10
Match not determined: 1

EXPECTED DRUG: Unknown

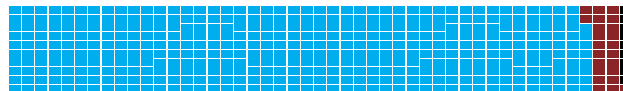
152 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 152

EXPECTED DRUG: Opioid

470 Samples Tested



Matched: 438
Did not match: 23
Match not determined: 9

EXPECTED DRUG: Other

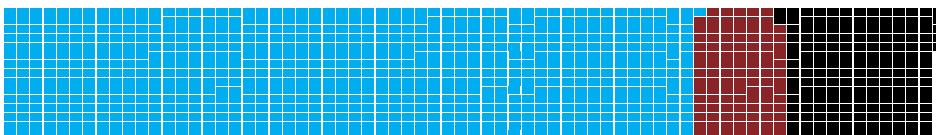
14 Sample Tested



Matched: 5
Did not match: 8
Match not determined: 1

Total

1,155 Samples Tested



Matched: 881
Did not match: 102
Match not determined: 172

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





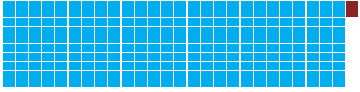


Psychedelic may include:
MDMA and related,
2C-family, tryptamines,
ketamine, LSD

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.

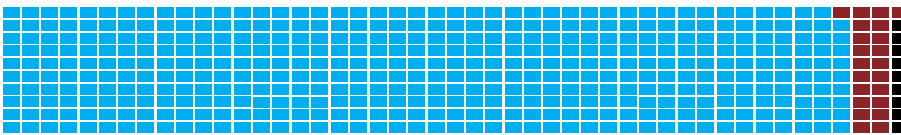
Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl 154 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 151 Did not match: 3</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Heroin 28 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 17 Did not match: 11</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl and Heroin 1 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Did not match: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Opium 3 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 2 Did not match: 1</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Down 262 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 260 Did not match: 2</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Pharmaceutical 21 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 8 Did not match: 4 Match not determined: 9</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Other Opioid 1 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>	

Total

470 Samples Tested



Matched: 439
Did not match: 22
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:

