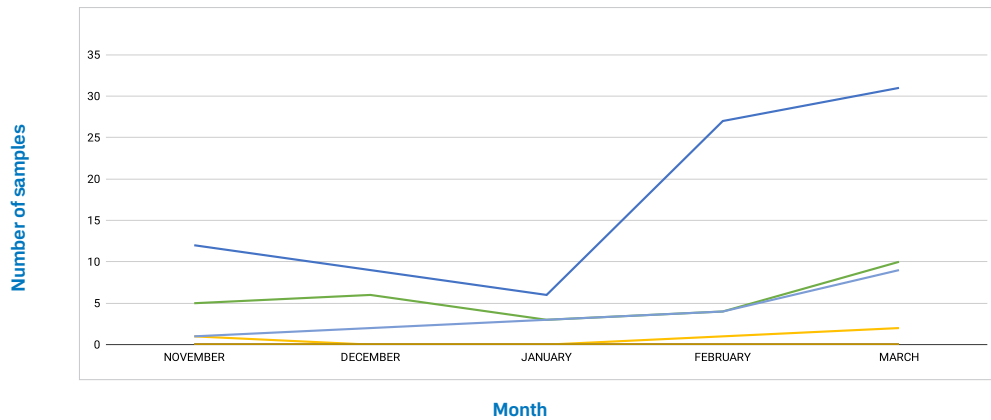


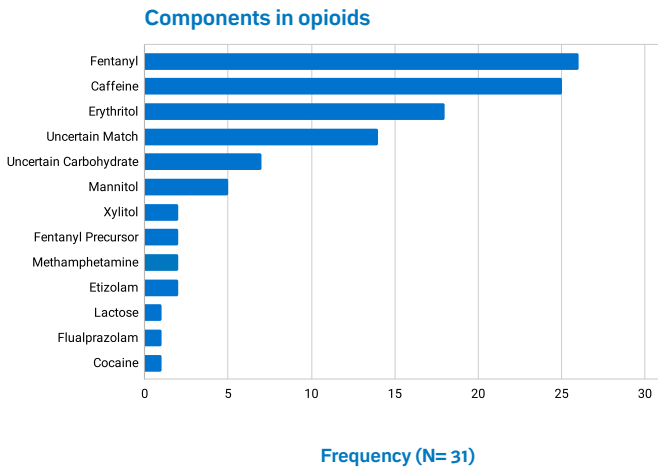
## Key Findings

- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the region was 54.8% (17 of 31 samples). Trends may be hard to infer due to the small number of samples over a large region. The true rate may be higher than reported here because etizolam, the predominant benzodiazepine in expected opioids, may be missed by drug checking technologies.
- Drug checking services are available at Starship Health Contact Centre (Purpose Society) in New Westminster. Drug checking hours are Monday to Thursday 1:30–9:30pm, Friday 3:00–5:30pm, and Sunday 3:30–9:30pm. Samples can also be dropped-off anytime outside these hours.
- Drug checking services are back at SafePoint in Surrey! Drug checking is available at SafePoint Wednesdays from 12:00–5:00pm and drop-off samples are accepted at any time.

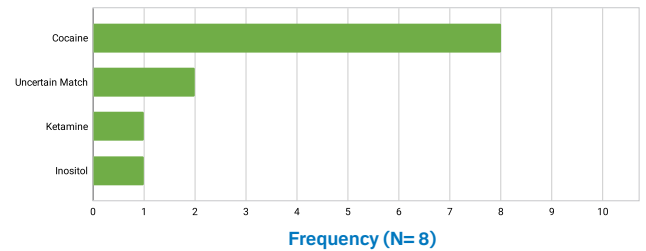
## Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



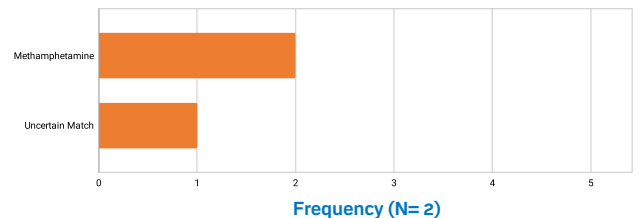
## Components found in drug samples in March



### Components in cocaine

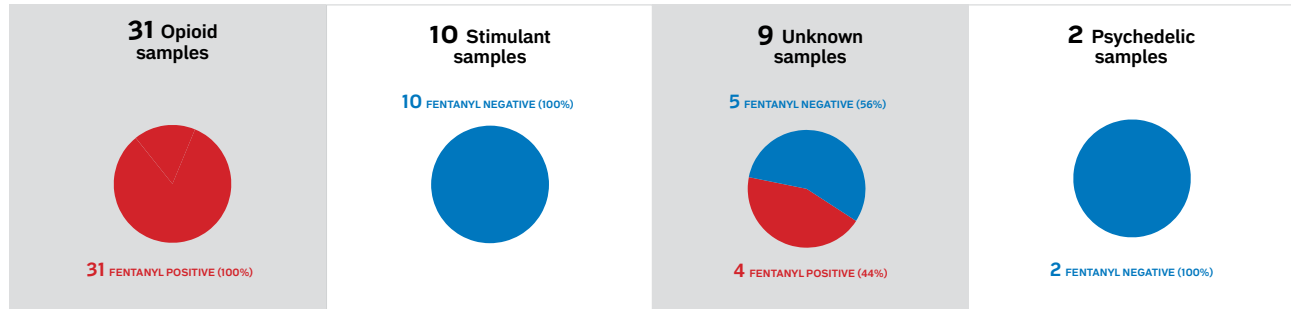


### Components in methamphetamine



There were additional compounds detected a single time each. To save space, they have been omitted from these charts. For the full list of compounds detected, visit our data dashboard at [www.drugcheckingbc.ca/dashboard/](http://www.drugcheckingbc.ca/dashboard/)

## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

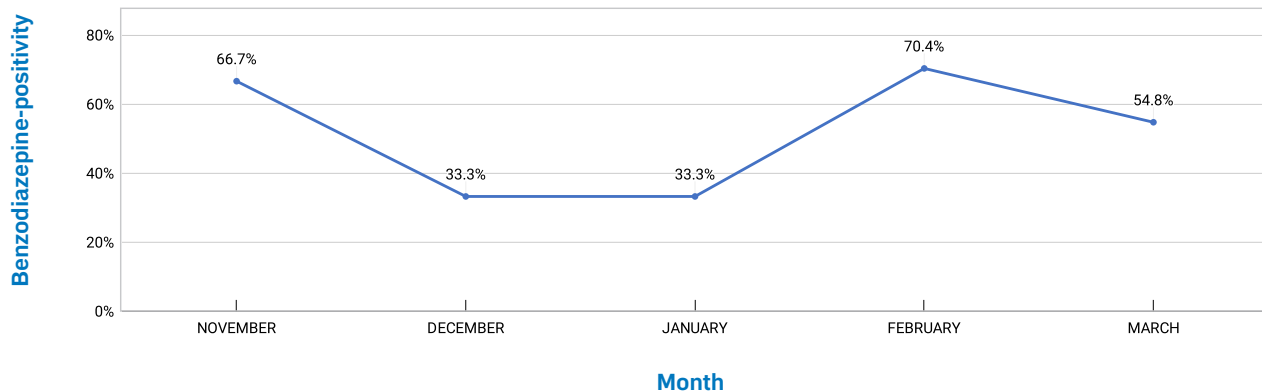


## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

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

For information about current substances in the Fraser Health region: [overdose@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:overdose@fraserhealth.ca)

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



During the month of March, **54.8%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**17 samples of 31 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 at each site

Location	# of drug checks
Purpose Society	37
SafePoint	15

## # of samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Opioid**

31 Samples Tested



Matched: 27

Did not match: 4

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Stimulant**

10 Samples Tested



Matched: 10

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Psychedelic**

2 Samples Tested



Matched: 1

Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Unknown**

9 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 9

**Total**

52 Samples Tested



Matched: 38

Did not match: 5

Match not determined: 9

## Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Heroin**

4 Samples Tested



Did not match: 4

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Down**

27 Samples Tested



Matched: 27

**Total**

31 Samples Tested



Matched: 27

Did not match: 4

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: