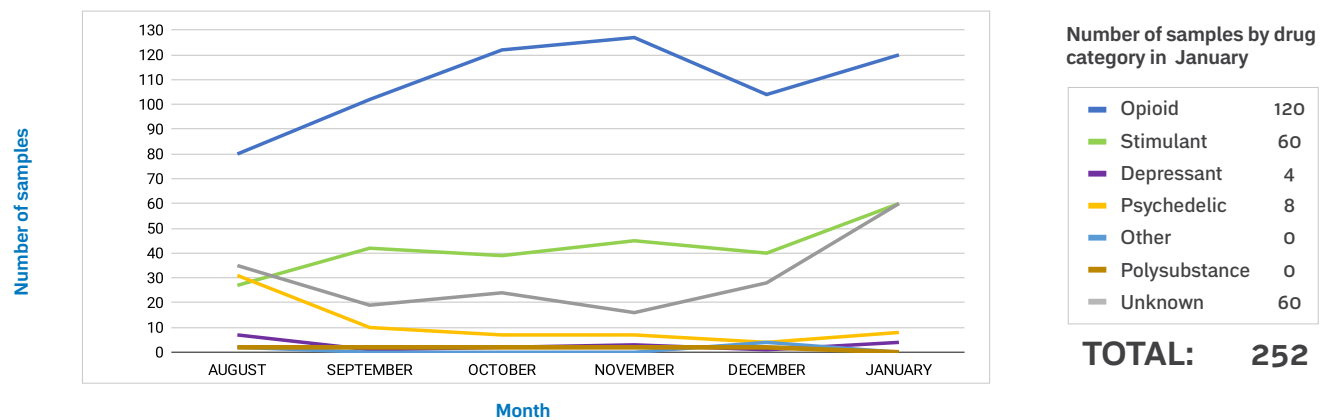


## Key Findings

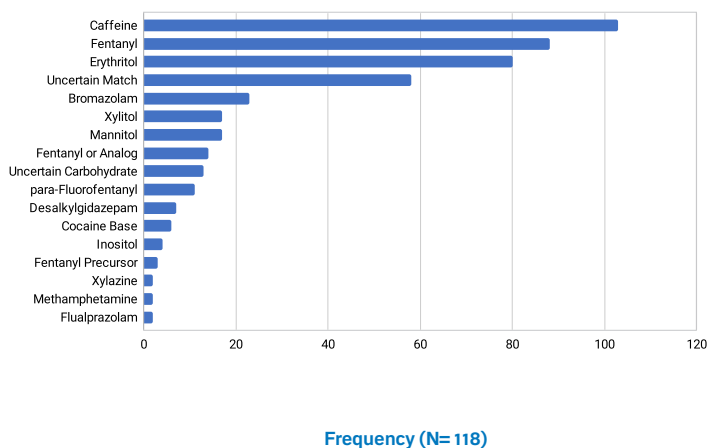
- In January, a total of 252 drug checks were performed across Fraser Health community partners, the highest number of checks recorded in the region to date.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines increased from 49.0% to 63.3% in January (76 of 120 samples).
- Fraser Health issued one drug alert concerning a down sample containing a high concentration of carfentanyl.
- Drug checking services in Fraser Health are rapidly expanding! Services are now available in Burnaby, Chilliwack, Abbotsford, and White Rock. For updated locations and hours, see the [Fraser Health website](#).

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

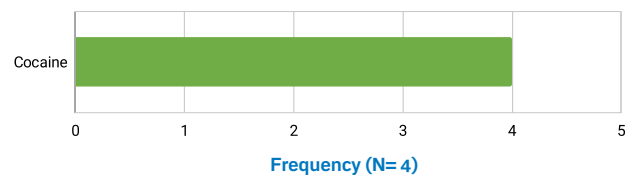


## Components found in drug samples in January

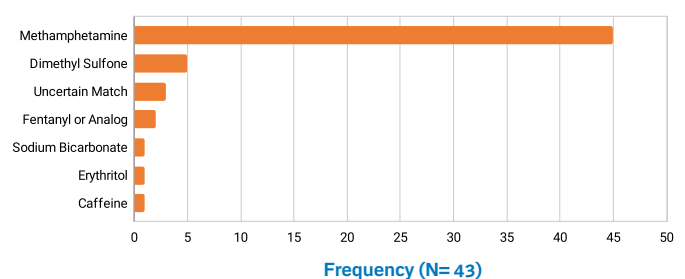
## Components in opioids



## Components in cocaine



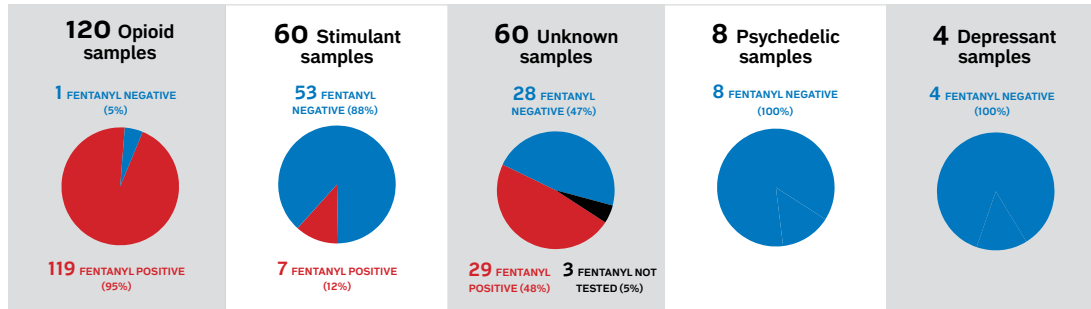
## Components in methamphetamine



January  
2023

# Drug Checking in Fraser Health

## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

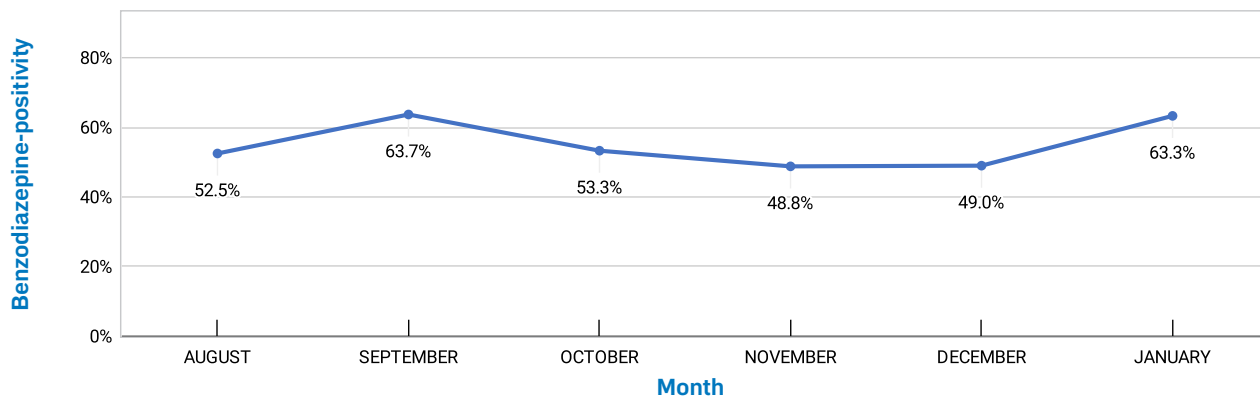


## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
January 4, 2023 Coquitlam	Down	Xylitol, Caffeine, Carfentanil	Positive	Negative	Coquitlam	High concentration of carfentanil, a potent fentanyl analogue, poses very high risk of overdose
Health authorities and community organizations issue further toxic drug alerts from sources other than drug checking. See their respective websites or social media accounts for more alerts.						

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 January, **63.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**76 samples of 120 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	Location	# of drug checks
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	56	Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	25
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	40	Purpose Society (Coquitlam)	12
Mountainside (Hope)	21	Purpose Society (New Westminster)	32
Mountainside (Mission)	24	SafePoint (Surrey)	42

January  
2023

# Drug Checking in Fraser Health

## # of samples that matched client expectation using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Opioid**

120 Samples Tested



Matched: 118

Did not match: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Stimulant**

60 Samples Tested



Matched: 60

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Unknown**

60 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 60

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Psychedelic**

8 Samples Tested



Matched: 7

Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Depressant**

4 Samples Tested

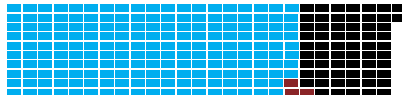


Matched: 3

Match not determined: 1

**Total**

252 Samples Tested



Matched: 188

Did not match: 3

Match not determined: 61

## Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Fentanyl**

14 Samples Tested



Matched: 14

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Down**

104 Samples Tested



Matched: 103

Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Pharmaceutical**

2 Samples Tested



Matched: 1

Did not match: 1

**Total**

120 Samples Tested



Matched: 118

Did not match: 2

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

**Depressant include:**  
benzodiazepines, etizolam,  
GHB, hypnotics

**Opioid include:**  
"down," heroin, fentanyl,  
pharmaceutical opioids

**Polysubstance includes:**  
cross-category mixtures

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

**Stimulant 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:



How you want to be treated.

