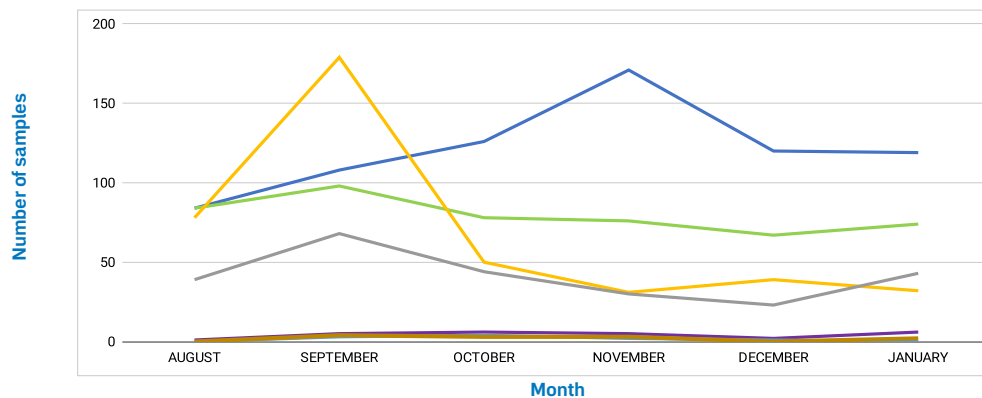


Key Findings

- In January, a total of 276 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased from 82.5% to 67.2% in January (80 of 119 samples). Trends may be hard to infer due the large geographic region.
- Interior Health issued two drug alerts concerning down samples containing high concentrations of fentanyl/para-fluorofentanyl with benzodiazepines present. In one of these samples, the concentration of bromazolam was high enough to be detected by FTIR.
- Drug checking is available in several communities across the Interior Health region. For updated times and locations, visit <https://drugchecking.ca/>

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



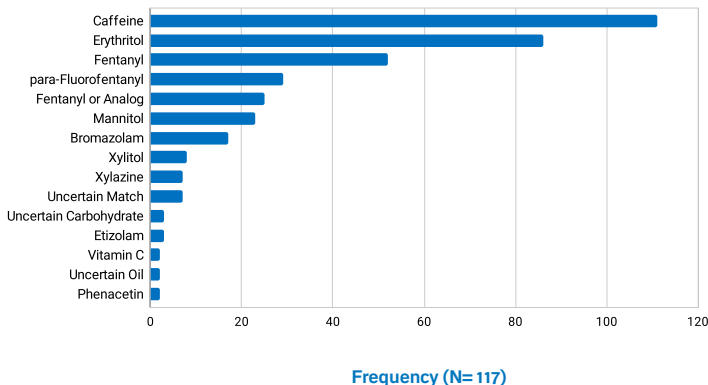
Number of samples by drug category in January

Opioid	119
Stimulant	74
Depressant	6
Psychedel	32
Other	0
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	43

TOTAL: 276

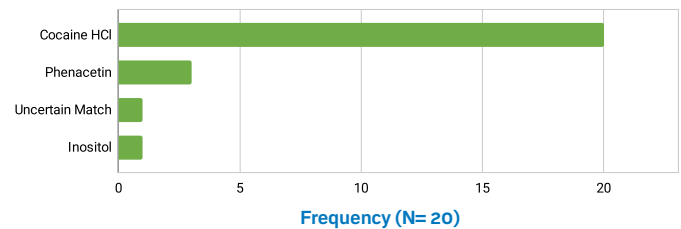
Components found in drug samples in January

Components in opioids



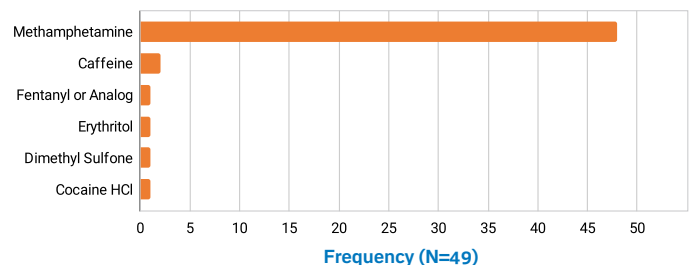
Frequency (N=117)

Components in cocaine



Frequency (N=20)

Components in methamphetamine

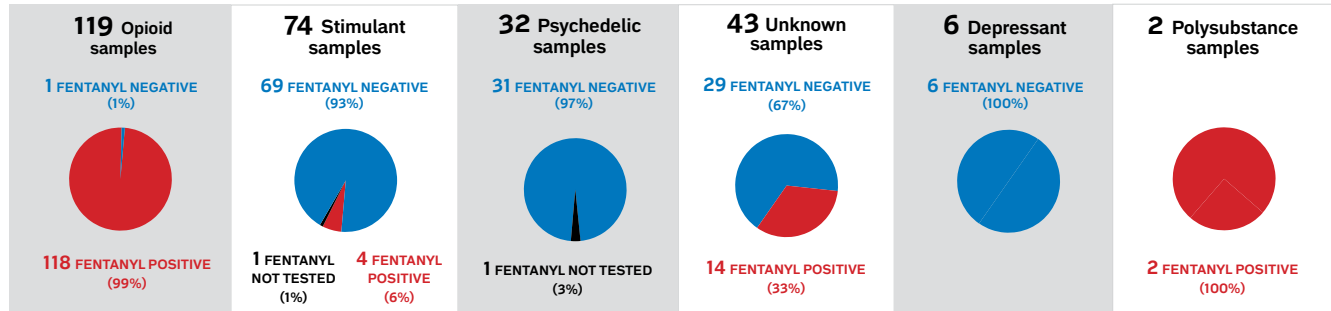


Frequency (N=49)

January
2023

Drug Checking in Interior Health

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

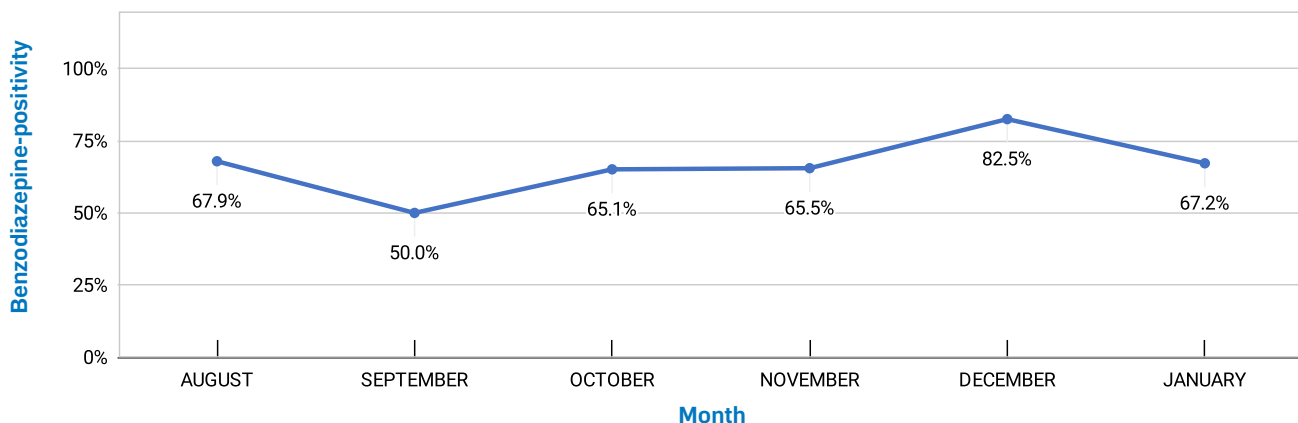


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
January 13, 2023 Cranbrook	Down/Fentanyl	Fentanyl, Para-fluorofentanyl, Bromazepam	Positive	Positive	Cranbrook	High concentrations of fentanyl/analogue and a benzodiazepine poses high risk of overdose that may not respond to naloxone
January 25, 2023 Penticton	Down/Fentanyl	Para-fluorofentanyl, Erythritol, Caffeine	Positive	Positive	Penticton	High concentration of fentanyl analogue and presence of benzodiazepines poses high risk of overdose. Sample has been associated with multiple ODs
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 public health alerts in the Interior Health region, please visit:
<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/alerts>

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



During the month of January, **67.2%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (**80 samples of 119 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 Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Castlegar)	4
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	74
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	11
ANKORS (Kimberley)	1
ANKORS (Nelson)	39
ANKORS (Trail)	14

Location	# of Drugs Checked
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	19
ASK Wellness (Merrit)	5
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	47
UBCO HaRT (Kelowna)	46
UBCO HaRT (Vernon)	16
Total	276

Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Psychedelic

32 Samples Tested



Matched: 27

Did not match: 5

EXPECTED DRUG:

Stimulant

74 Samples Tested



Matched: 73

Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

Depressant

6 Samples Tested



Matched: 3

Did not match: 2

Match not determined: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

Unknown

43 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 43

EXPECTED DRUG:

Opioid

119 Samples Tested



Matched: 116

Did not match: 3

EXPECTED DRUG:

Polysubstance

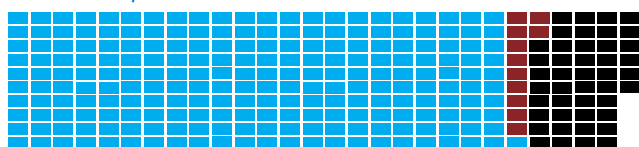
2 Samples Tested



Matched: 2

Total

276 Samples Tested



Matched: 221

Did not match: 11

Match not determined: 44

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.

Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Fentanyl

57 Samples Tested



Matched: 56

Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

Pharmaceutical

2 Samples Tested



Did not match: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

Down

59 Samples Tested



Matched: 59

EXPECTED DRUG:

Fentanyl and Heroin

1 Samples Tested



Matched: 1

Total

119 Samples Tested



Matched: 116

Did not match: 3

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: