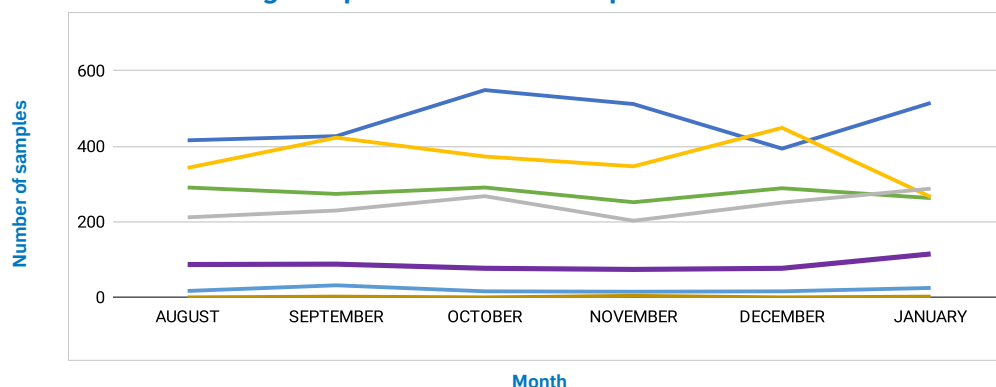


## Key Findings

- In January, a total of 1,474 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Vancouver Coastal region.
- An increase in the number opioid samples checked, as well as a decrease in psychedelic samples, was observed in comparison to the previous month.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased from 35.5% to 33.4% in January (172 of 515 samples).
- Three drug alerts were issued by Vancouver Coastal. Two concerned down samples containing high concentrations of fentanyl and bromazolam. In one of these samples, the concentration of xylazine was also high enough to be detected by FTIR.

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



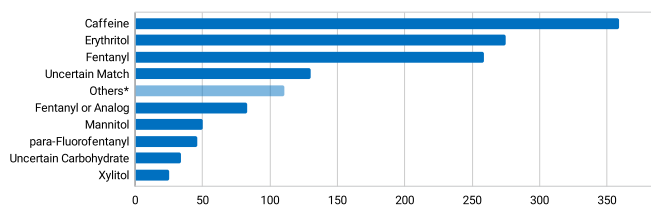
## Number of samples by drug category in January

Opioid	515
Stimulant	263
Depressant	115
Psychedelic	266
Other	25
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	288

**TOTAL: 1,474**

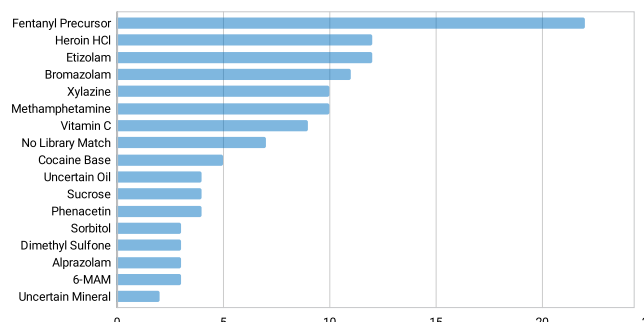
## Components found in drug samples in January

## Components in opioids



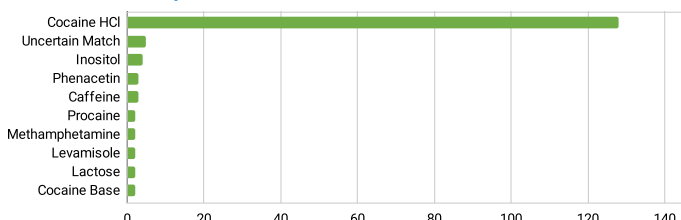
Frequency (N=459)

## Other components found in opioids



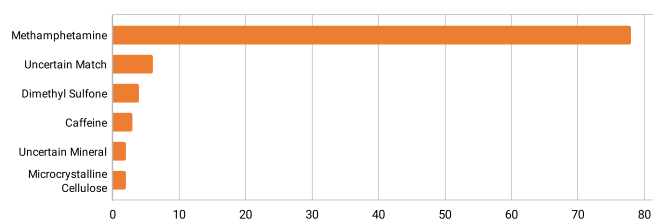
Frequency (N=459)

## Components in cocaine



Frequency (N=130)

## Components in methamphetamine



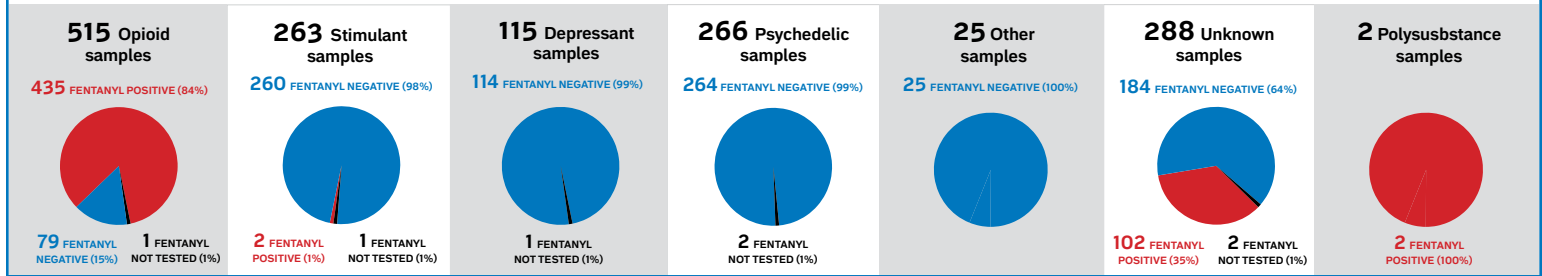
Frequency (N=79)

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/)

January  
2023

# Drug Checking in Vancouver Coastal

## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

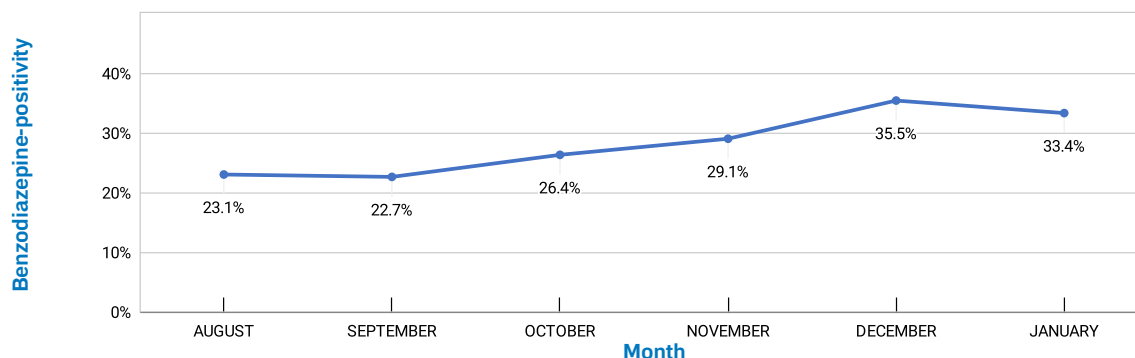


## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
January 3, 2023 Vancouver	Fentanyl	Fentanyl, Caffeine, Erythritol, Xylazine, Bromazolam	Positive	Positive	Vancouver	High concentration of fentanyl combined with xylazine and a benzodiazepine poses high risk of overdose. Sample has been associated with multiple ODs
January 16, 2023 Vancouver	Down	Fentanyl, Caffeine, Bromazolam	Positive	Positive	Vancouver	High concentrations of fentanyl and a benzodiazepine increases the risk of overdose
January 20, 2023 Vancouver	Acetaminophen and Oxycodone (Percocet)	Microcrystalline Cellulose, Uncertain Oil	Positive	Negative	Vancouver	Sample unexpectedly tested positive for presence of fentanyl, increasing 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.						

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 January, **33.4%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Vancouver Coastal Health (**172 samples of 515 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.

January  
2023

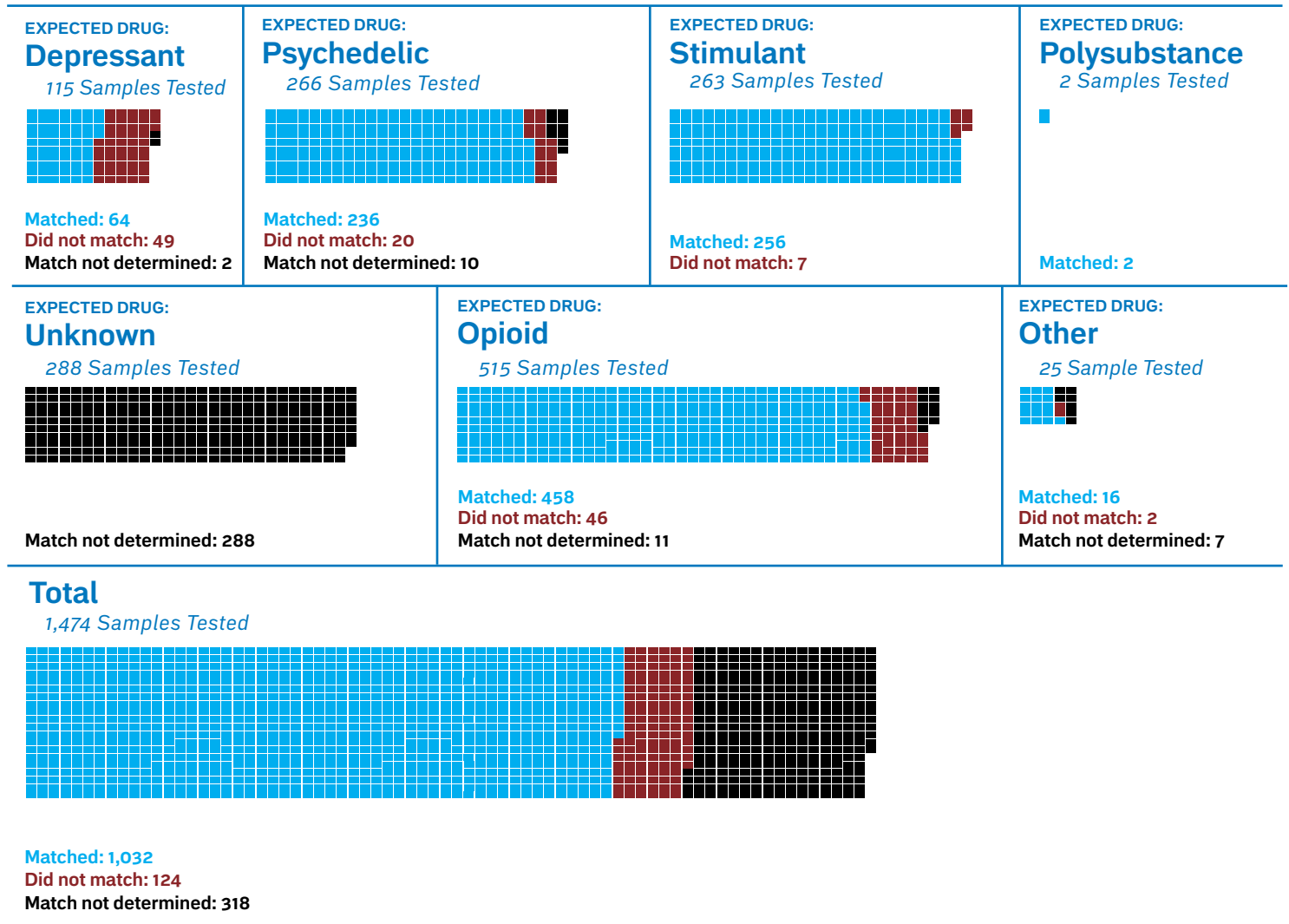
# Drug Checking in Vancouver Coastal

## Number of drugs checks and hours at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Get Your Drugs Tested	1219
Insite	218
Molson OPS	35
Overdose Prevention Society	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,474</b>

## Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking



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.

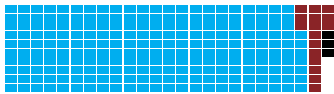
## Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Fentanyl**

246 Samples Tested



Matched: 227

Did not match: 16

Match not determined: 3

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Heroin**

12 Samples Tested



Matched: 10

Did not match: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Fentanyl and Heroin**

1 Samples Tested

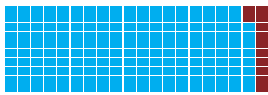


Matched: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Down**

200 Samples Tested



Matched: 188

Did not match: 12

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Pharmaceutical**

38 Samples Tested



Matched: 15

Did not match: 16

Match not determined: 7

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Opium**

18 Samples Tested

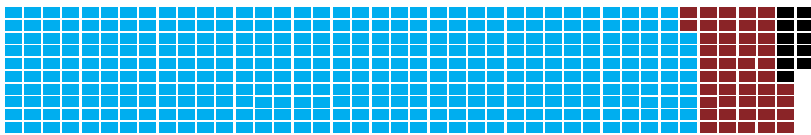


Matched: 17

Match not determined: 1

## Total

515 Samples Tested



Matched: 458

Did not match: 46

Match not determined: 11

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:

