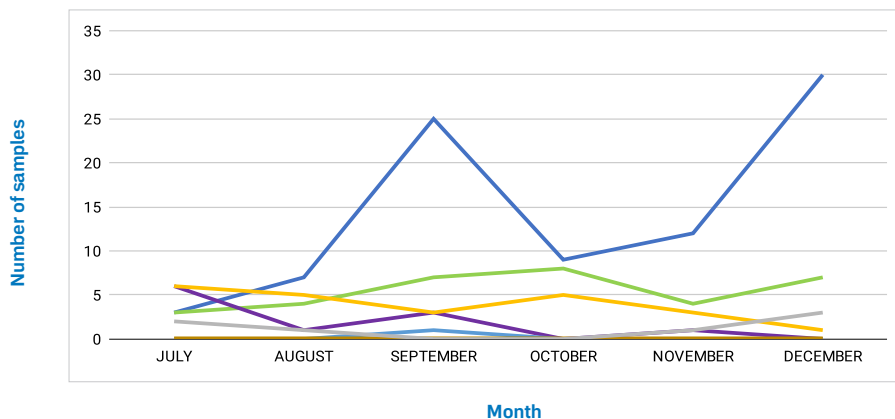


Key Findings

- In December, a total of 41 drug checks were performed at the Wesley Street site, nearly double the number of samples from the previous month, with increases occurring primarily in the opioid category.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased from 75.0% to 73.3% in December (22 of 30 samples). Trends may be hard to infer due to the small number of samples overall.
- As of February 2, 2023, drug testing services will be operating 7 days a week, 11:00am – 3:30pm at a new location, 250 Albert Street. Samples can also be dropped off any day of the week and results can be picked up during drug checking hours.
- Substance (The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project), offers drug checking in Victoria and communities across the Island, as well as mail in services. For more information about drug checking sample results in the Island health region, please visit substance.uvic.ca.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



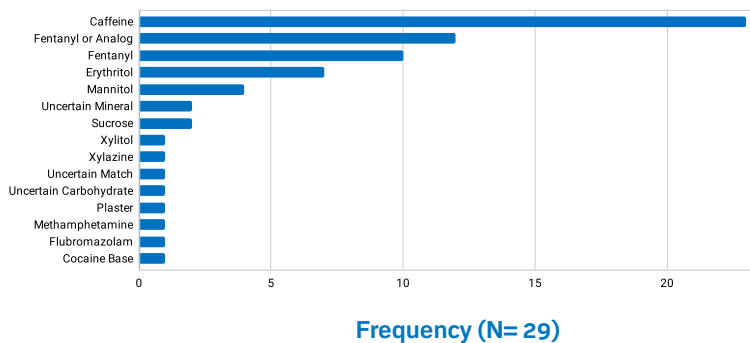
Number of samples by drug category in December

Opioid	30
Stimulant	7
Depressant	0
Psychedelic	1
Other	0
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	3

TOTAL: 41

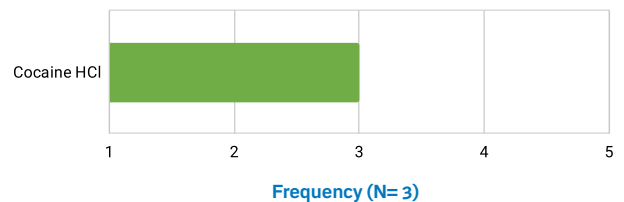
Components found in drug samples in December

Components in opioids



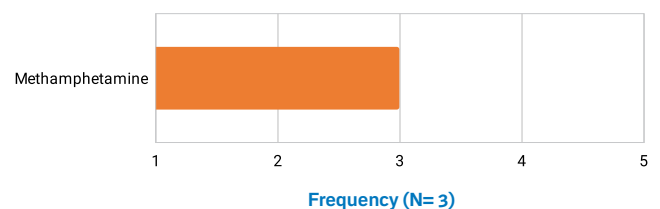
Frequency (N= 29)

Components in cocaine

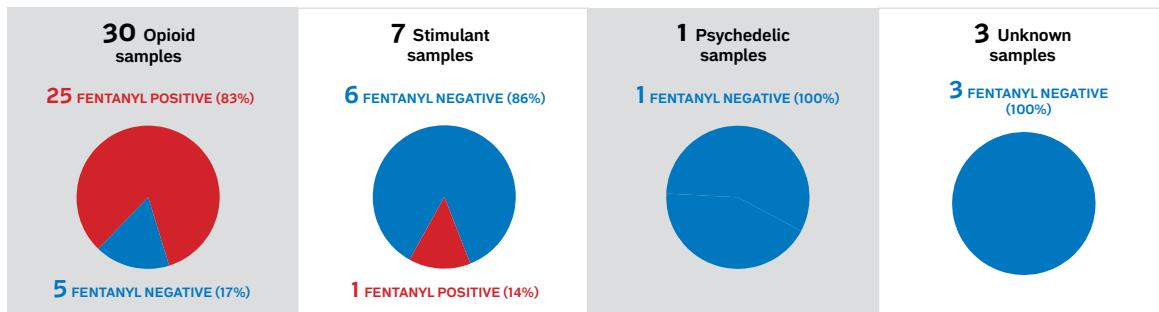


Frequency (N= 3)

Components in methamphetamine



Frequency (N= 3)

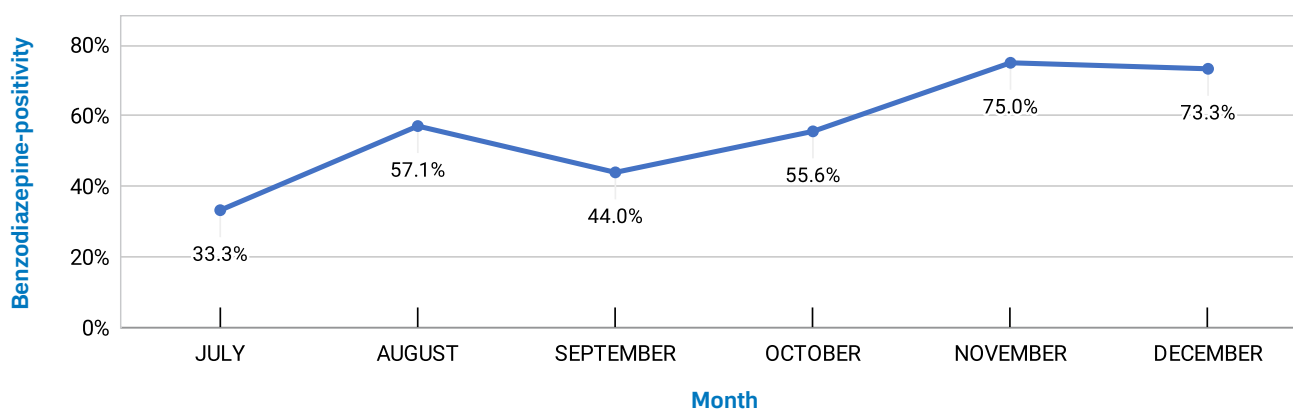
Number of samples tested with **fentanyl** present

PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts from drugs checked at Wesley St Drug Checking service this month					

For information about current substances in the Island Health region: <https://substance.uvic.ca/>

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








During the month of December, **73.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Island Health (**22 samples of 30 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
Wesley Street OPS (CMHA)	41





Number of samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG: Opioid 30 Samples Tested  Matched: 27 Did Not Match: 2 Match Not Determined: 1	EXPECTED DRUG: Stimulant 7 Samples Tested  Matched: 7	EXPECTED DRUG: Psychedelic 1 Samples Tested  Matched: 1	EXPECTED DRUG: Unknown 3 Samples Tested  Match Not Determined: 3
Total 41 Samples Tested  Matched: 35 Did Not Match: 2 Match Not Determined: 4			

Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation

*using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl 9 Samples Tested  Matched: 8 Match Not Determined: 1	EXPECTED DRUG: Pharmaceutical 1 Samples Tested  Match Not Determined: 1	EXPECTED DRUG: Down 20 Samples Tested  Matched: 19 Did Not Match: 1
Total 30 Samples Tested  Matched: 27 Did Not Match: 2 Match Not Determined: 1		

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: