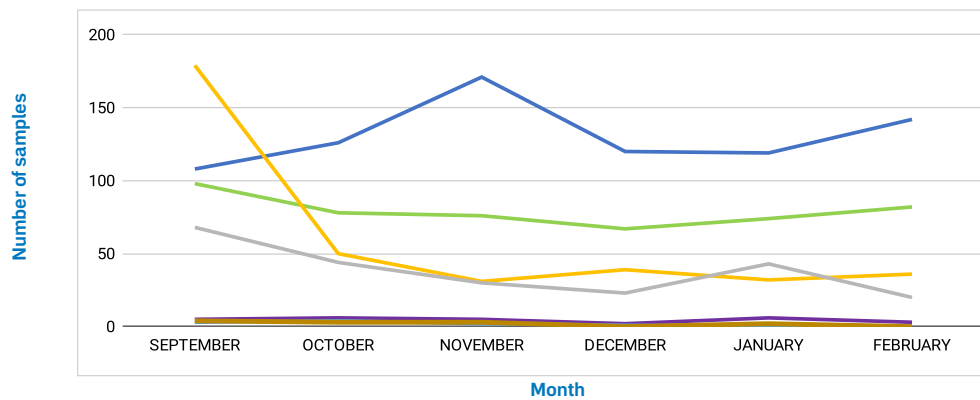


Key Findings

- In February, a total of 283 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines increased from 67.2% to 83.1% in February (118 of 142 samples). Trends may be hard to infer due the large geographic region.
- Four drug alerts were issued by Interior Health. Most pertained to multiple down samples in which high concentrations of fentanyl, or where para-fluorofentanyl was detected. In one of these samples, benzodiazepines were detected via test strip, and in another, xylazine was present in a high enough concentration 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



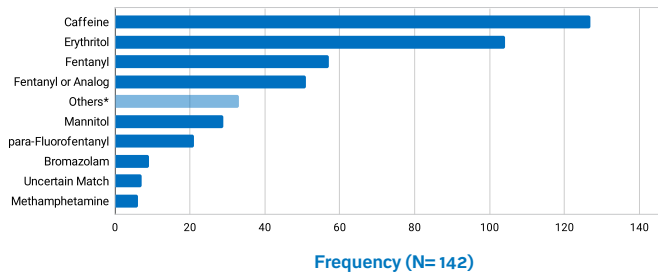
Number of samples by drug category in February

Opioid	142
Stimulant	82
Depressant	3
Psychedelic	36
Other	0
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	20

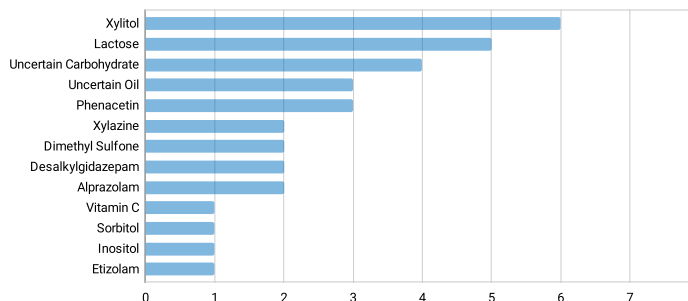
TOTAL: 283

Components found in drug samples in February

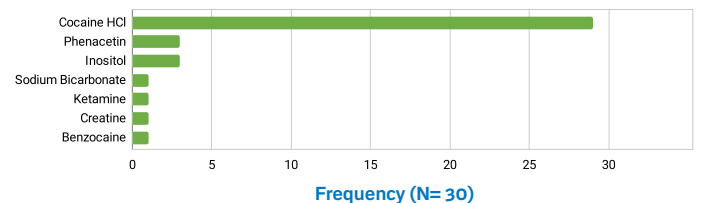
Components in opioids



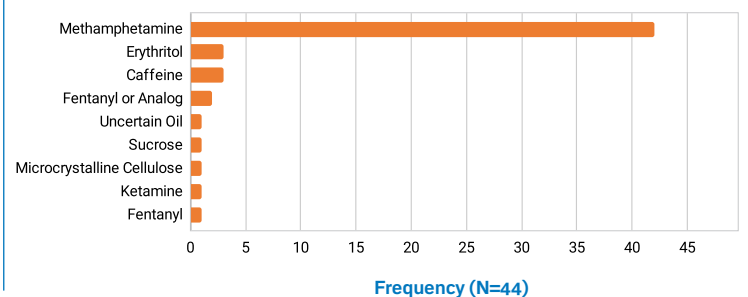
Other components in opioids



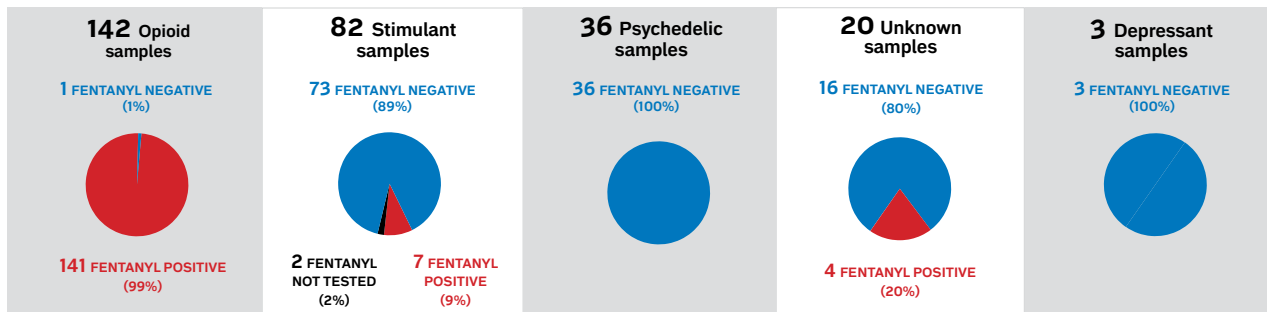
Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



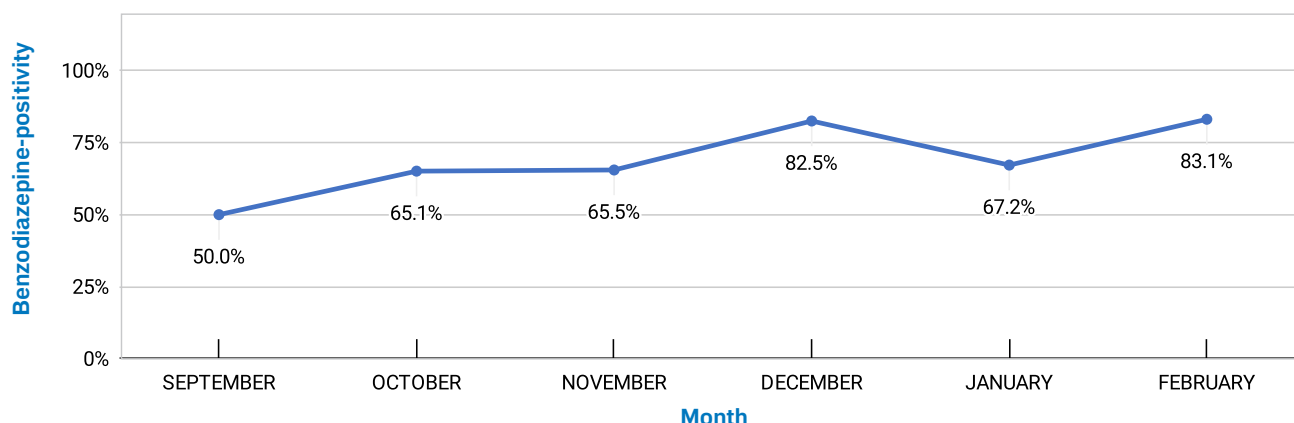
PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
February 2, 2023 Kamloops	Ketamine	Methamphetamine, Ketamine	Negative	N/A	Kamloops	High concentration of methamphetamine may pose risk of stimulant OD when expecting ketamine
February 11, 2023 Cranbrook (A)	Down	Methamphetamine, Caffeine, Erythritol, Fentanyl or Analogue, Xylazine	Positive	Negative	Cranbrook	Combination of fentanyl or a fentanyl analogue, as well as xylazine, increases risk of drug toxicity, respiratory depression, loss of consciousness
February 15, 2023 Kamloops	Methamphetamine	Sucrose	Positive	N/A	Kamloops	Presence of fentanyl poses risk of opioid OD, loss of consciousness, when expecting methamphetamine
February 17, 2023 Penticton (A)	Down	Para-fluorofentanyl, Erythritol	Positive	Positive	Penticton	Combination of para-fluorofentanyl and presence of benzodiazepines poses risk of OD. Sample has been associated with multiple OD events
February 17, 2023 Penticton (B)	Down	Lactose, Fentanyl	Positive	Negative	Penticton	High concentration of fentanyl poses risk of OD

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 February, **83.1%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (**118 samples of 142 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)	21
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	91
ANKORS (Kimberley)	1
ANKORS (Nelson)	35
ANKORS (Trail)	10
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	44

Location	# of Drugs Checked
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	26
UBCO HaRT (Kelowna)	33
UBCO HaRT (Vernon)	22
Total	283

Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Psychedelic

36 Samples Tested



Matched: 33
Did not match: 3

EXPECTED DRUG:

Stimulant

82 Samples Tested



Matched: 78
Did not match: 4

EXPECTED DRUG:

Depressant

3 Samples Tested

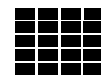


Did not match: 3

EXPECTED DRUG:

Unknown

20 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 20

EXPECTED DRUG:

Opioid

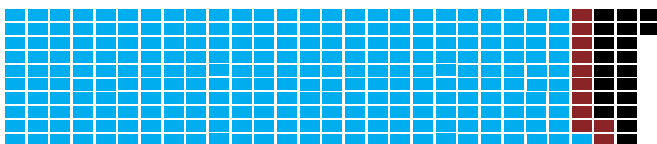
142 Samples Tested



Matched: 141
Did not match: 1

Total

283 Samples Tested



Matched: 252
Did not match: 11
Match not determined: 20

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

72 Samples Tested



Matched: 72

EXPECTED DRUG:

Other Opioid

1 Samples Tested



Matched: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

Down

69 Samples Tested



Matched: 68

Did not match: 1

Total

142 Samples Tested



Matched: 141

Did not match: 1

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: