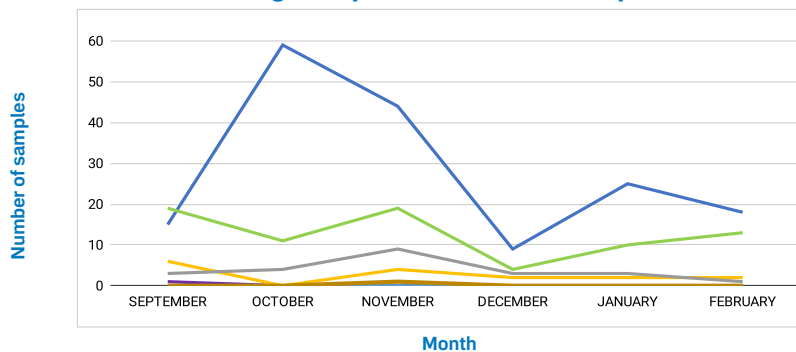


## Key Findings

- In February, a total of 34 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Northern Health region.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased from 84.0% to 55.6% in February (10 of 18 samples). Trends may be hard to infer due to the small number of samples over a large region.
- Northern Health issued one drug alert concerning a down sample that contained high concentrations of fentanyl and bromazolam.
- Drug checking services with FTIR and test strips are now available in the Northern Health Region. Services are available at POUNDS in Prince George and the Northwest Intensive Case Management Team (ICMT) location in Terrace. For updated times and locations, please visit the [Northern Health website](#).

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



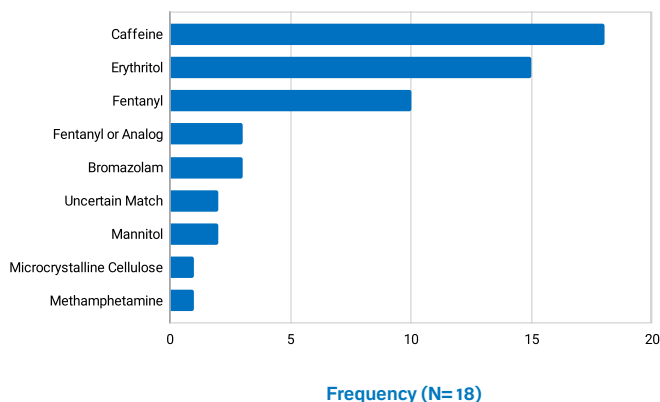
Number of samples by drug category in February

Opioid	18
Stimulant	13
Depressant	0
Psychedelic	2
Other	0
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	1

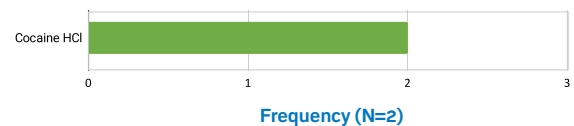
**TOTAL: 34**

## Components found in drug samples in February

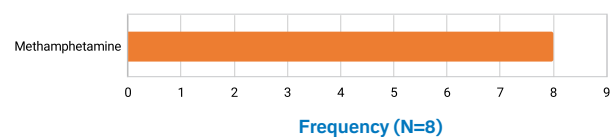
Components in opioids



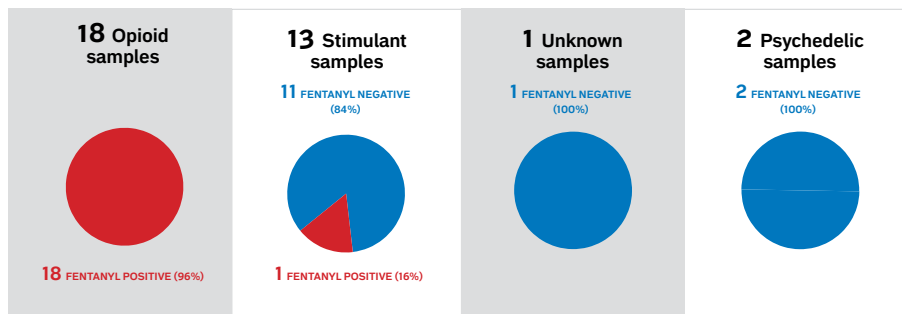
Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine



## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

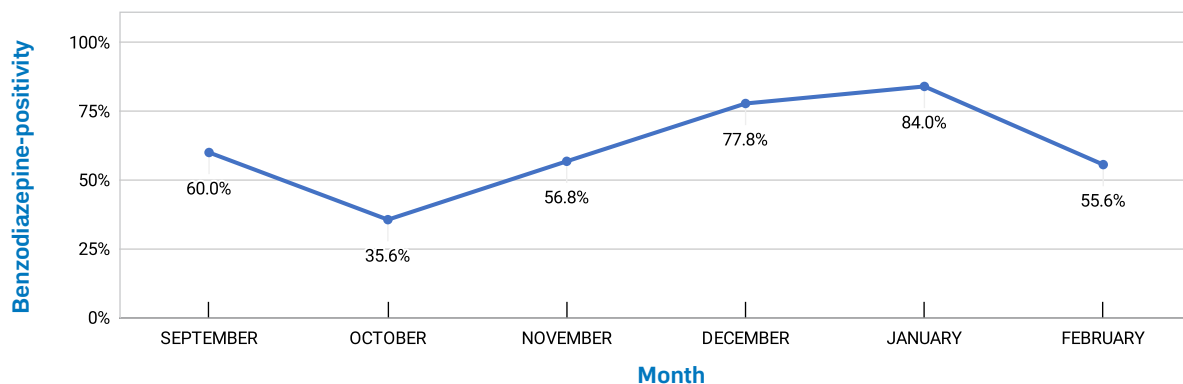
Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
February 10, 2023 Prince George	Down	Caffeine, Erythritol, Fentanyl, Bromazolam	Positive	Positive	Prince George	High concentration of fentanyl and bromazolam (benzodiazepine) poses high risk of OD. Sample has been associated with causing heavy sedation and fatal 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.

## Number of drugs checks at each site

Location	# of drug checks
POUNDS (Prince George)	25
Northwest ICMT (Terrace)	9
TOTAL	34

## Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the past 4 months



During the month of February, **55.6%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Northern Health (**10 samples of 18 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.

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

EXPECTED DRUG:

### Opioid

18 Samples Tested



Matched: 17

Match not determined: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

### Stimulant

13 Samples Tested



Matched: 12

Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

### Psychedelic

2 Samples Tested



Matched: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

### Unknown

1 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 1

### Total

34 Samples Tested



Matched: 31

Did not match: 1

Match not determined: 2

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

EXPECTED DRUG:

### Down

18 Samples Tested



Matched: 17

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:

