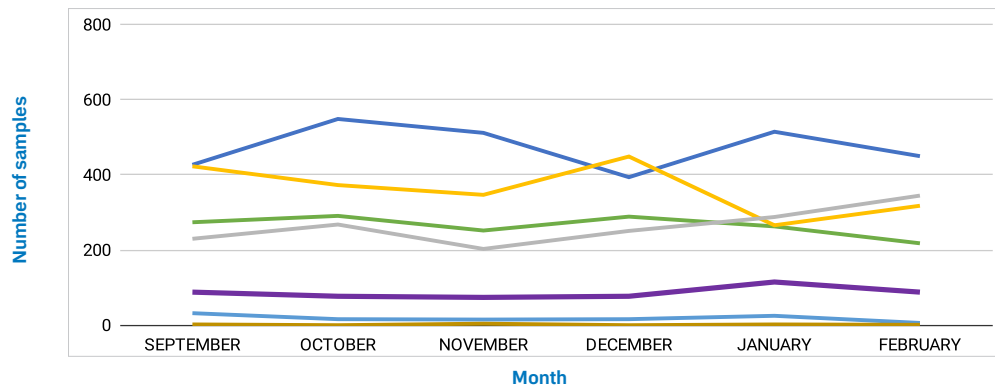


## Key Findings

- In February, a total of 1,426 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Vancouver Coastal region.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased from 33.4% to 31.6% in February (142 of 450 samples).
- One drug alert was issued by Vancouver Coastal concerning a Xanax (alprazolam) tablet that contained xylazine instead of a benzodiazepine.

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



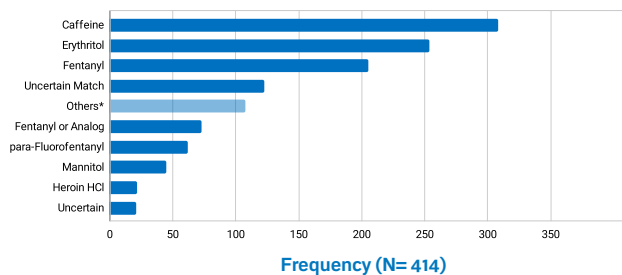
Number of samples by drug category in February

Opioid	450
Stimulant	218
Depressant	88
Psychedelc	318
Other	6
Polysubstance	1
Unknown	345

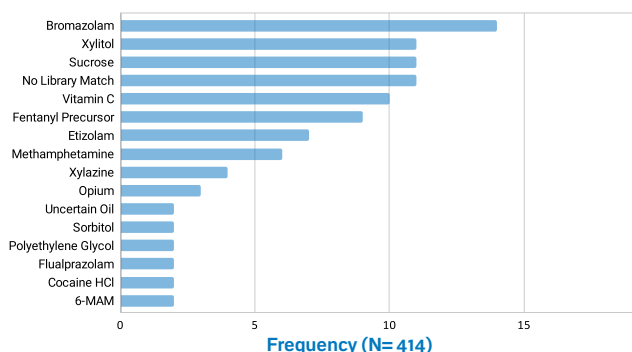
**TOTAL: 1,426**

### Components found in drug samples in February

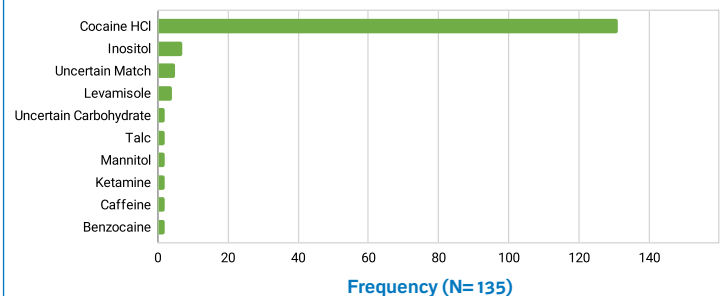
#### Components in opioids



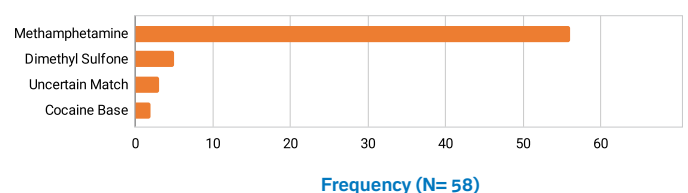
#### Other components found in opioids



#### Components in cocaine

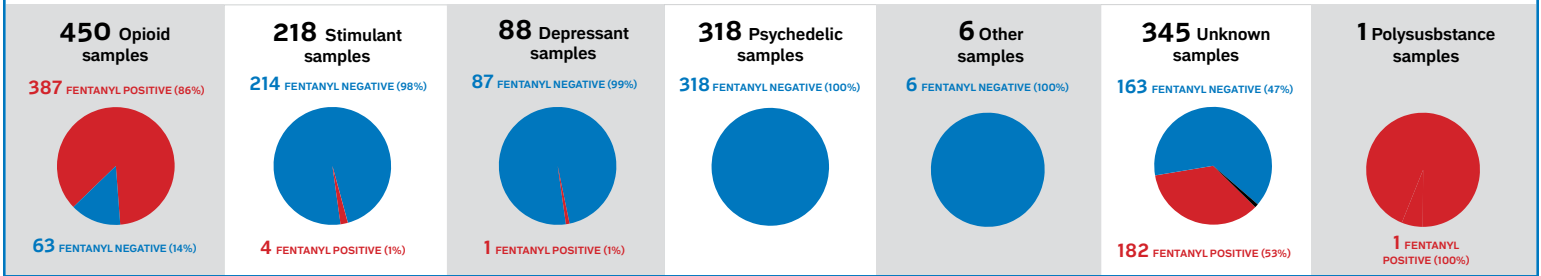


#### Components in methamphetamine



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/)

## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



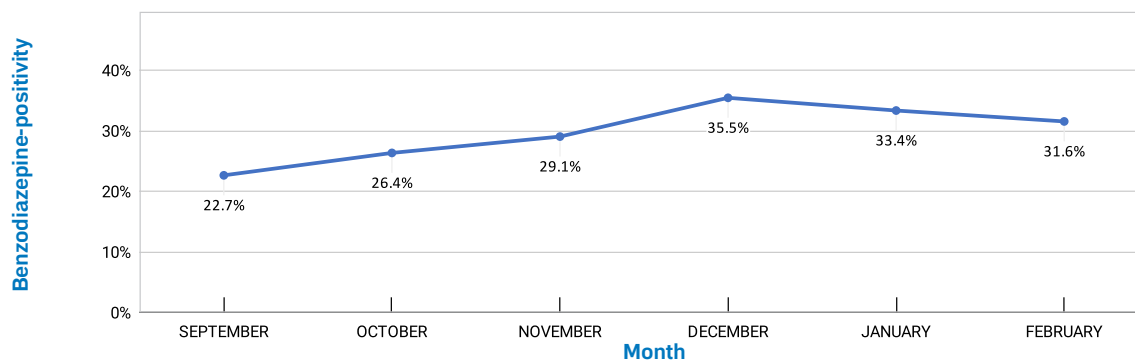
## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
February 8, 2023 Vancouver	Alprazolam (Xanax)	Microcrystalline Cellulose, Xylazine, Uncertain Oil	Negative	Negative	Vancouver	Sample was expected to contain a benzodiazepine but instead contained xylazine, an animal sedative

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



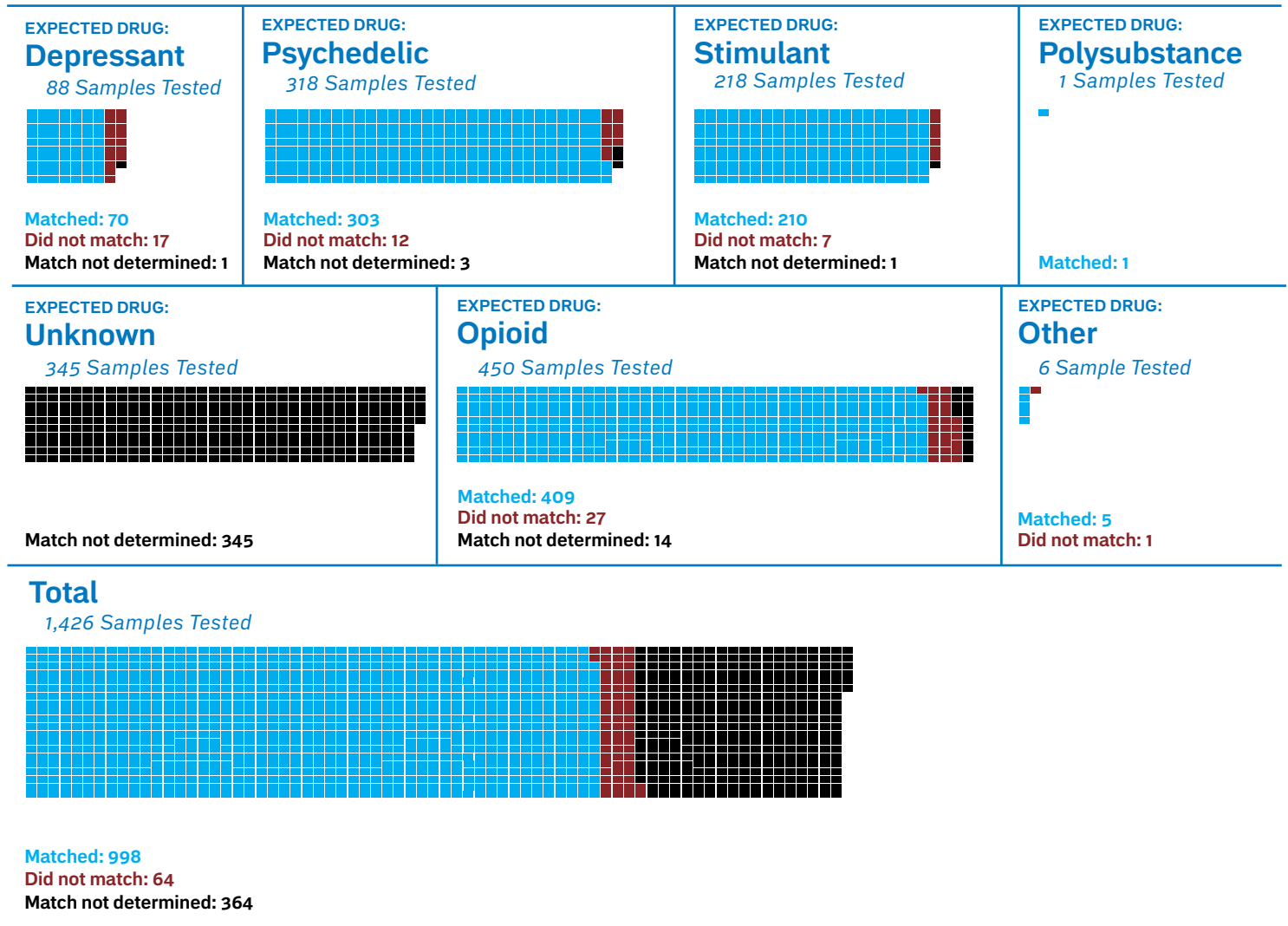
During the month of February, **31.6%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Vancouver Coastal Health (**142 samples of 450 checked**). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are derived from both of these technologies and are presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory.

## Number of drugs checks and hours at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Get Your Drugs Tested	1295
Insite	118
Molson OPS	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,426</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




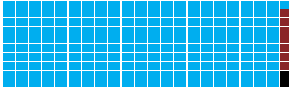


**Psychedelic include:**  
MDMA and related,  
2C-family, tryptamines,  
ketamine, LSD

**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.

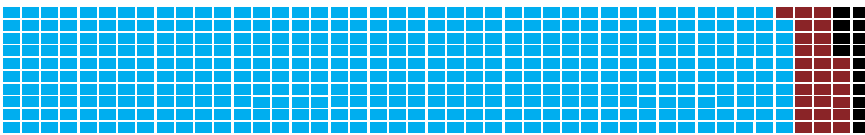
## Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Fentanyl</b> 172 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 167 Did not match: 3 Match not determined: 2</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Heroin</b> 18 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 15 Did not match: 3</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Other Opioid</b> 1 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Down</b> 220 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 211 Did not match: 7 Match not determined: 2</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Pharmaceutical</b> 36 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 12 Did not match: 14 Match not determined: 10</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Opium</b> 3 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 3</p>

### Total

450 Samples Tested



Matched: 409  
Did not match: 27  
Match not determined: 14

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:

