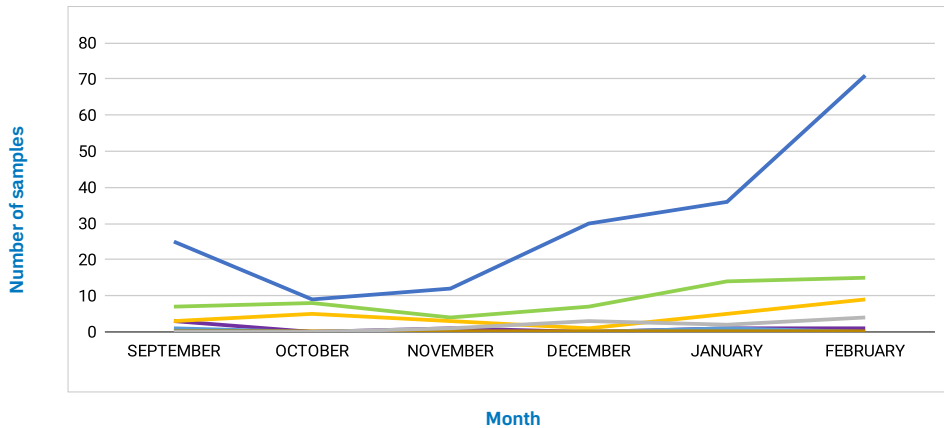


## Key Findings

- In February, a total of 100 drug checks were performed at the Albert Street site, the highest number of checks recorded from this drug checking service to date, with increases occurring primarily in the opioid category.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines increased from 83.3% to 88.7% in February (63 of 71 samples). Trends indicated here do not reflect Island health as a whole.
- Drug checking services are expanding! As of February 2023, services are operating 7 days a week from 11:00am–8:30pm at CMHA's new location 250 Albert Street, Nanaimo. 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](http://substance.uvic.ca).

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



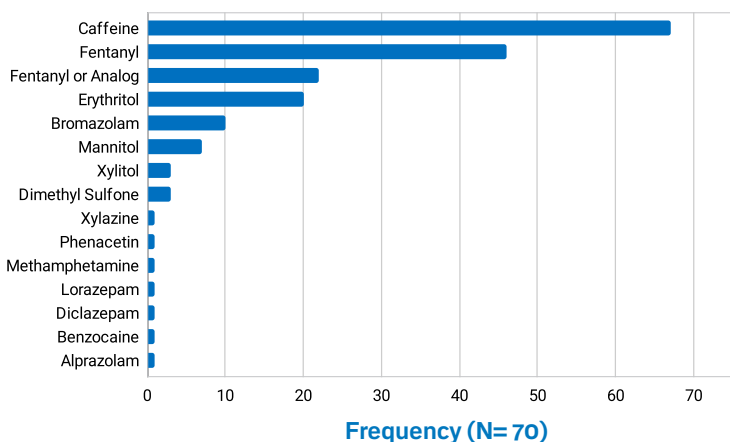
Number of samples by drug category in February

Opioid	71
Stimulant	15
Depressant	1
Psychedelic	9
Other	0
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	4

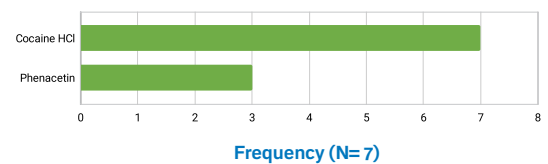
**TOTAL: 100**

## Components found in drug samples in February

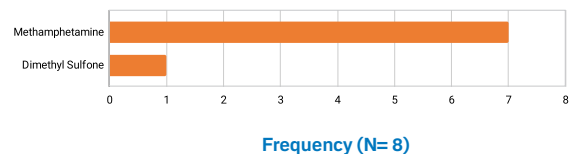
Components in opioids



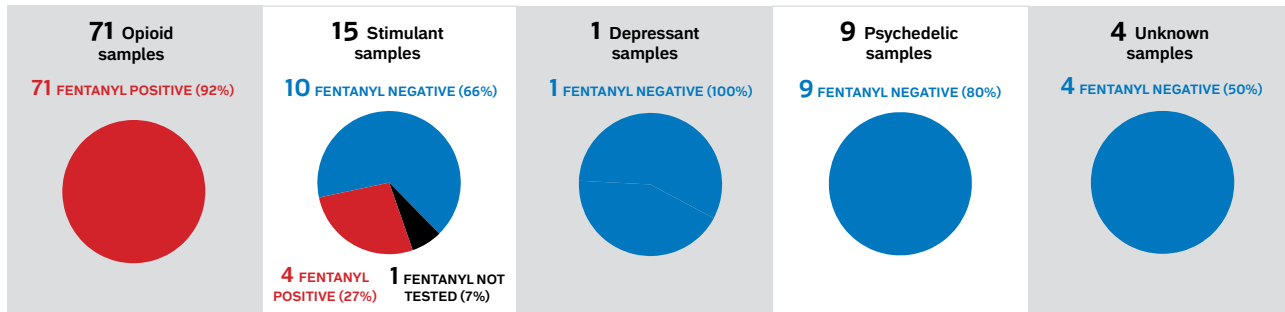
Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine



## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

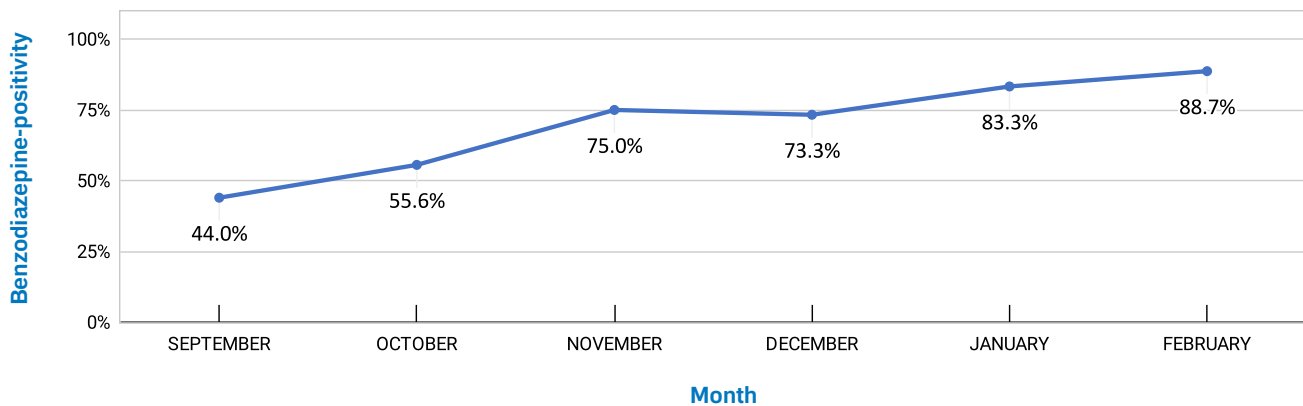


## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	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 February, **88.7%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Island Health (**63 samples of 71 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)	100

## Number of samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:	EXPECTED DRUG:	EXPECTED DRUG:	EXPECTED DRUG:	EXPECTED DRUG:
<b>Opioid</b> 71 Samples Tested	<b>Stimulant</b> 15 Samples Tested	<b>Depressant</b> 1 Samples Tested	<b>Psychedelic</b> 9 Samples Tested	<b>Unknown</b> 4 Samples Tested
Matched: 69 Did Not Match: 2	Matched: 14 Did Not Match: 1	Matched: 1	Matched: 9	Match Not Determined: 4

### Total

100 Samples Tested



## Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation

\*using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:	EXPECTED DRUG:	EXPECTED DRUG:
<b>Fentanyl</b> 2 Samples Tested	<b>Down</b> 68 Samples Tested	<b>Pharmaceutical</b> 1 Samples Tested
Matched: 2	Matched: 67 Did Not Match: 1	Did Not Match: 1

### Total

71 Samples Tested



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:

