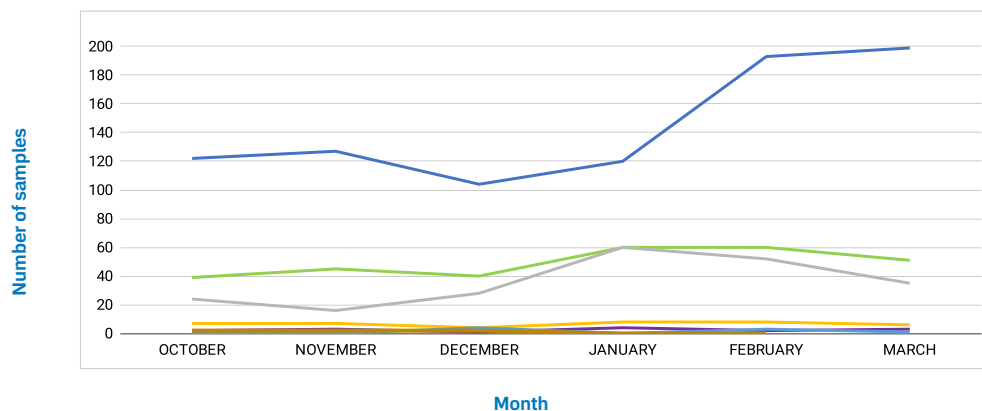


Key Findings

- In March, a total of 295 drug checks were performed across Fraser Health community partners, the second highest number of checks recorded in the region to date.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines increased from 56.5% to 61.3% in March (122 of 199 samples).
- Drug checking services in Fraser Health are rapidly expanding! Services are now available in Burnaby, Chilliwack, Abbotsford, and White Rock. For updated locations and hours, see the [Fraser Health website](#).

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



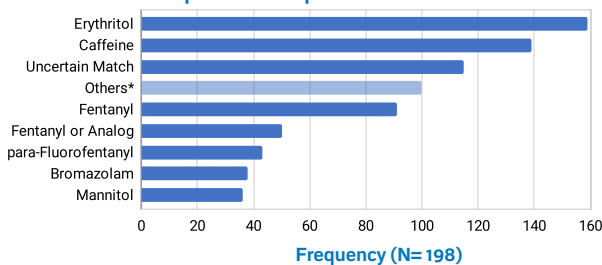
Number of samples by drug category in March

Opioid	199
Stimulant	51
Depressant	3
Psychedelic	6
Other	1
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	35

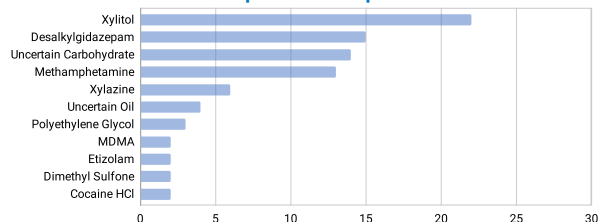
TOTAL: 295

Components found in drug samples in March

Components in opioids

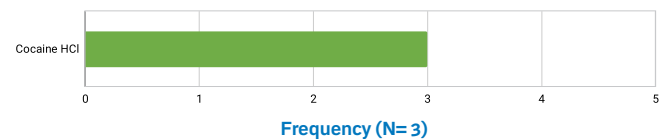


*Other Components in opioids

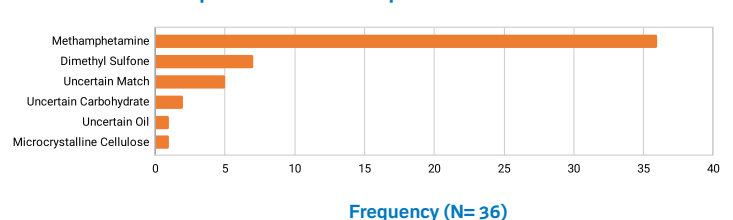


Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: 2C-B, 6-MAM, acetaminophen, caffeine citrate, cocaine base, diphenhydramine, flualprazolam, glucose, heroin, inositol, ketamine, lactose, microcrystalline cellulose, no library match, uncertain match.

Components in cocaine



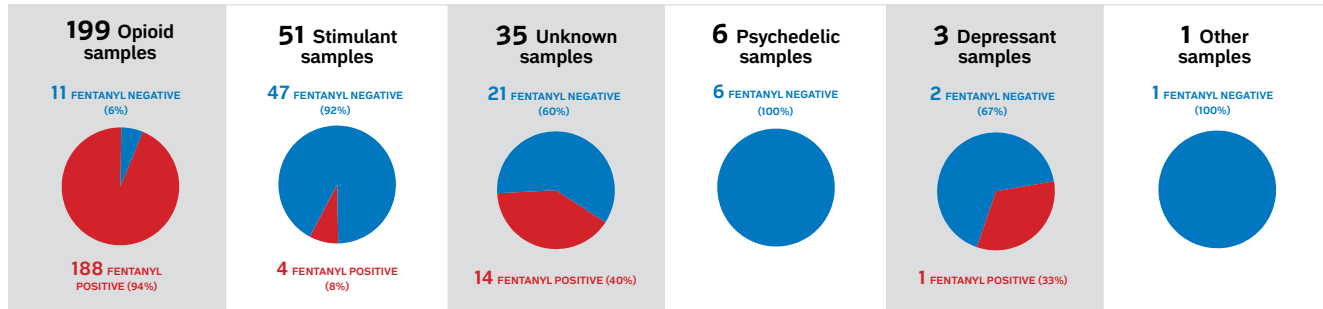
Components in methamphetamine



March
2023

Drug Checking in Fraser Health

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

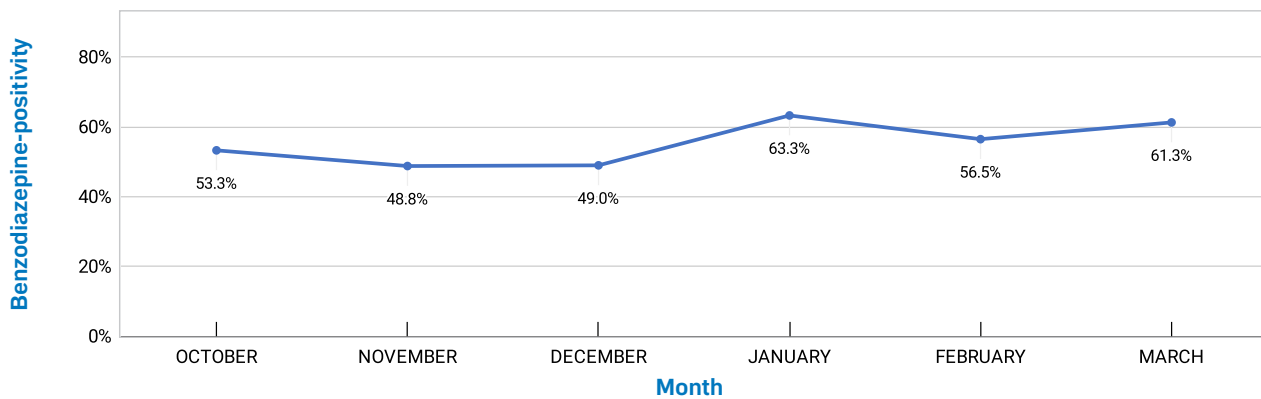


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
No alerts from Fraser Health partners this month						

For information about current substances in the Fraser Health region: overdose@fraserhealth.ca

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



During the month of March, **61.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**122 samples of 199 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
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	75
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	57
Mountainside (Hope)	2
Mountainside (Mission)	26
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	17

Location	# of drug checks
Purpose Society (Maple Ridge)	3
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	31
PeacePoint (White Rock)	15
SafePoint (Surrey)	69
Total	295

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

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	187	10	2	199
Stimulant	51	0	0	51
Depressant	2	1	0	3
Psychedelic	6	0	0	6
Other	1	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	35	35
Total	247	11	37	295

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

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Fentanyl	11	0	0	11
Heroin	1	2	0	3
Down	174	8	2	184
Pharmaceutical	1	0	0	1
Total	187	10	2	199

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: