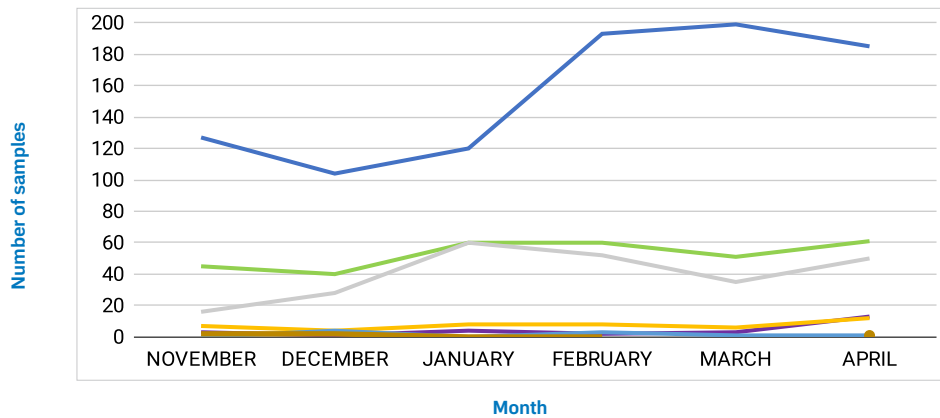


Key Findings

- In April, a total of 323 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region, the highest number of checks recorded in the region to date.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines remained consistent at 61.6% in April (114 of 185 samples).
- Fraser Health issued one alert concerning a sample sold as MDA that contained MDMA, with fentanyl and benzodiazepines detected by test strip.
- Drug checking services in Fraser Health are expanding! Services are now available in Burnaby, Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Hope, Mission, New Westminster and White Rock. For updated locations and hours, see the [Fraser Health website](#).

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



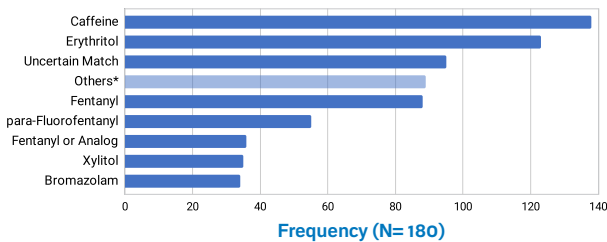
Number of samples by drug category in April

Opioid	185
Stimulant	61
Depressant	13
Psychedelic	12
Other	1
Polysubstance	1
Unknown	50

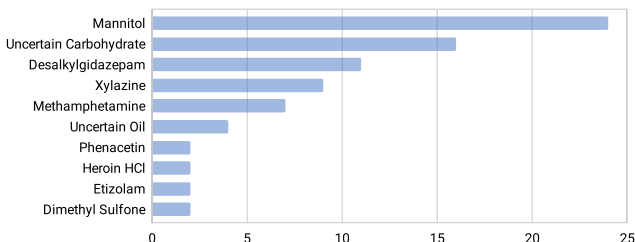
TOTAL: 323

Components found in drug samples in April

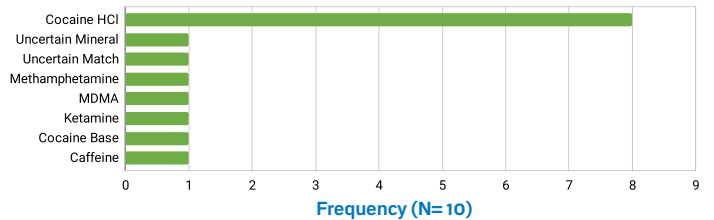
Components in opioids



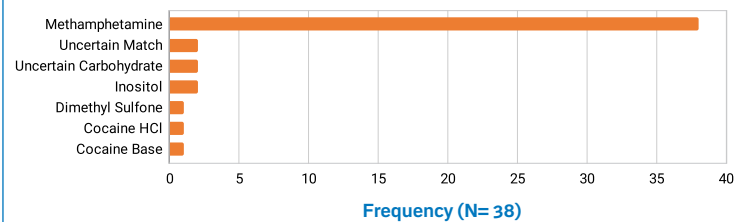
*Other Components in opioids



Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine

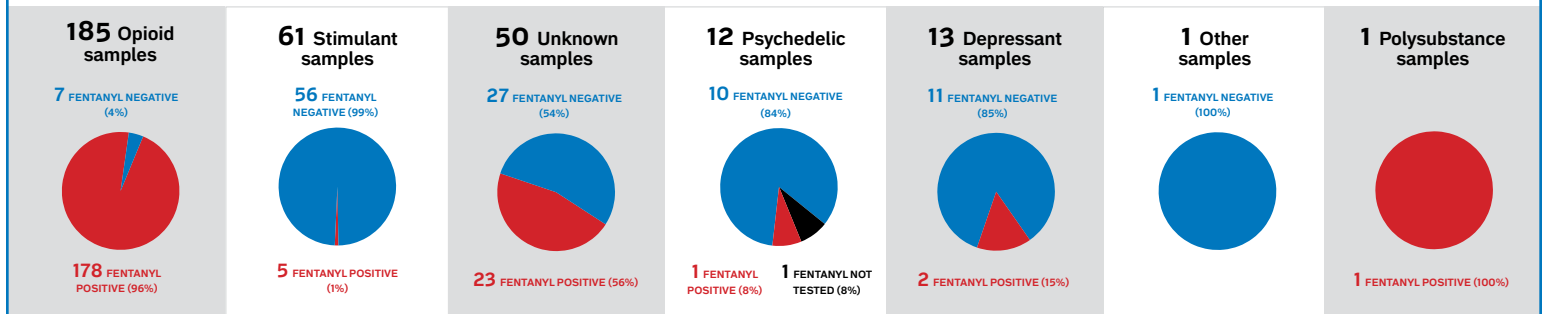


Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: 6-MAM, acetaminophen, caffeine citrate, cocaine hcl, flualprazolam, inositol, microcrystalline cellulose, pyrazolam, sucrose.

April
2023

Drug Checking in Fraser Health

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



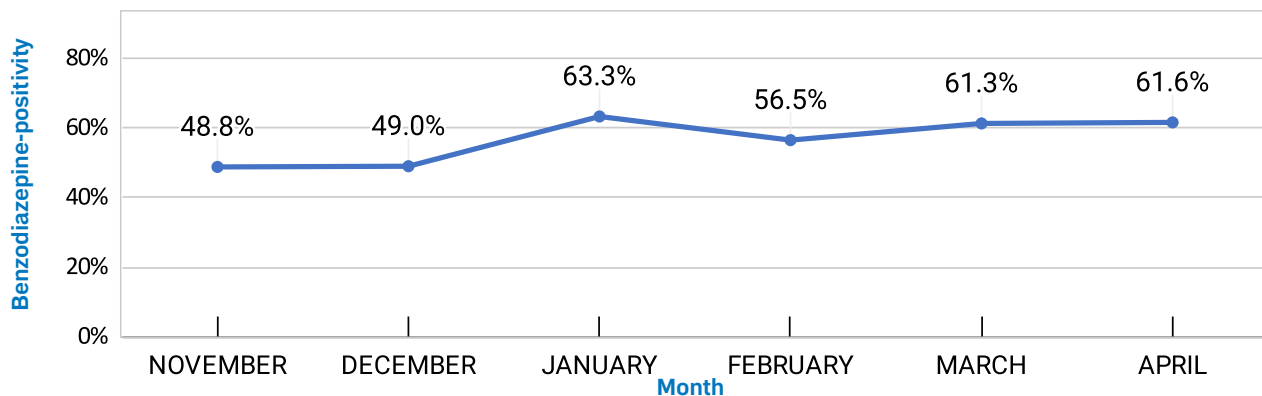
PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
April 3, 2023 White Rock	MDA	MDMA	Positive	Positive	White Rock	Light purple crystals sold in capsules tested positive for fentanyl and benzodiazepines.

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 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 April, **61.6%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**114 samples of 185 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)	72
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	77
Mountainside (Hope)	8
Mountainside (Mission)	22

Location	# of drug checks
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	12
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	49
PeacePoint (White Rock)	22
SafePoint (Surrey)	59
Total	323

Less than 5 samples were tested at the following location, which is included in the total: Purpose Society (Maple Ridge)

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

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	178	3	4	185
Stimulant	57	3	1	61
Depressant	11	2		13
Psychedelic	11	1		12
Other			1	1
Polysubstance	1			1
Unknown			50	50
Total	258	9	56	323

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	18			18
Heroin	1	1		2
Down	158	1	1	160
Pharmaceutical	1	1	3	5
Total	178	3	4	185

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: