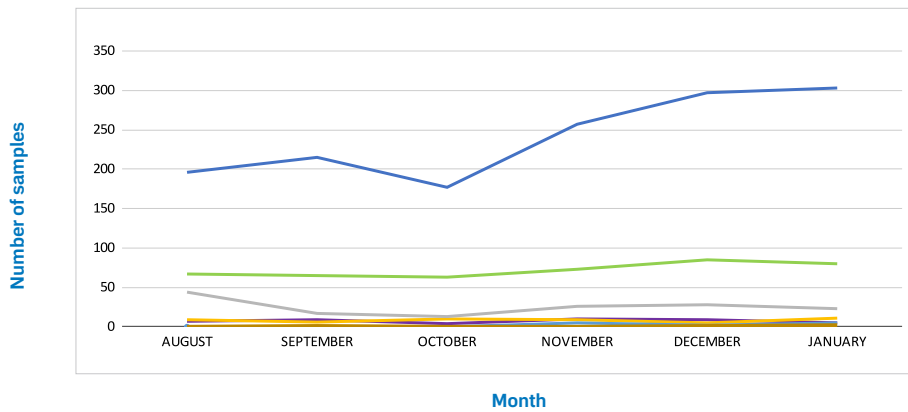


## Key Findings

- In January, 429 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region, the highest number of samples checked in the region to-date.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and test strip decreased from 70.7% to 59.4% in January (180 of 303 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were found in concentrations high enough to be detected by FTIR in 26.1% of unregulated opioid samples (78 of 299 samples), with bromazolam most commonly identified (58 samples), followed by desalkylgidazepam (16 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl was detected by FTIR in 33.8% of unregulated opioid samples (101 of 299 samples), whereas fentanyl was detected in 59.5% (178 samples).
- Xylazine was detected by FTIR in 2.7% of unregulated opioids (8 of 299 samples).
- Drug checking services in Fraser Health are expanding! Services are now available in Abbotsford, Burnaby, Chilliwack, Hope, Maple Ridge, Mission, New Westminster, and Surrey. For updated locations and hours, see the [Fraser Health website](#).

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



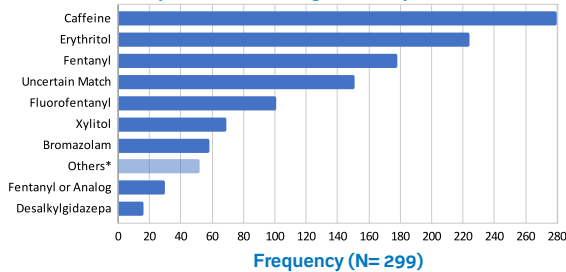
Number of samples by drug category in January

Opioid	303
Stimulant	80
Depressant	5
Psychedelic	11
Other	5
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	23

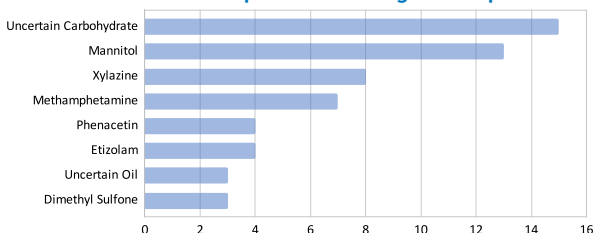
**TOTAL: 429**

## Components found in drug samples in January

### Components in unregulated opioids

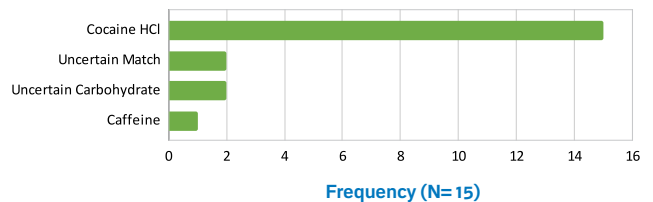


### \*Other components in unregulated opioids

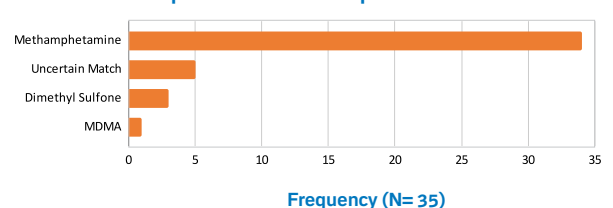


Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: 6-MAM, caffeine citrate, cocaine HCl, polyethylene.

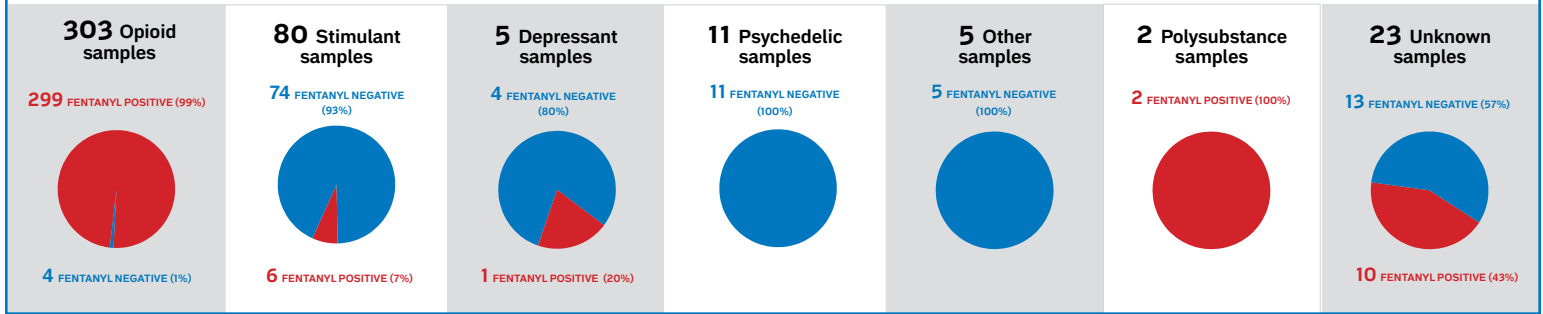
### Components in cocaine



### Components in methamphetamine



## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



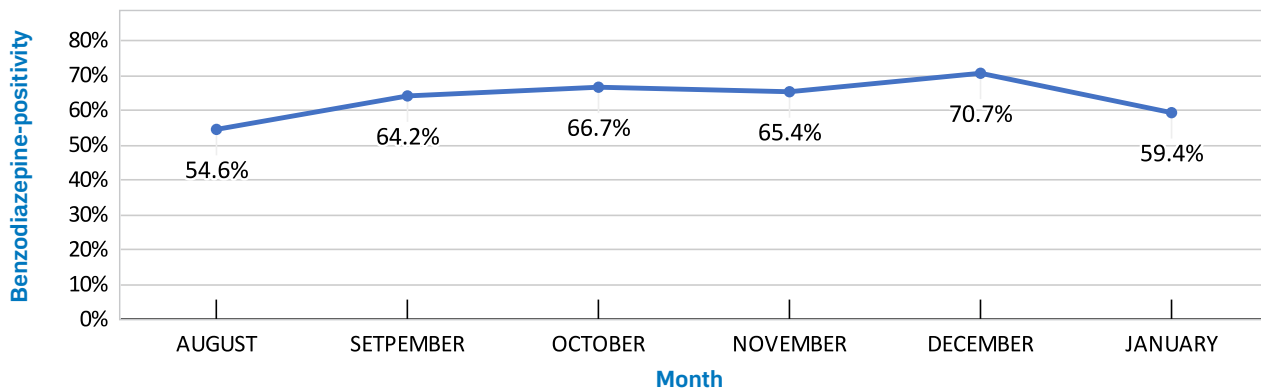
## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS



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

For information about current substances in the Fraser Health region: [overdose@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:overdose@fraserhealth.ca)

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



During the month of January, **59.4%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**180 samples of 303 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
Foxglove Housing (Coquitlam)	20
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	73
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	61
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	145
Mountainside (Hope)	9
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	23

Location	# of drug checks
Mountainside (Mission)	40
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	11
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	9
SafePoint (Surrey)	38
<b>Total:</b>	<b>429</b>

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

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	297	3	3	303
Stimulant	78	2	0	80
Depressant	4	0	1	5
Psychedelic	7	1	3	11
Other	4	0	1	5
Polysubstance	2	0	0	2
Unknown	0	0	23	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>429</b>

## 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	21	1	1	23
Heroin	0	1	0	1
Down	275	0	0	275
Pharmaceutical	1	1	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>303</b>

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  
(unregulated opioids), and  
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:



How you want to be treated.

