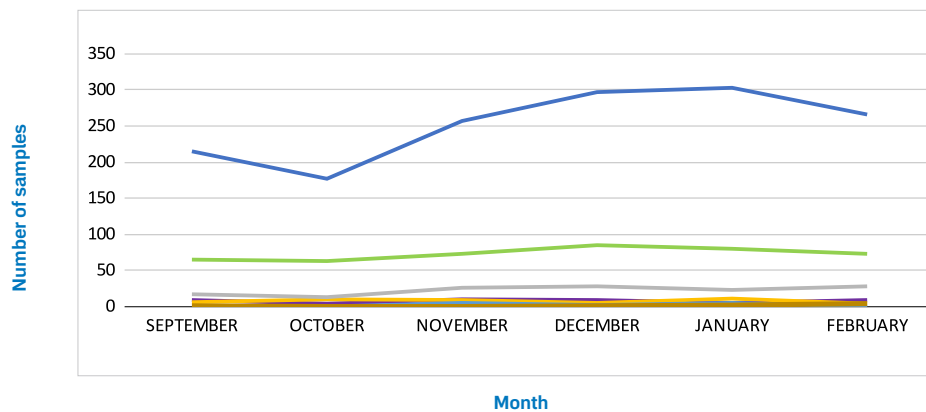


## Key Findings

- In February, 384 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and test strip increased from 59.4% to 66.9% in February (178 of 266 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were found in concentrations high enough to be detected by FTIR in 25.8% of unregulated opioids (66 of 256 samples), with bromazolam most frequently identified (45 samples), followed by desalkylgizapam (13 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl was detected by FTIR in 20.3% of unregulated opioids (52 of 256 samples), whereas fentanyl was detected in 55.9% (143 samples).
- Xylazine was detected by FTIR in 4.7% of unregulated opioids (12 of 256 samples).
- Drug checking services in Fraser Health 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



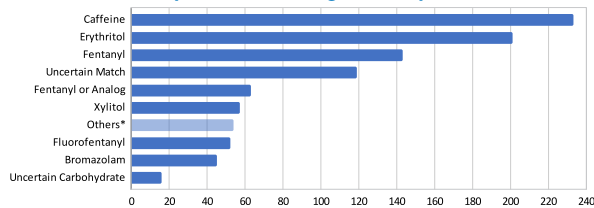
### Number of samples by drug category in February

Opioid	266
Stimulant	73
Depressant	9
Psychedelic	4
Other	0
Polysubstance	4
Unknown	28

**TOTAL: 384**

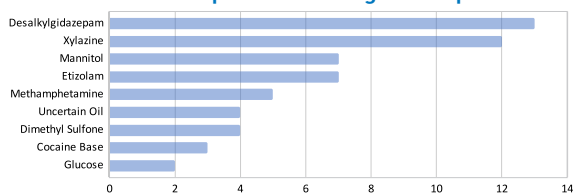
## Components found in drug samples in February

### Components in unregulated opioids

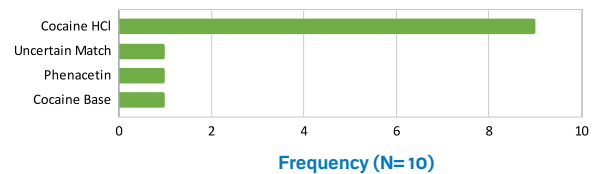


Frequency (N= 256)

### \*Other components in unregulated opioids

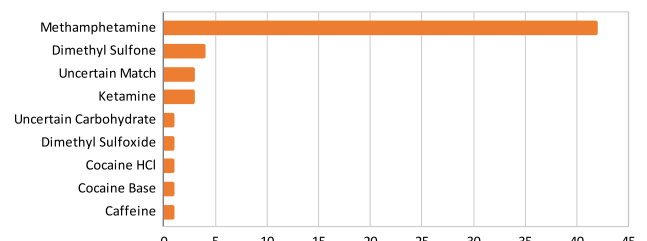


### Components in cocaine



Frequency (N= 10)

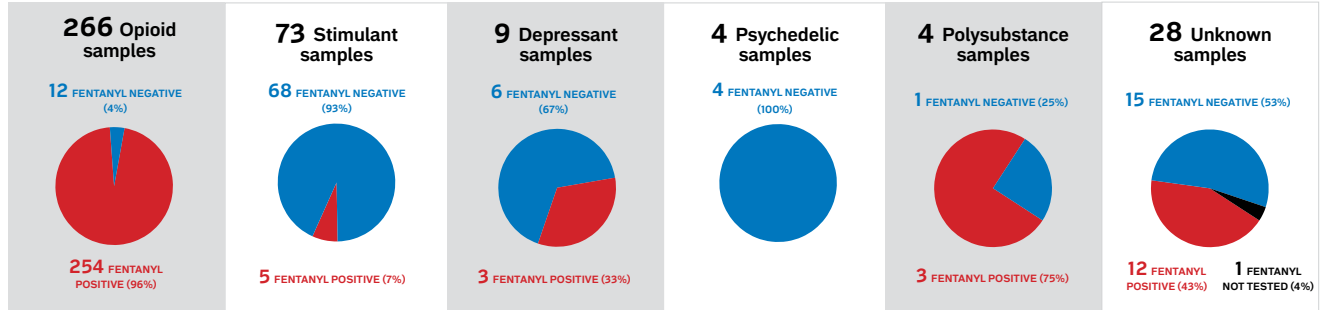
### Components in methamphetamine



Frequency (N= 44)

Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: acetaminophen, flualprazolam, heroin HCl, no library match, polyethylene.

## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

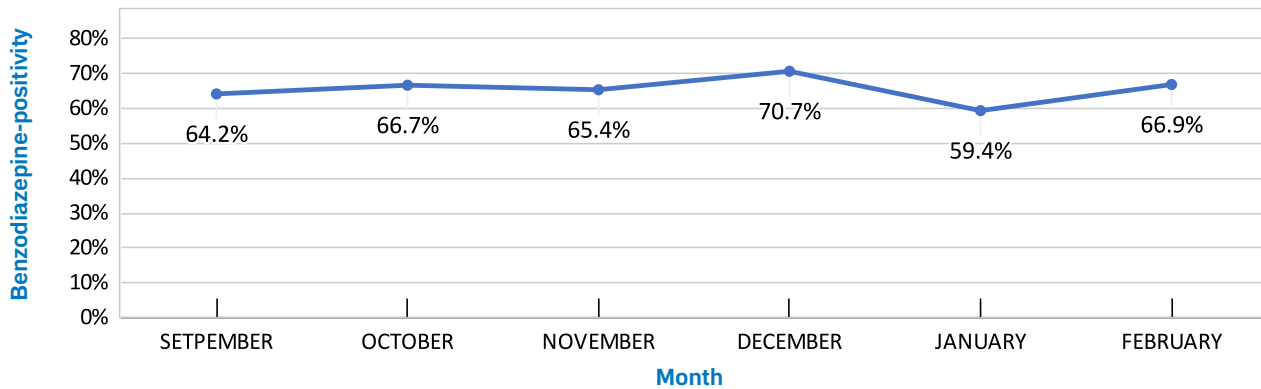


## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

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 February, **66.9%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**178 samples of 266 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	Location	# of drug checks
Foxglove Housing (Coquitlam)	12	Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	18
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	80	Mountainside (Mission)	29
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	79	Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	17
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	67	Purpose Society (New Westminster)	11
Mountainside (Hope)	11	SafePoint (Surrey)	56
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>384</b>

Less than 5 samples were tested at each of the following locations, which are included in the total: Purpose Society (Burnaby, Coquitlam, 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	260	4	2	266
Stimulant	70	3	0	73
Depressant	5	2	2	9
Psychedelic	3	1	0	4
Polysubstance	3	1	0	4
Unknown	0	0	28	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>384</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	16	0	0	16
Down	237	3	0	240
Pharmaceutical	6	1	2	9
Opium	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>266</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: