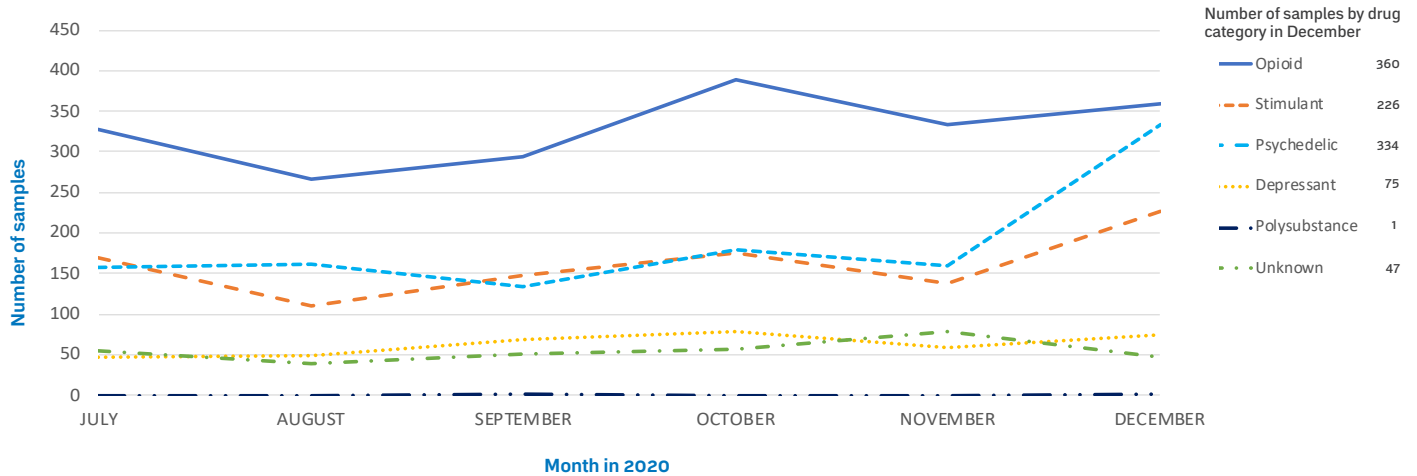


## Key Findings

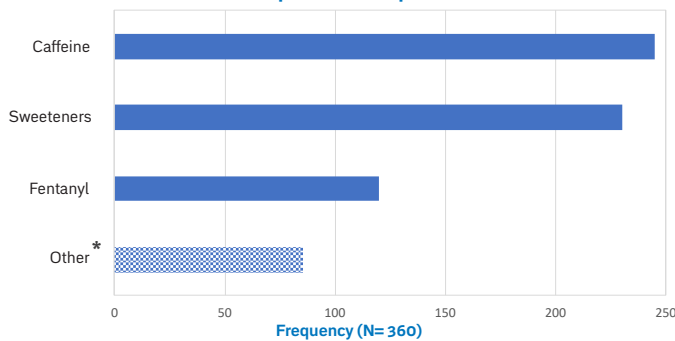
- An increase in the number of samples of MDMA and ketamine over the holidays caused an uptick in the number of psychedelics checked in December.
- Three samples of methamphetamine tested positive for fentanyl this month.
- Two alerts were sent this month for counterfeit medications (“fake oxy” and “fake Xanax”).

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

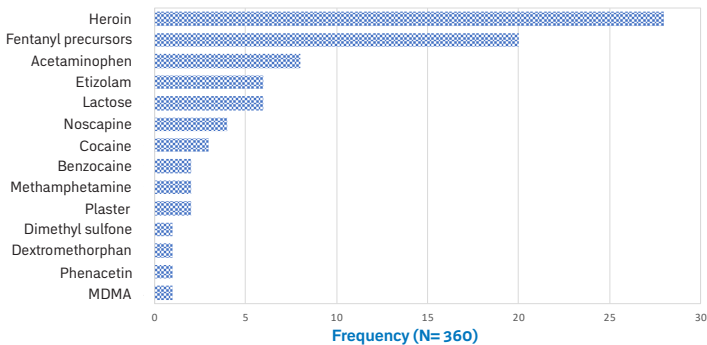


### Components found in drug samples in December

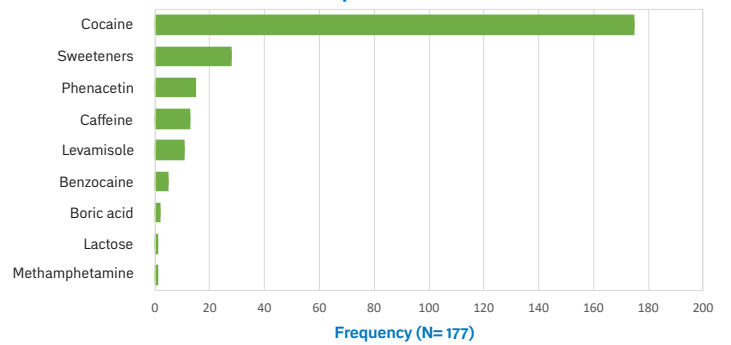
#### Components in opioids



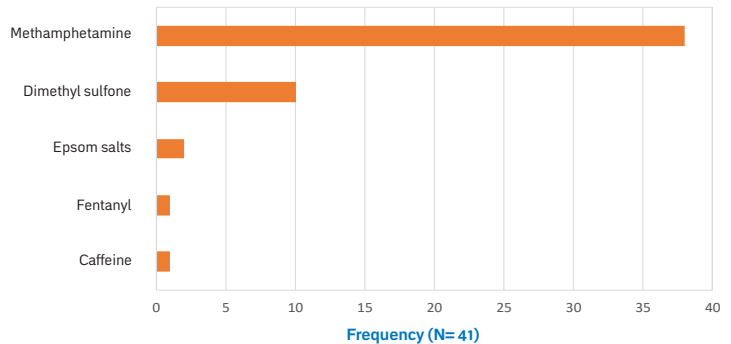
#### \* Other components found in opioids



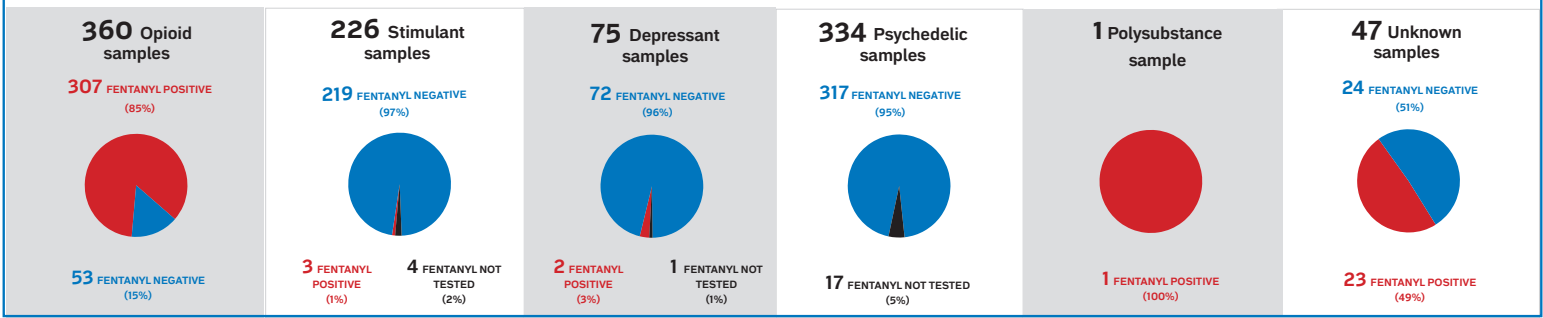
#### Components in cocaine



#### Components in methamphetamine



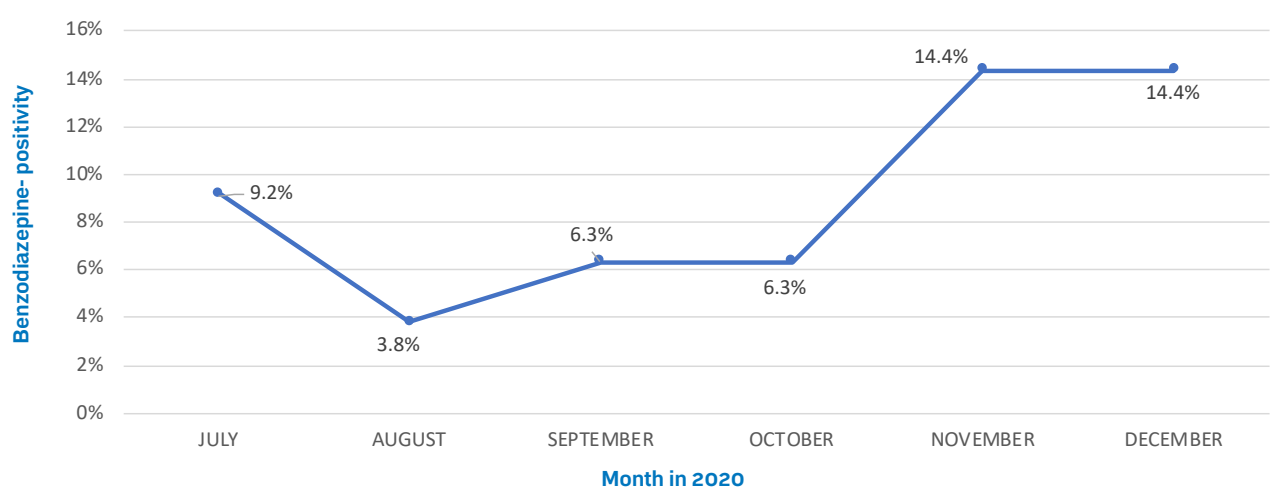
## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
10 December 2020-Overdose Prevention Society, Vancouver	Fentanyl/down	Caffeine, inositol, fentanyl	Positive	Positive	DTES	Combining benzos and down can cause extreme and prolonged symptoms; test your drugs at any OPS.
8 December 2020-Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Oxycodone	Microcrystalline cellulose, AMB-FUBINACA	Positive	Negative	Unknown	Check your drugs for unexpected substances!
5 December 2020-Get Your Drugs Tested, Vancouver	Alprazolam (Xanax)	Microcrystalline cellulose, adinazolam	Negative	Positive	Unknown	Adinazolam is a benzodiazepine - derivative that is not used in North America. Check your drugs!

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



During the month of December, **14.4%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in the Vancouver Coastal Health region (**47 samples of 327 tested**).

*Opioid samples are tested for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips. The results presented above are presumptive and tentative until confirmed by a laboratory.*

## Number of drugs checks and hours at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked	Hours
Get Your Drugs Tested	868	240
Overdose Prevention Society OPS	137	51.5
Insite	43	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>312.5</b>

## Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:  
**Depressant**

75 Samples Tested



Matched: 31  
Did not match: 44

EXPECTED DRUG:  
**Psychedelic**

334 Samples Tested



Matched: 301  
Did not match: 28  
Match not determined: 5

EXPECTED DRUG:  
**Stimulant**

226 Samples Tested



Matched: 218  
Did not match: 7  
Match not determined: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:  
**Unknown**

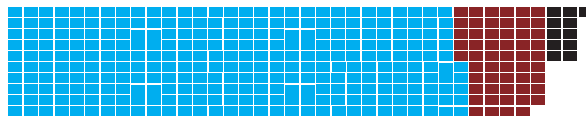
47 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 47

EXPECTED DRUG:  
**Opioid**

360 Samples Tested



Matched: 295  
Did not match: 54  
Match not determined: 11

EXPECTED DRUG:  
**Polysubstance**

**Polysubstance**

1 Sample Tested



Matched: 1

**Total**

1048 Samples Tested



Matched: 848  
Did not match: 136  
Match not determined: 64

Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents

**Depressant may include:**  
benzodiazepines, etizolam,  
GHB, hypnotics

**Opioid may include:**  
"down," heroin, fentanyl,  
pharmaceutical opioids

**Polysubstance includes:**  
cross-category mixtures

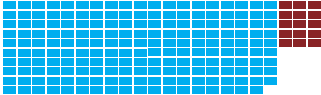



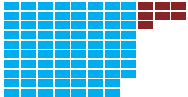


**Psychedelic may include:**  
MDMA and related,  
2C-family, tryptamines,  
ketamine, LSD

**Stimulant may 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.

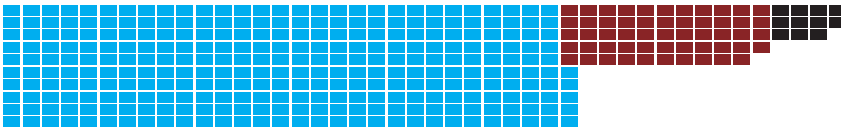
## Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Fentanyl</b> 204 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 189 Did not match: 15</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Heroin</b> 47 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 23 Did not match: 24</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Fentanyl and Heroin</b> 1 Sample Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Fentanyl Analogue</b> 2 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Did not match: 2</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Down</b> 85 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 78 Did not match: 7</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Opium</b> 1 Sample Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Pharmaceutical</b> 20 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 3 Did not match: 6 Match not determined: 11</p>	

### Total

360 Samples Tested



Matched: 295  
Did not match: 54  
Match not determined: 11

Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents. 'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

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:

