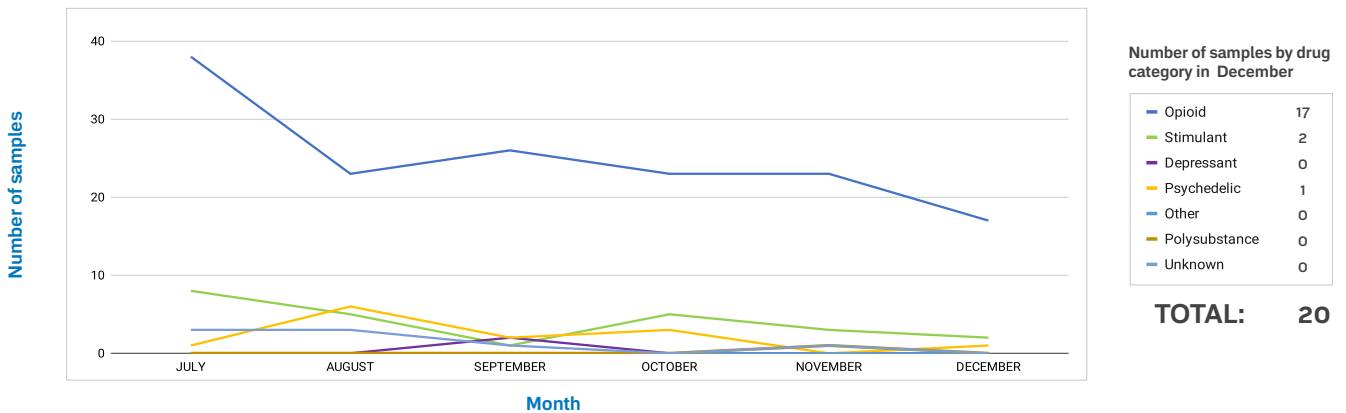


## Key Findings

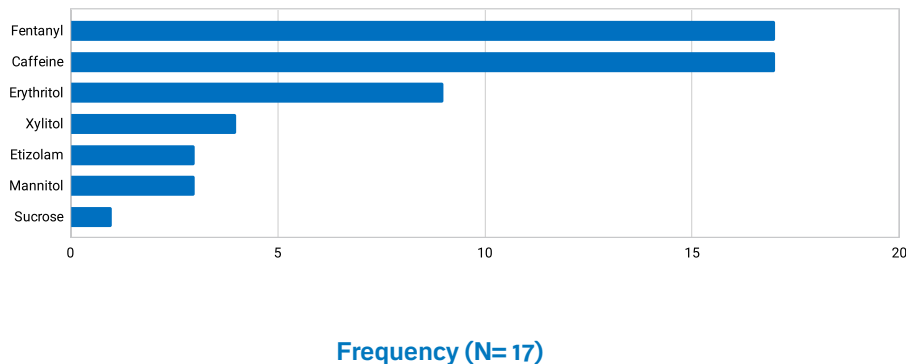
- All of the 17 samples of opioids checked in December tested positive for benzodiazepines this month (100%), a rise in benzo positivity from the previous months. Trends may be hard to infer due to the small number of samples.
- Two samples of cocaine and one sample of MDMA were also tested this month. The MDMA actually contained MDA.
- Drug checking services are available Thursdays and Fridays from 11:30am–3:30pm at 437 Wesley Street. Samples can also be dropped off any day of the week and results can be picked up during drug checking hours.
- The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project offers drug checking in Victoria. For information about their project and more drug checking sample results, please visit [substance.uvic.ca](http://substance.uvic.ca).

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

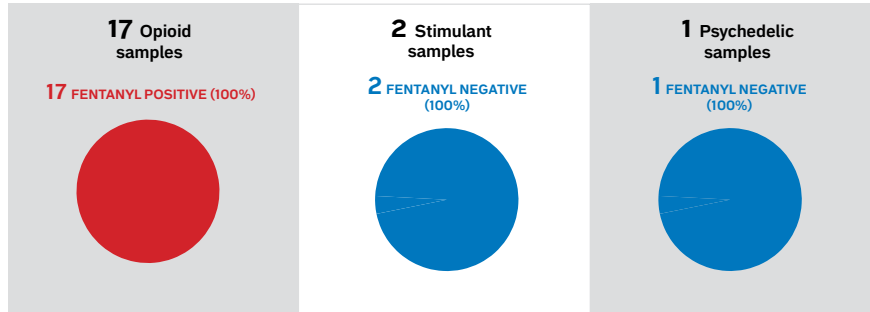


## Components found in drug samples in December

### Components in opioids



## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

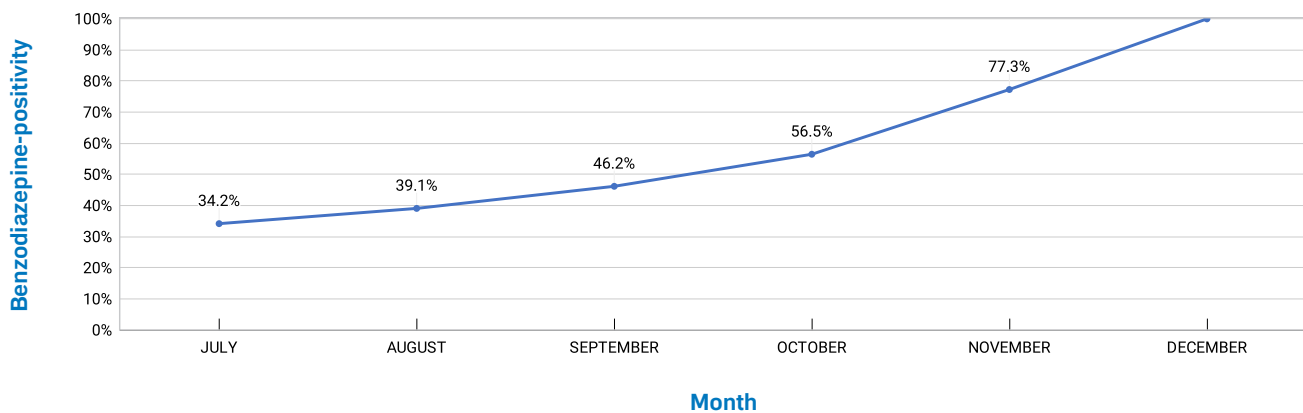


## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts for Island Health this month					

For information about current substances in the Island Health region: <https://substance.uvic.ca/>

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



During the month of December, **100%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Island Health (**17 samples of 17 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
Wesley Street OPS (CMHA)	20

## Number of samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Opioid**

17 Samples Tested



Matched: 16

Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Stimulant**

2 Samples Tested



Matched: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Psychedelic**

1 Samples Tested



Did not match: 1

**Total**

20 Samples Tested



Matched: 18

Did not match: 2

## Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation

\*using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Down**

15 Samples Tested



Matched: 15

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Fentanyl**

1 Sample Tested



Matched: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Heroin**

1 Sample Tested



Did not match: 1

**Total**

17 Samples Tested



Matched: 16

Did not match: 1

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.

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: