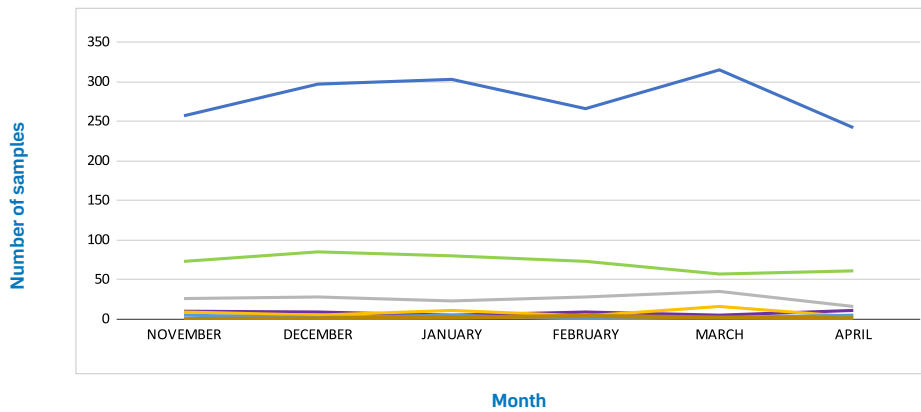


Key Findings

- In April, 339 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased to 50.0% (121 of 242 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 20.1% of unregulated opioids (48 of 239 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations.
- Multiple fentanyl analogues have been detected in unregulated opioids. The most recent to emerge, ortho-Methylfentanyl, was detected by FTIR in 18.4% of samples (44 of 239). Fluorofentanyl was detected in 27.6% (66 samples).
- Xylazine detection by FTIR in unregulated opioids increased from 1.6% to 4.2% in April (10 of 239 samples).
- Drug checking services are available at several locations in the Fraser Health region. To find drug checking services near you, please see our [site locator](#).

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



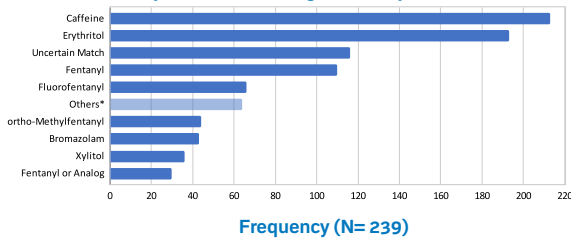
Number of samples by drug category in April

Opioid	242
Stimulant	61
Depressant	11
Psychedelic	3
Other	5
Polysubstance	1
Unknown	16

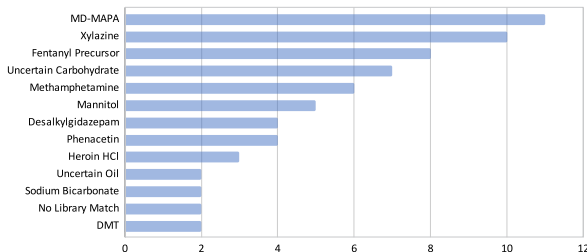
TOTAL: 339

Components found in drug samples in April

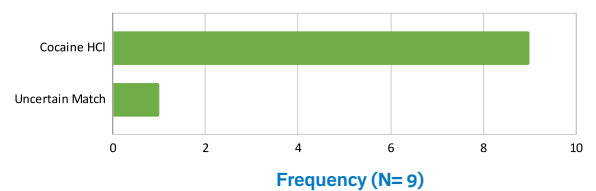
Components in unregulated opioids



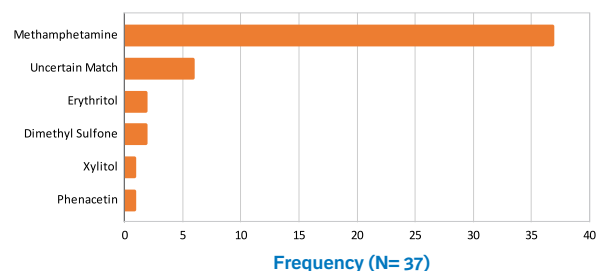
*Other components in unregulated opioids



Components in cocaine

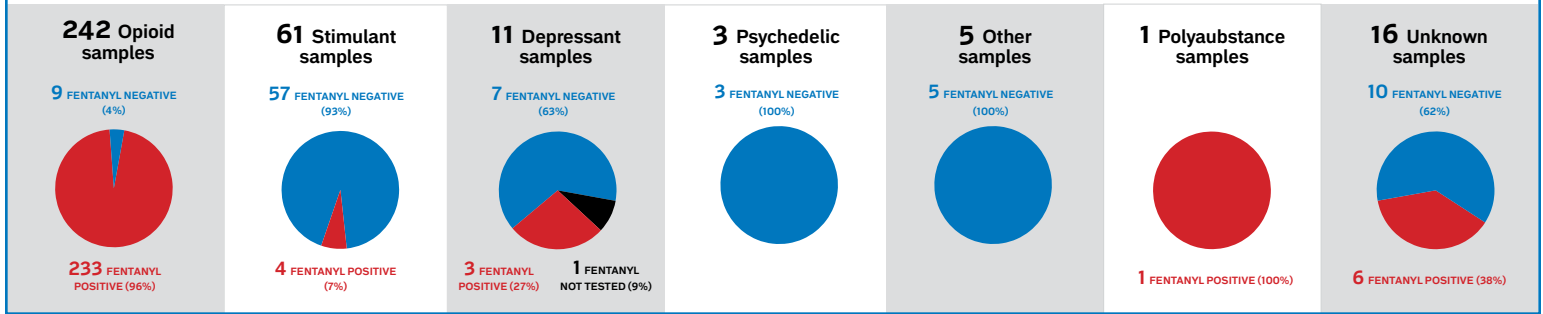


Components in methamphetamine



Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: inositol, etizolam, sucrose, cocaine hcl

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

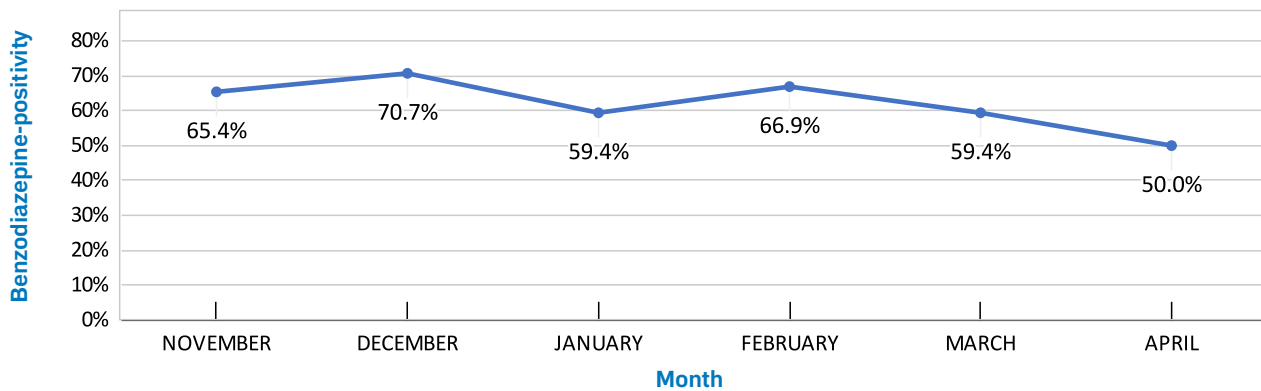


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

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

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, **50.0%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**121 samples of 242 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 (Surrey)	54	Mountainside (Mission)	21
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	90	Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	12
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	78	Purpose Society (New Westminster)	9
Mountainside (Hope)	12	SafePoint (Surrey)	40
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	19	Total	339

Less than 5 samples were tested at each of the following location, which is included in the total: Foxglove Housing (Coquitlam)

Number of samples with expected drug present using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Present	Not Present	Presence Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	236	6	0	242
Stimulant	61	0	0	61
Depressant	3	6	2	11
Psychedelic	3	0	0	3
Other	1	3	1	5
Polysubstance	1	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	16	16
TOTAL	305	15	19	339

Number of opioid samples with expected drug present using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Present	Not Present	Presence Not Determined	Samples Tested
Fentanyl	19	0	0	19
Heroin	1	0	0	1
Down	214	5	0	219
Pharmaceutical	2	1	0	3
TOTAL	236	6	0	242

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: