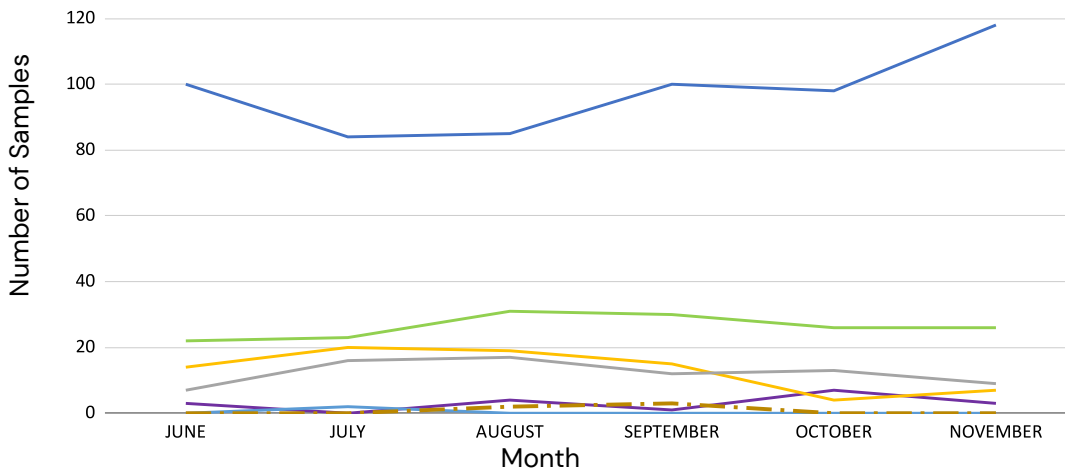




Key Findings

- In November, a total of 163 drug checks were performed by the CMHA Mid-Island Albert Street site in Nanaimo.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip was 63.6% (75 of 118 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 10.2% of opioids (12 of 118 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, bromazolam was most frequently identified (9 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl was the most common fentanyl analog detected by FTIR in opioids (30.5%; 36 of 118 samples), followed by fentanyl (28.0%; 33 samples). Ortho-Methylfentanyl was found in 9.3% (11 samples).
- Xylazine was detected by FTIR in 1.7% of opioids (2 of 118 samples).
- Substance (The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project), offers drug checking in Victoria and communities across the Island. For more information about drug checking sample results in the Island Health region, please visit www.substance.uvic.ca.
- 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 Nov.

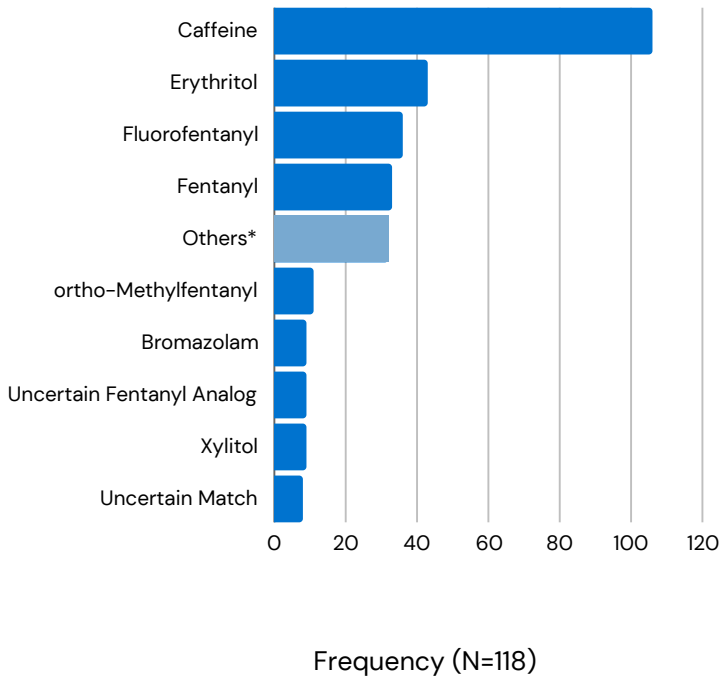
● Opioid	118
● Stimulant	26
● Depressant	3
● Psychedelic	7
● Other	0
● Polysubstance	0
● Unknown	9
Total:	163

Number of drug checks at each site

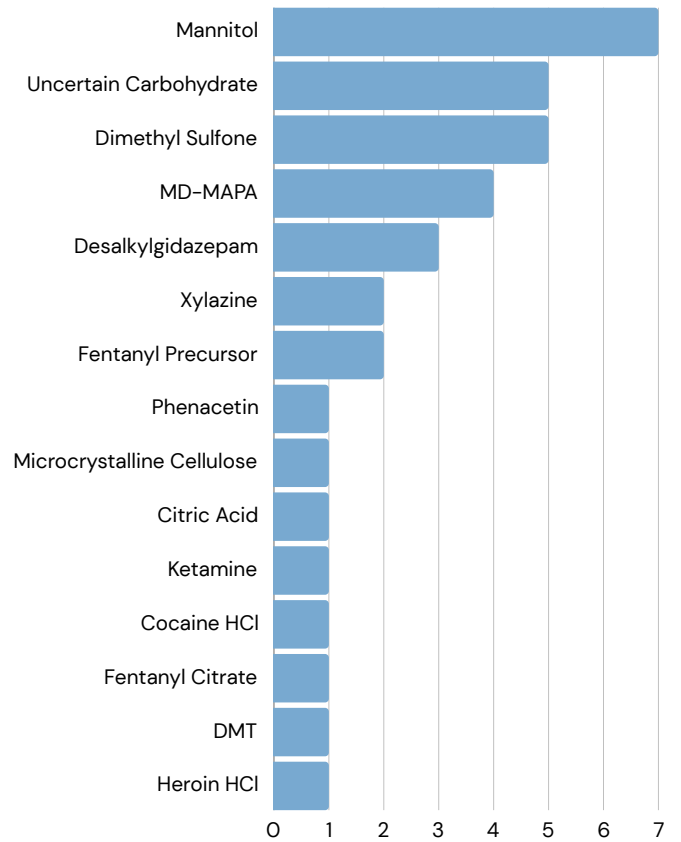
Location	# of Drugs Checked
Albert St. OPS (CMHA Nanaimo)	163
Total:	163

Components found in drug samples in November

Components in unregulated opioids



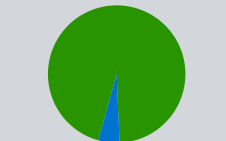
*Other components in unregulated opioids



Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**

118 Opioid samples

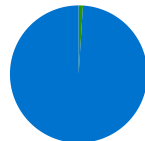
112 Fentanyl Positive (95%)



6 Fentanyl Negative (5%)

26 Stimulant samples

1 Fentanyl Positive (1%)



25 Fentanyl Negative (99%)

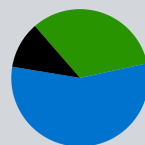
3 Depressant samples



3 Fentanyl Negative (100%)

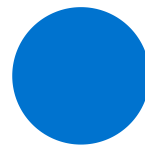
9 Unknown samples

3 Fentanyl Positive (33%)



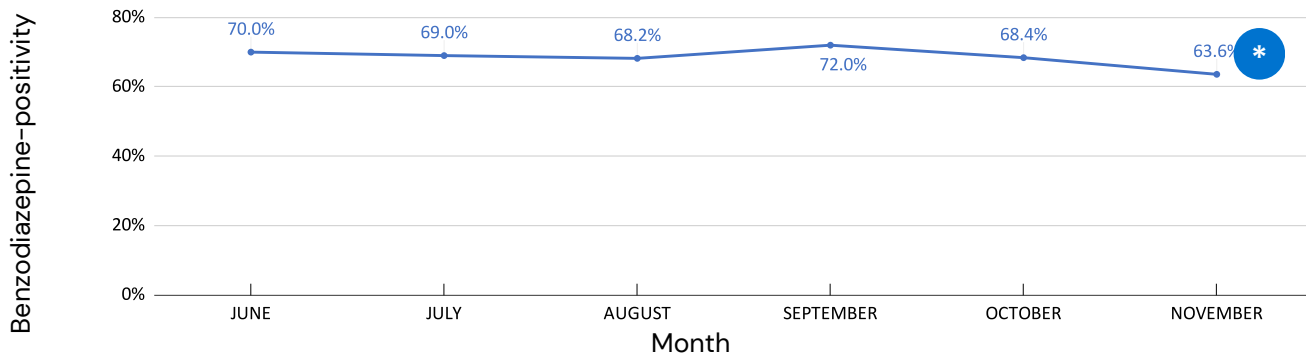
5 Fentanyl Negative (56%)
1 Not Tested (11%)

7 Psychedelic samples









7 Fentanyl Negative (100%)

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







*During the month of November, **63.6%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Island Health (**75 samples of 118 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 samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid		110	8	0	118
Stimulant		26	0	0	26
Unknown		0	0	9	9
Psychedelic		5	2	0	7
Depressant		3	0	0	3
TOTAL		144	10	9	163

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

Number of opioid samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Down		85	5	0	90
Fentanyl		25	0	0	25
Heroin		0	3	0	3
TOTAL		110	8	0	118

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.

Depressant includes:
 benzodiazepines,
 etizolam, GHB, hypnotics

Opioid includes:
 "down", heroin, fentanyl
 (unregulated opioids), and
 pharmaceutical opioids

Polysubstance includes:
 cross-category mixtures

Psychedelic includes:
 MDMA and related, 2C-family,
 tryptamines, ketamine, LSD

Stimulant includes:
 methamphetamine,
 "speed," cocaine and
 crack cocaine,
 cathinones

Unknown includes:
 samples where the individual
 was unable to identify an
 expected substance - this
 includes found samples.

Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts for Island Health this month.					

To subscribe to the provincial drug alert and response system, text the word JOIN to 253787 (ALERTS).

Data represented in this report is collected from our partner sites across the province utilizing Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrometry in combination with BTNX fentanyl test strips, as well as benzodiazepine test strips when applicable. We note the FTIR spectrometer has a detection limit of approximately 5% concentration (McCrae, 2019).

BCCSU gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following partners:



Canadian Mental Health Association