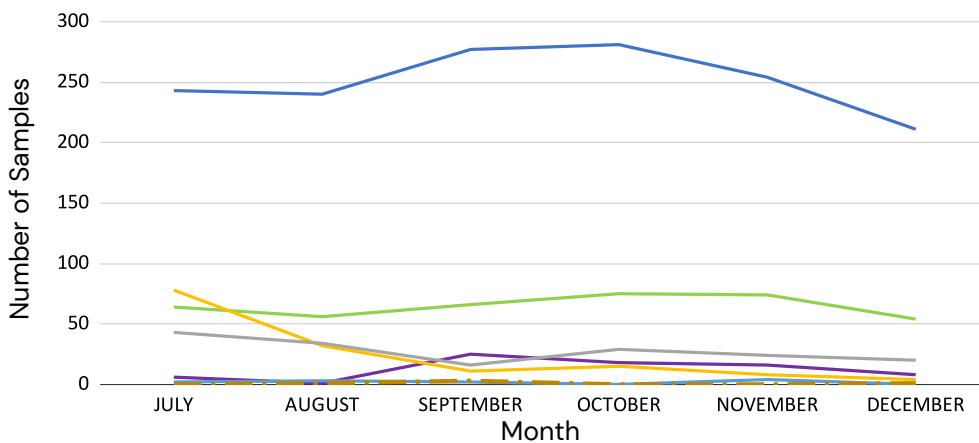




Key Findings

- In December, 298 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region (16 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased from the previous month to 56.4% (119 of 211 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 23.7% of unregulated opioids (49 of 207 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified (23 samples), surpassing bromazolam for the second month in a row.
- Fentanyl was detected by FTIR in 40.6% of unregulated opioids (84 of 207 samples). Ortho-methylfentanyl was detected in 25.1% (52 samples), surpassing fluorofentanyl for the second month in a row (10.6%; 22 samples).
- Veterinary tranquilizers were detected by FTIR in 7.3% of unregulated opioids. Medetomidine was detected in 3.9% (8 samples), and xylazine in 3.4% (7 samples).
- 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 Dec.

● Opioid	211
● Stimulant	54
● Depressant	8
● Psychedelic	4
● Other	0
● Polysubstance	1
● Unknown	20

Total: 298

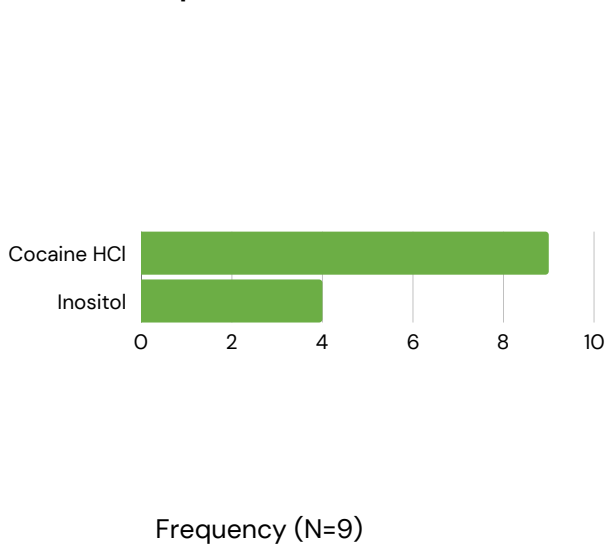
Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Foxglove Housing (Coquitlam)	9
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	62
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	74
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	63
Mountainside (Langley)	10
Mountainside (Mission)	22
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	17
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	7
SafePoint (Surrey)	23
SOURCES (White Rock)	8
Total:	298

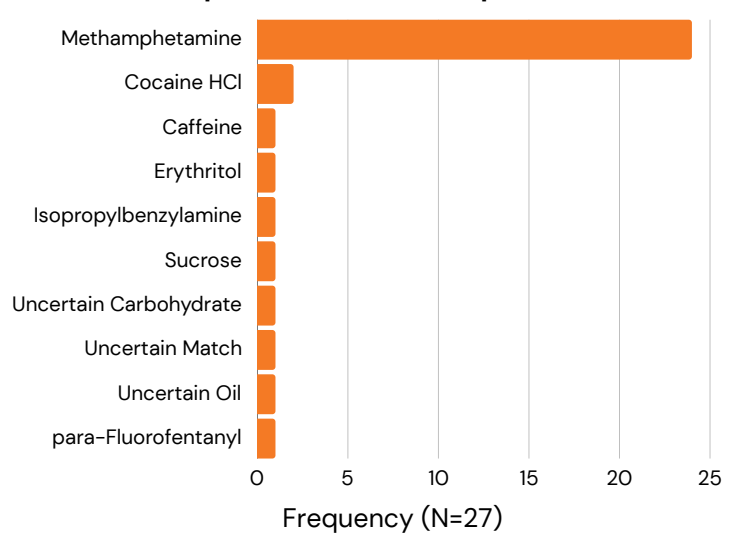
A small number of samples were tested at the following locations, which are included in the total:
Mountainside (Hope and Maple Ridge).

Components found in drug samples in December

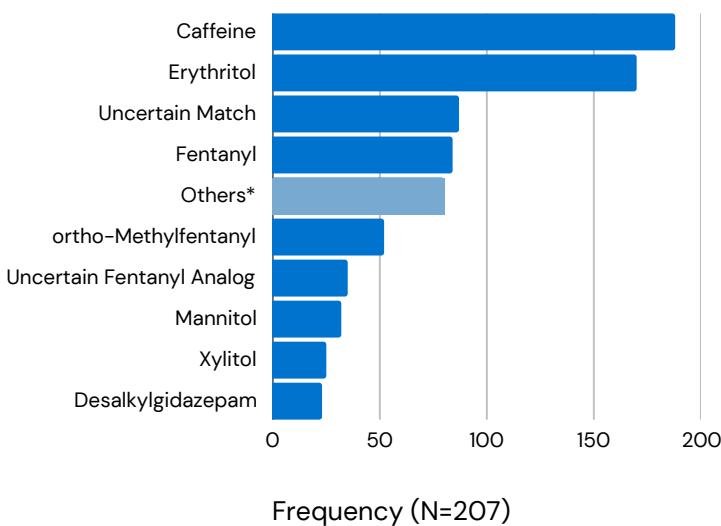
Components in cocaine



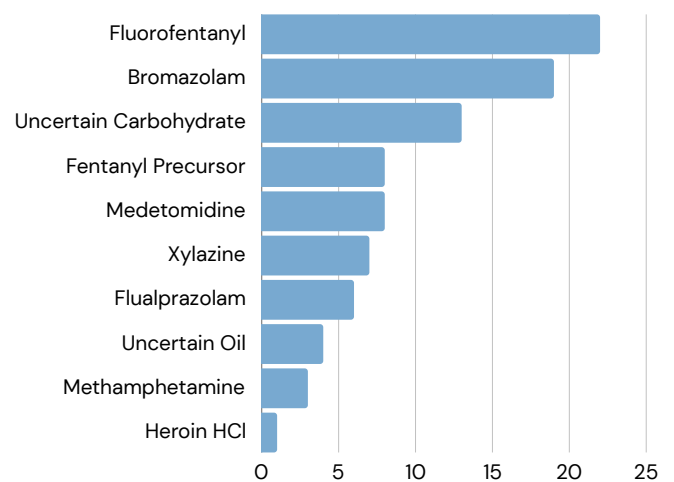
Components in methamphetamine



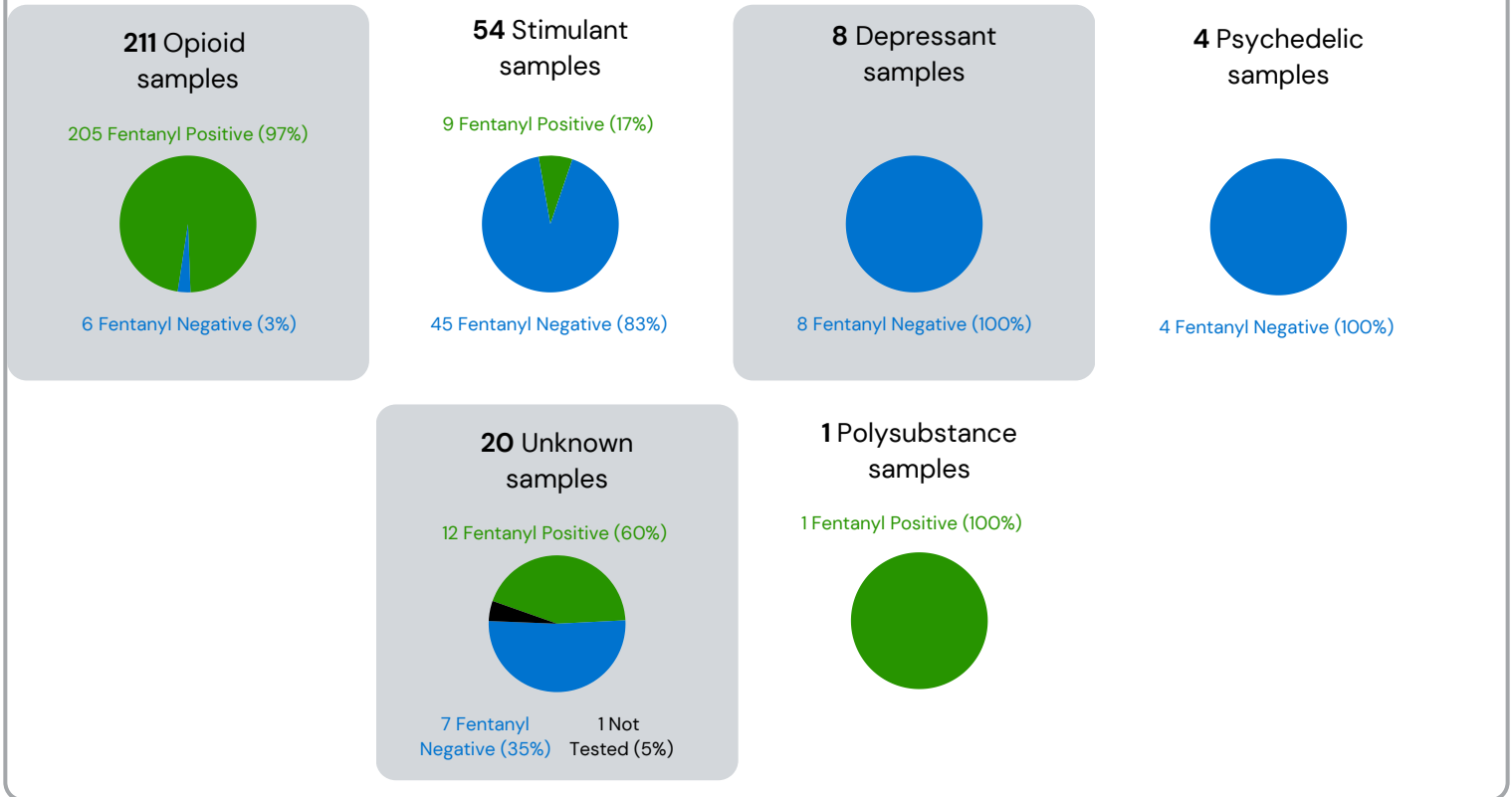
Components in unregulated opioids



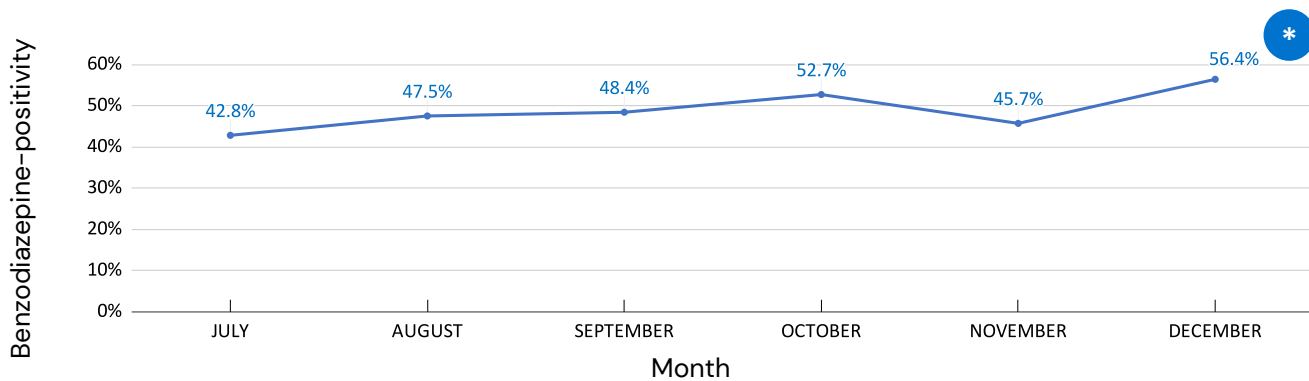
*Other components in unregulated opioids



Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**



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



*During the month of December, **56.4%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**119 samples of 211 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		206	3	2	211
Stimulant		51	3	0	54
Unknown		0	0	20	20
Depressant		2	6	0	8
Psychedelic		3	1	0	4
Polysubstance		1	0	0	1
TOTAL		263	13	22	298

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		179	1	1	181
Fentanyl		23	1	1	25
Opium		3	0	0	3
Heroin		0	1	0	1
Pharmaceutical		1	0	0	1
TOTAL		206	3	2	211

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
December 12, 2024 Fraser Health region	Down/Fentanyl (Multiple samples)	See alert description*	N/A	N/A	Multiple samples in different colors and textures, containing several fentanyl analogs (including carfentanil), benzodiazepines, veterinary tranquilizers (tranq), and nitazenes (a group of potent opioids), were tested throughout the Fraser Health region. Combining multiple depressants can lead to complex overdoses.

*Results provided by complementary testing partner [Substance](#) using Paper Spray Mass Spectrometry, all other spectrometry results are determined by FTIR.

Health authorities and community organizations issue further toxic drug alerts from sources other than drug checking. See their respective websites or social media accounts for more alerts.

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:

