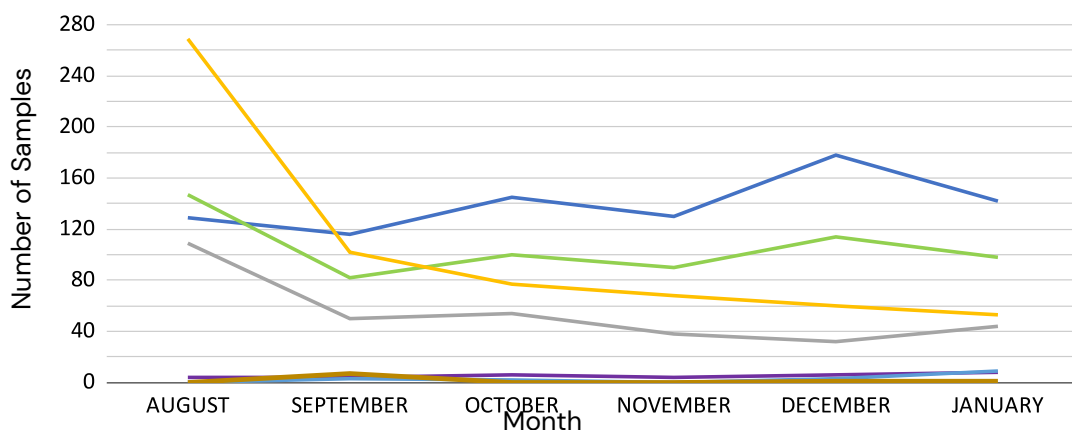




### Key Findings

- In January, a total of 355 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region (18 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased to 62.7% (89 of 142 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 25.0% of unregulated opioids (35 of 140 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified (26 samples), followed by bromazolam (8 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl was the most common fentanyl analog detected by FTIR in unregulated opioids (40.7%; 57 of 140 samples), followed by fentanyl (17.1%; 24 samples). Ortho-Methylfentanyl was found in 1.4% (2 samples).
- Xylazine, a veterinary tranquilizer, was detected by FTIR in 13.6% of unregulated opioids (19 of 140 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 Jan.

● Opioid	142
● Stimulant	98
● Depressant	8
● Psychedelic	53
● Other	9
● Polysubstance	1
● Unknown	44

**Total: 355**

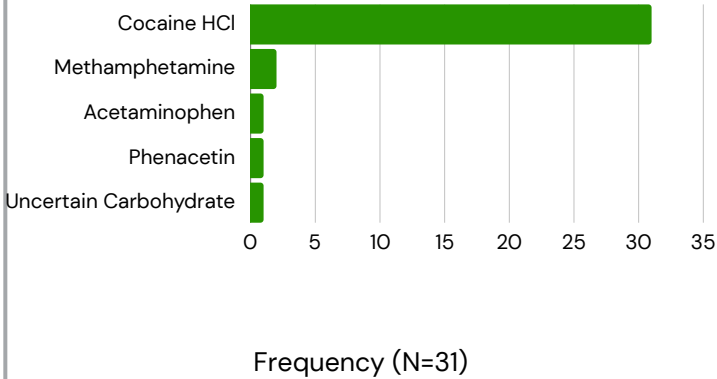
### Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Castlegar)	5
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	61
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	24
ANKORS (Nelson)	51
ANKORS (Trail)	12
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	24
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	52
ASK Wellness (Williams Lake)	6
Interior Health (Kelowna)	72
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy (Vernon)	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>355</b>

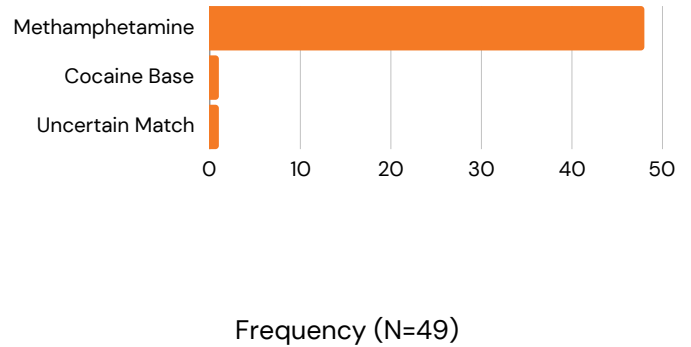
A small number of samples were tested at the following location, which is included in the total: ANKORS (Castlegar).

## Components found in drug samples in January

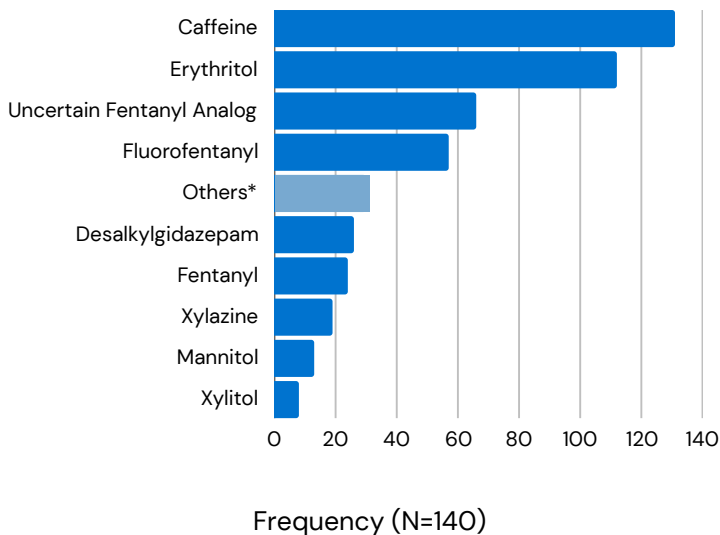
### Components in cocaine



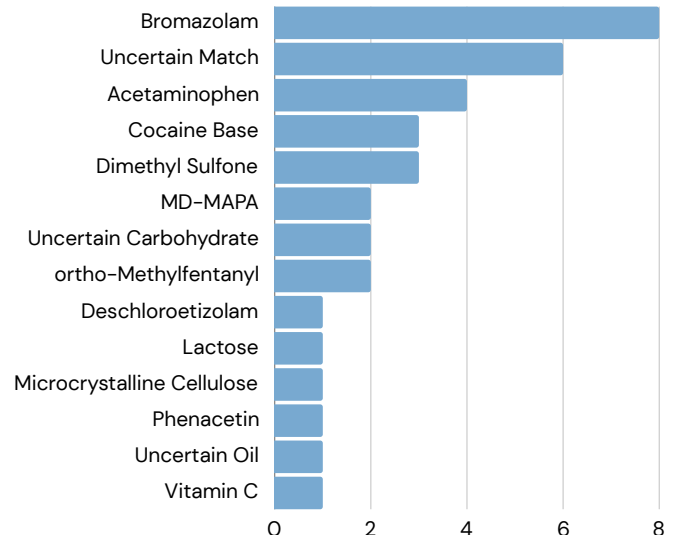
### Components in methamphetamine



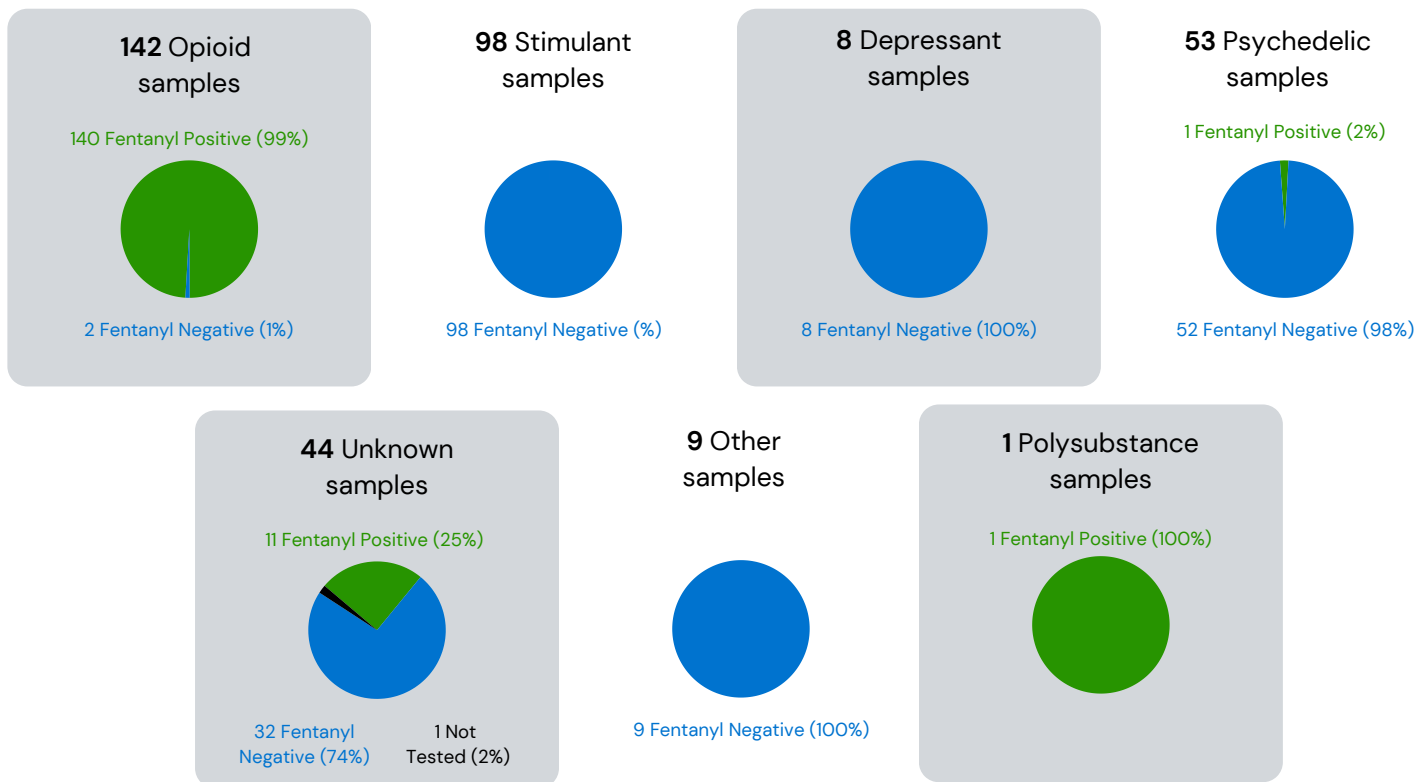
### Components in unregulated opioids



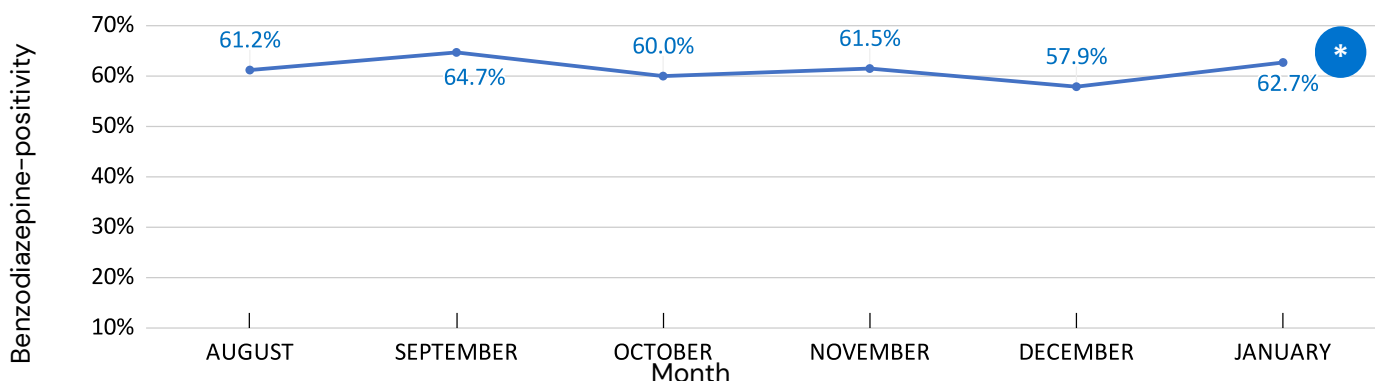
### \*Other components in unregulated opioids



### Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**



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



\*During the month of January, **62.7%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (**89 samples of 142 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	139	2	1	142
Stimulant	96	2	0	98
Psychedelic	51	2	0	53
Unknown	0	0	44	44
Other	8	0	1	9
Depressant	6	2	0	8
Polysubstance	1	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>355</b>

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	114	0	1	115
Fentanyl	24	1	0	25
Pharmaceutical	1	1	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>142</b>

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 Interior 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:

