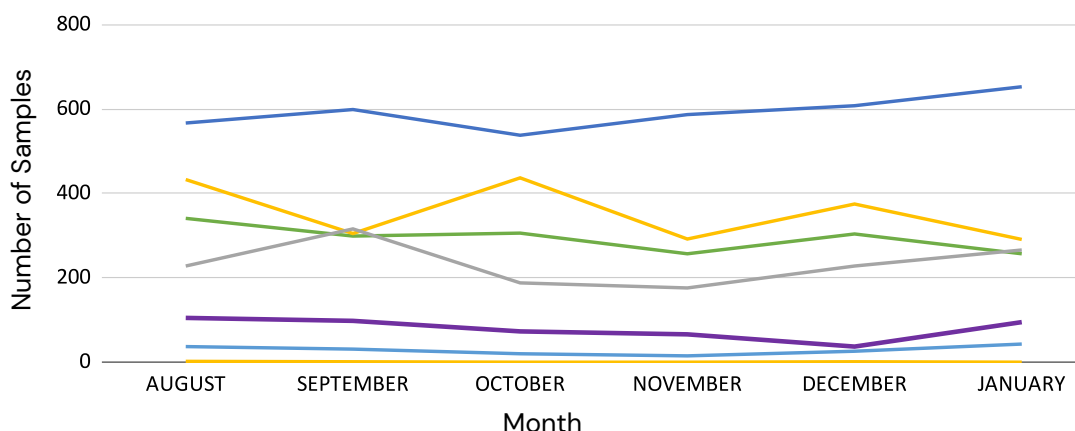




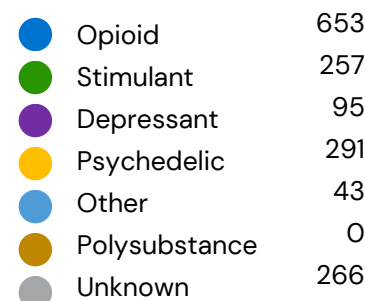
Key Findings

- In January, a total of 1,605 drug checks were performed across the Vancouver Coastal Health region (7 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased from the previous month to 29.2% (191 of 653 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 8.4% of unregulated opioids (50 of 594 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified (42 samples), followed by bromazolam (8 samples).
- Fentanyl was detected by FTIR in 34.3% of unregulated opioids (204 of 594 samples), whereas fluorofentanyl was detected in 25.3% (150 samples). Ortho-methylfentanyl was found in 8.8% (52 samples).
- Tranquilizers were detected by FTIR in 1.9% of unregulated opioids. Of these, xylazine was most common (10 samples), followed by medetomidine (1 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.



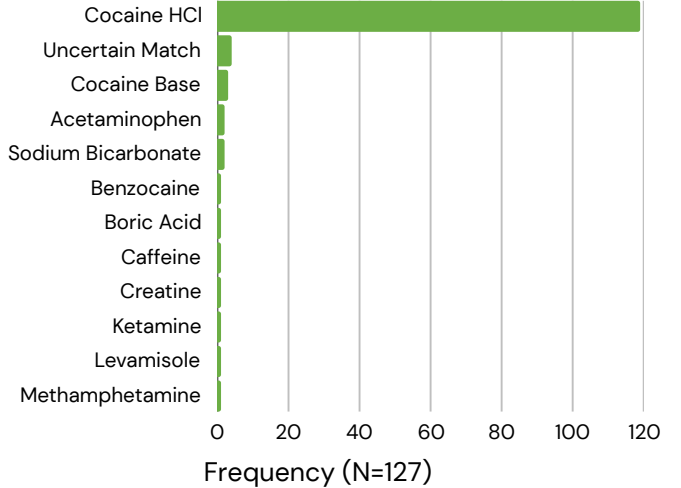
Total: 1,605

Number of drug checks at each site

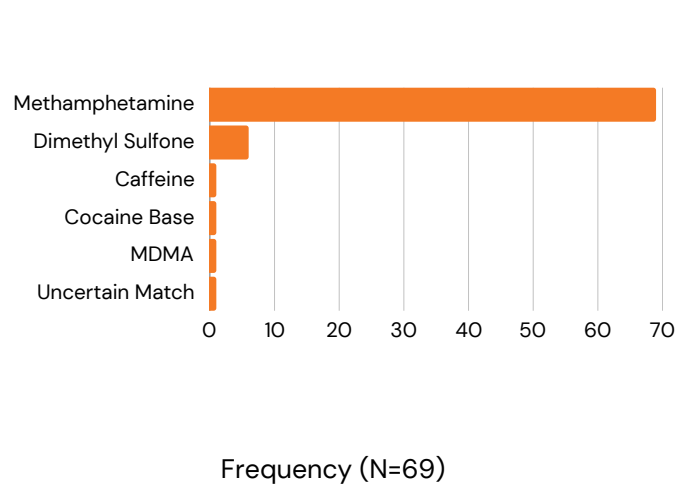
Location	# of Drugs Checked
Get Your Drugs Tested (Vancouver)	1306
Insite (Vancouver)	212
LIFT Community Services (Powell River)	57
Tla'amin Nation (Powell River)	5
WCSS (Squamish)	20
WCSS (Whistler)	5
Total:	1,605

Components found in drug samples in January

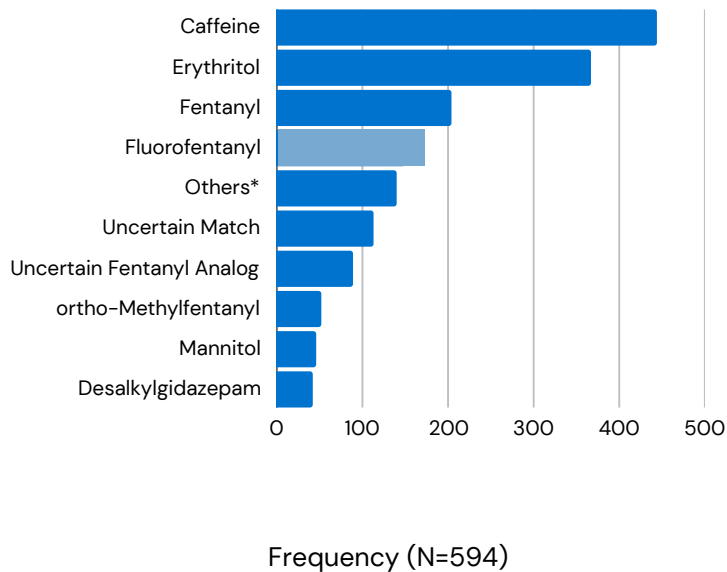
Components in cocaine



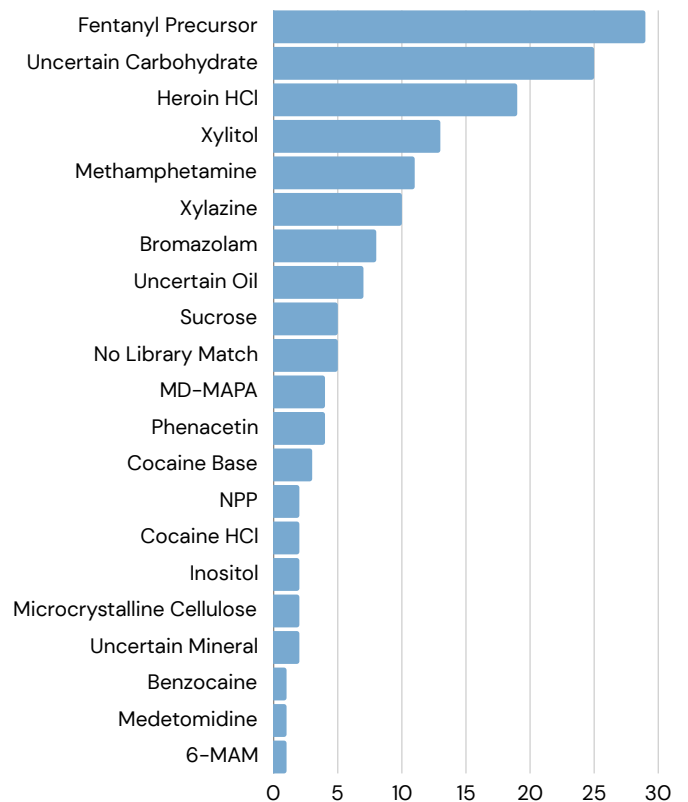
Components in methamphetamine



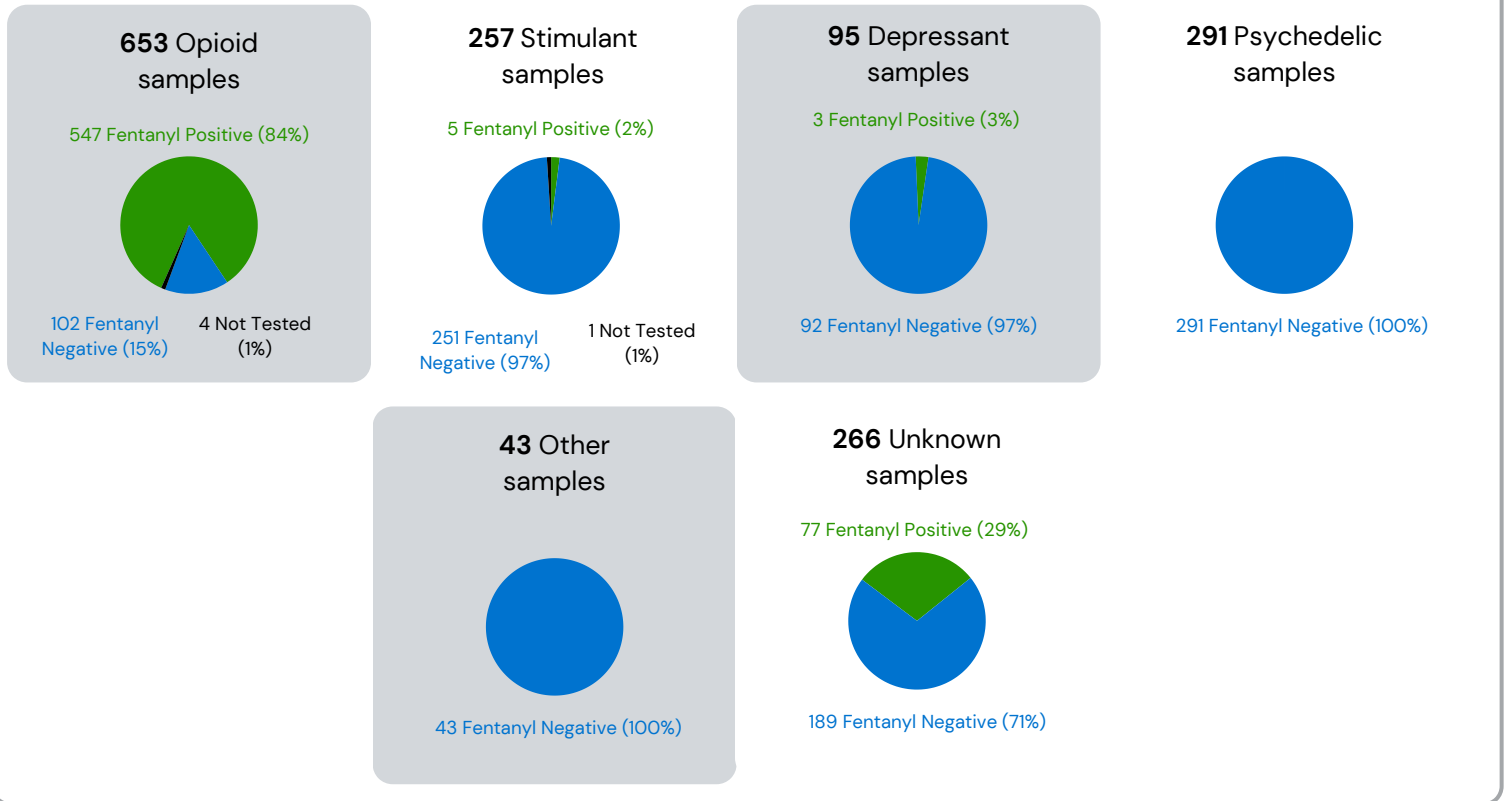
Components in unregulated opioids



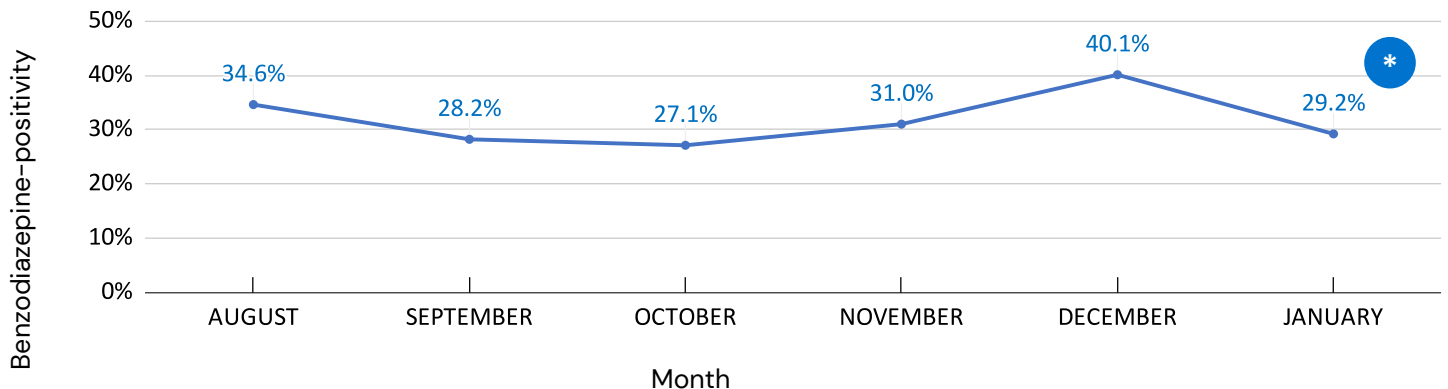
*Other components in unregulated opioids



Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**



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



*During the month of January, 29.2% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Vancouver Coastal Health (191 samples of 653 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		592	54	7	653
Psychedelic		278	9	4	291
Unknown		0	0	266	266
Stimulant		244	12	1	257
Depressant		76	17	2	95
Other		22	14	7	43
TOTAL		1212	106	287	1605

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		419	21	1	441
Fentanyl		120	8	0	128
Pharmaceutical		34	15	6	55
Heroin		15	10	0	25
Opium		4	0	0	4
TOTAL		592	54	7	653

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.

<p>Depressant includes: benzodiazepines, etizolam, GHB, hypnotics</p>	<p>Opioid includes: "down", heroin, fentanyl (unregulated opioids), and pharmaceutical opioids</p>	<p>Polysubstance includes: cross-category mixtures</p>	<p>Psychedelic includes: MDMA and related, 2C-family, tryptamines, ketamine, LSD</p>	<p>Stimulant includes: methamphetamine, "speed," cocaine and crack cocaine, cathinones</p>	<p>Unknown includes: samples where the individual was unable to identify an expected substance - this includes found samples.</p>
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Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
January 2, 2025 Vancouver	Alprazolam	Microcrystalline Cellulose, Uncertain Oil	Positive	Positive	White chunks sold as alprazolam in Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl and benzos.
January 2, 2025 Vancouver	Oxycodone	Microcrystalline Cellulose, Fluorofentanyl, Uncertain Oil	Positive	Positive	White chunk sold as oxycodone tested positive for fentanyl and benzos and negative for oxycodone in Vancouver.
January 7, 2025 Vancouver	Down	Fentanyl, Xylazine, Inositol	Positive	Negative	Light purple granules sold as down in Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl and xylazine

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:



PROVIDENCE HEALTH CARE
Research Institute

