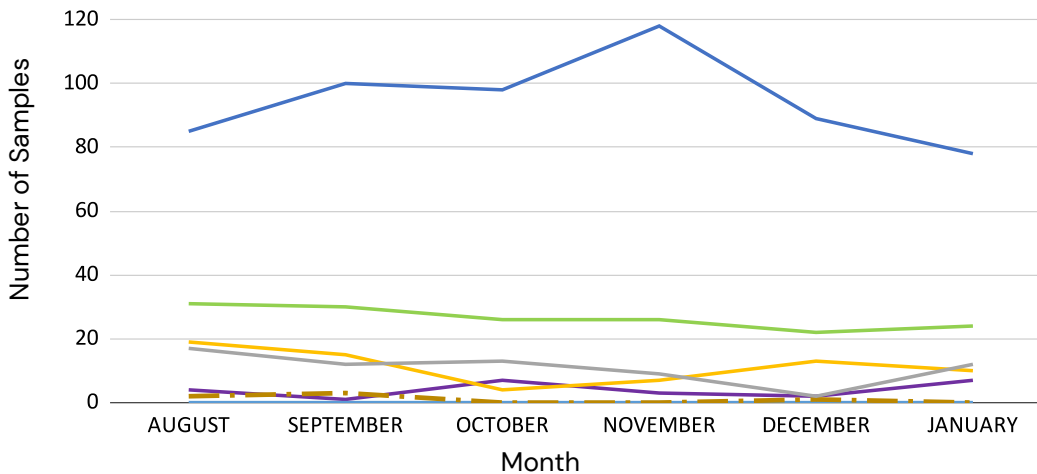




Key Findings

- In January, a total of 131 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 decreased from the previous month to 38.5% (30 of 78 samples).
- Desalkylgidazepam, a benzodiazepine, was detected by FTIR in 7.8% of opioids (6 of 77 samples), indicating its presence in higher concentrations.
- Fentanyl was detected by FTIR in 33.8% of unregulated opioids (26 of 77 samples). Fluorofentanyl was detected in 20.8% (16 samples), followed by ortho-methylfentanyl (6.5%; 5 samples).
- Xylazine was detected by FTIR in 1.3% of unregulated opioids (1 sample).
- Substance (The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project), offers drug checking in Victoria and communities across the Island. For more information, 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 Jan.

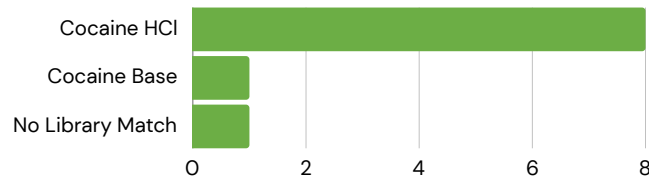
Opioid	78
Stimulant	24
Depressant	7
Psychedelic	10
Other	0
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	12
Total:	131

Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Albert St. OPS (CMHA Nanaimo)	131
Total:	131

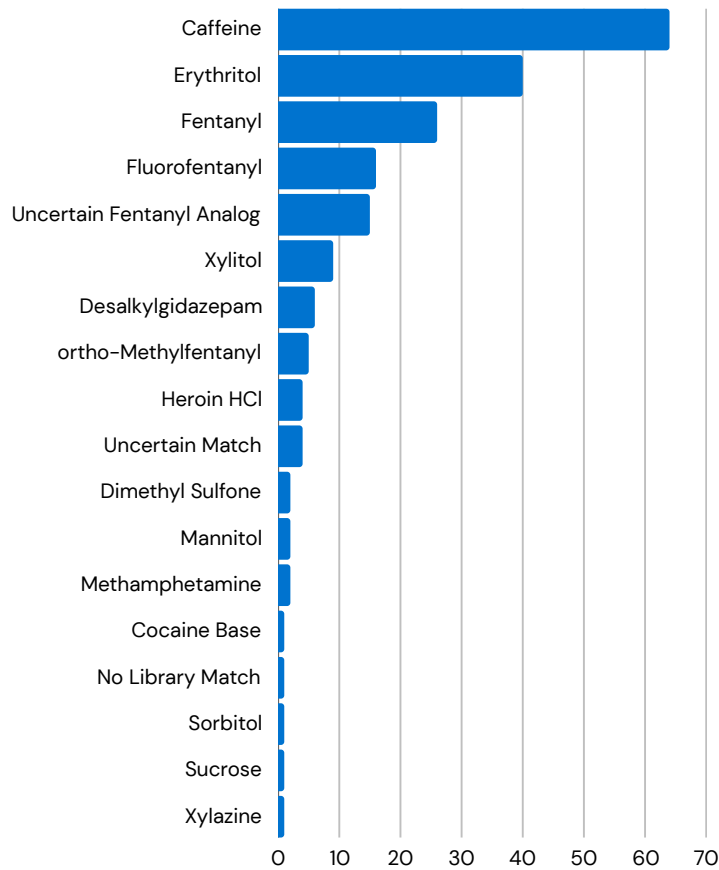
Components found in drug samples in January

Components in cocaine



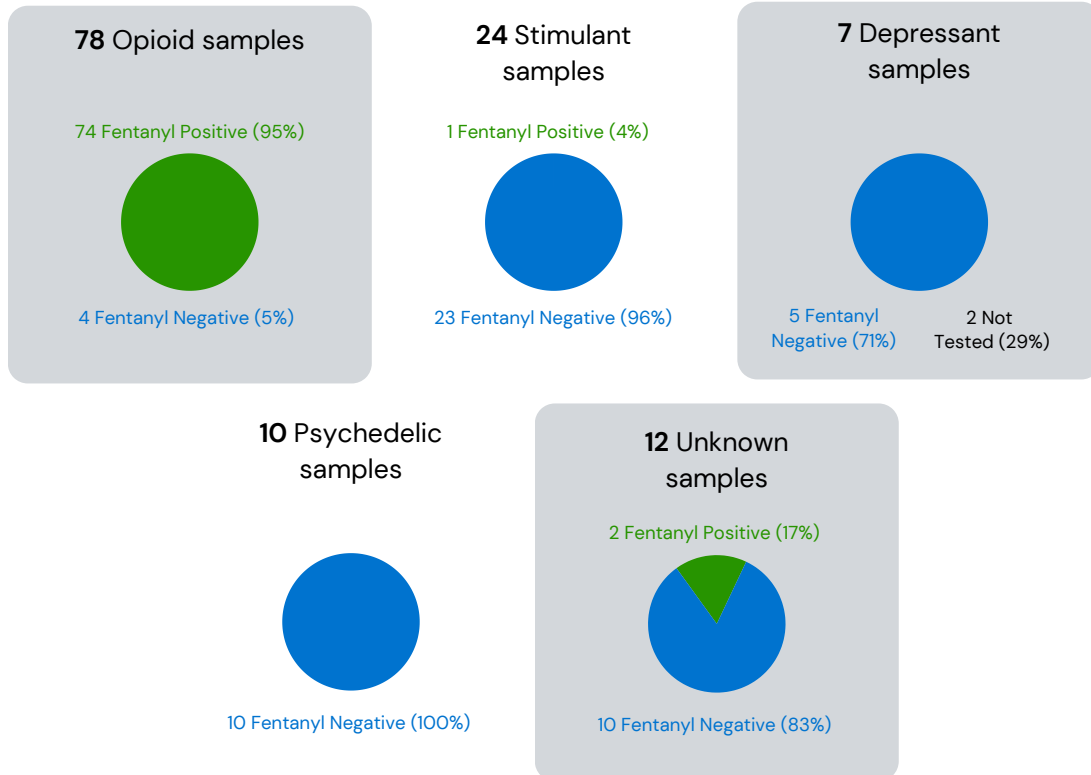
Frequency (N=10)

Components in unregulated opioids

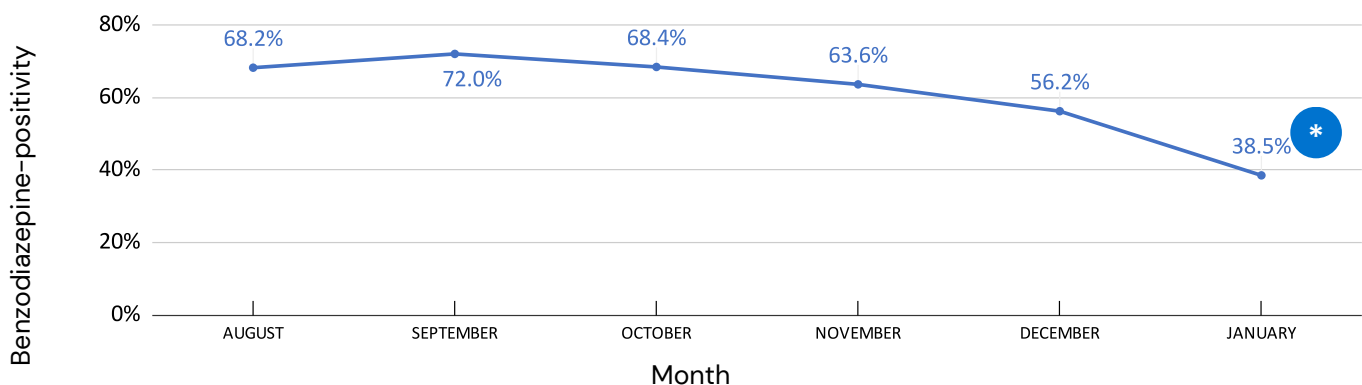


Frequency (N=77)

Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**









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







*During the month of January, **38.5%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Island Health (**30 samples of 78 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		74	3	1	78
Stimulant		22	2	0	24
Unknown		0	0	12	12
Psychedelic		10	0	0	10
Depressant		6	1	0	7
TOTAL		112	6	13	131

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		68	2	0	70
Fentanyl		6	1	0	7
Pharmaceutical		0	0	1	1
TOTAL		74	3	1	78

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