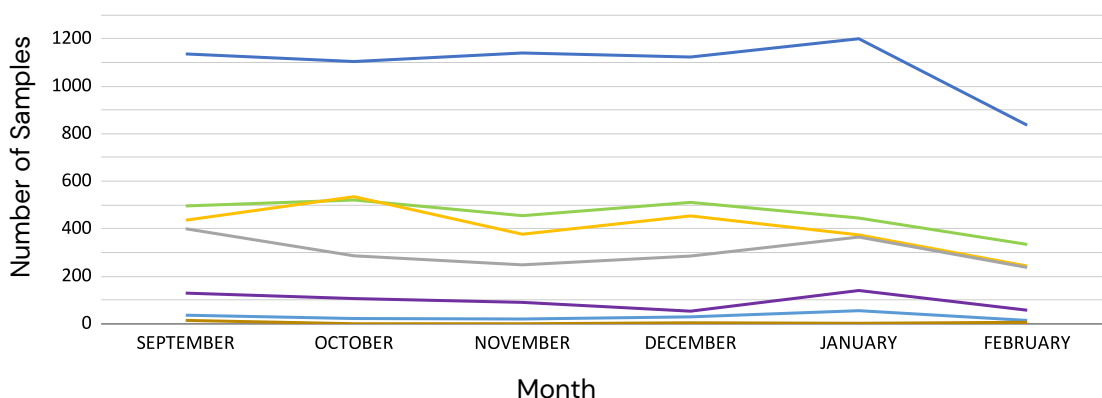




Key Findings

- In February, 1,727 drug checks were performed by community drug checking sites in BC (44 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased from the previous month to 52.6% (440 of 836 samples).
- The number of unregulated opioids containing benzodiazepines in concentrations high enough to be detected by FTIR was 18.9% (150 of 795 samples). Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified (110 samples), followed by bromazolam (33 samples).
- Fentanyl was detected by FTIR in 31.7% of unregulated opioids (252 of 795 samples), whereas fluorofentanyl was detected in 28.1% (223 samples). Ortho-methylfentanyl was detected in 10.3% (82 samples).
- Tranquilizers were detected in 3.0% of unregulated opioids. Of these, xylazine was most common (20 samples), followed by medetomidine (4 samples).
- The median fentanyl concentration of unregulated opioids was 16.5%. See page 3 for more detailed results.
- To find drug checking services near you, please see our [site locator](#).

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



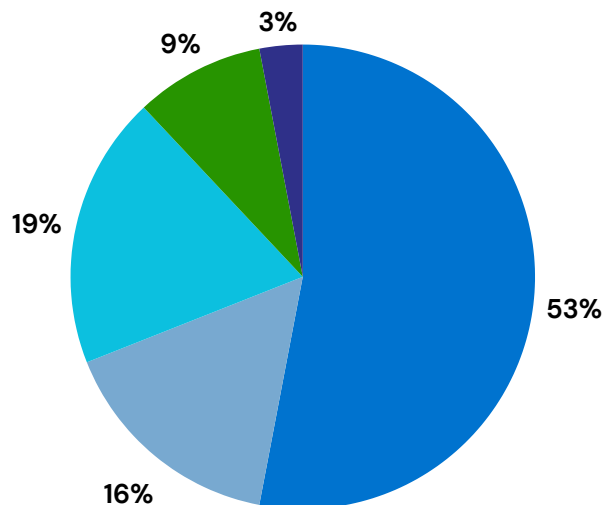
Number of samples by drug category in Feb.

● Opioid	836
● Stimulant	334
● Depressant	57
● Psychedelic	243
● Other	14
● Polysubstance	6
● Unknown	237
Total:	1,727

Number of samples tested by region:

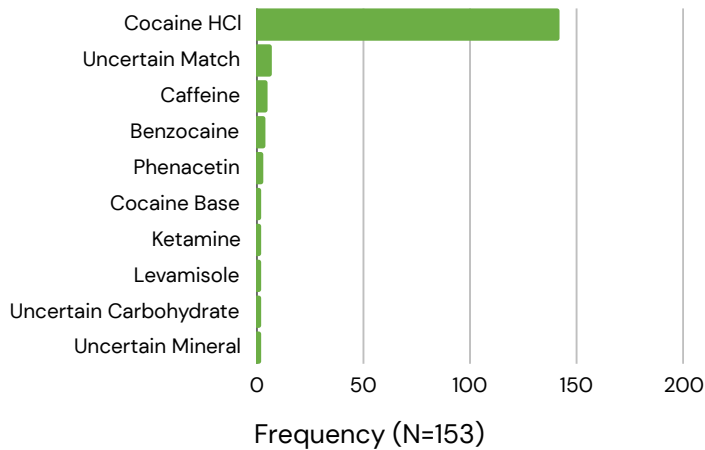
- Vancouver Coastal Health region: 913 (53%)
- Fraser Health region: 330 (19%)
- Interior Health region: 275 (16%)
- Vancouver Island Health region: 150 (9%)
- Northern Health region: 59 (3%)

Total: 1,727

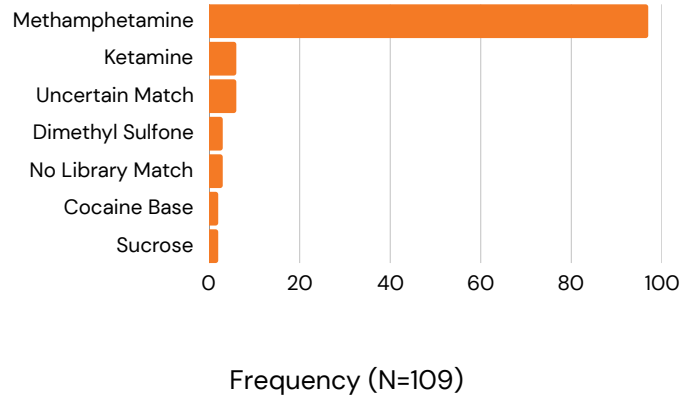


Components found in drug samples in February

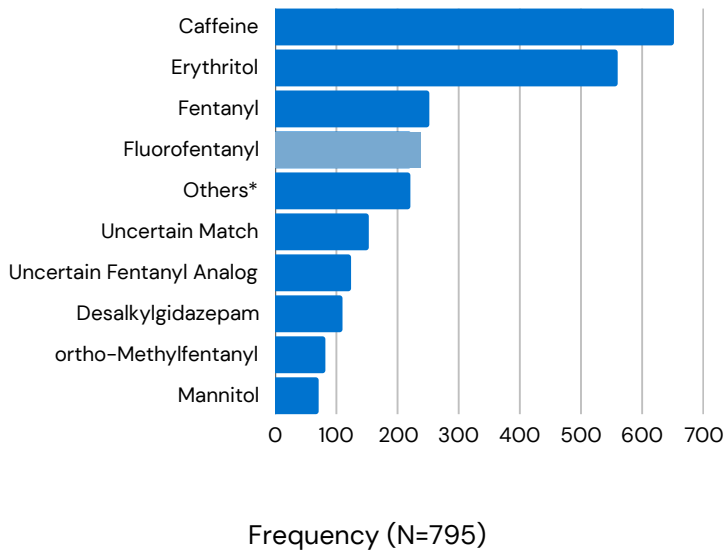
Components in cocaine



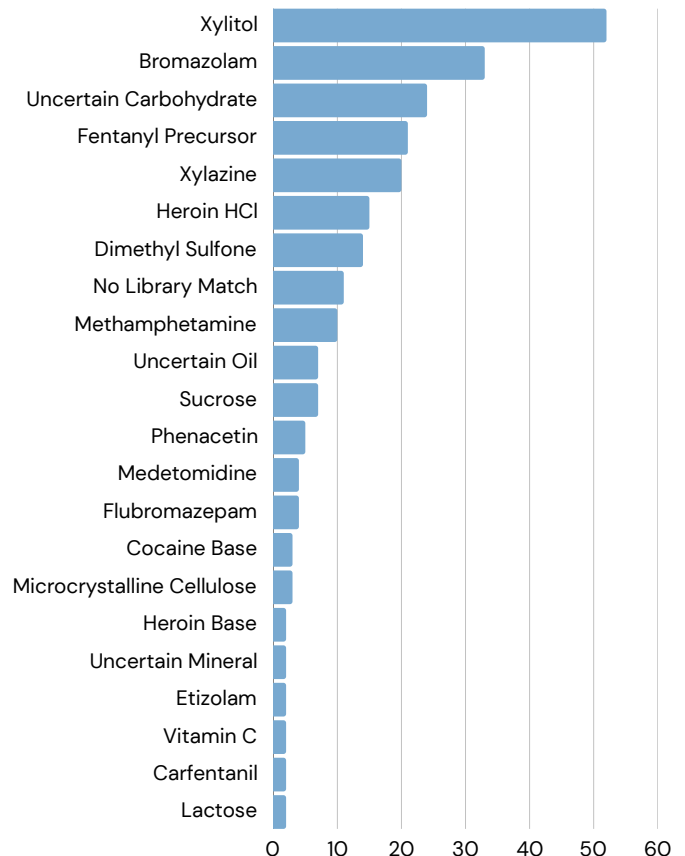
Components in methamphetamine



Components in unregulated opioids

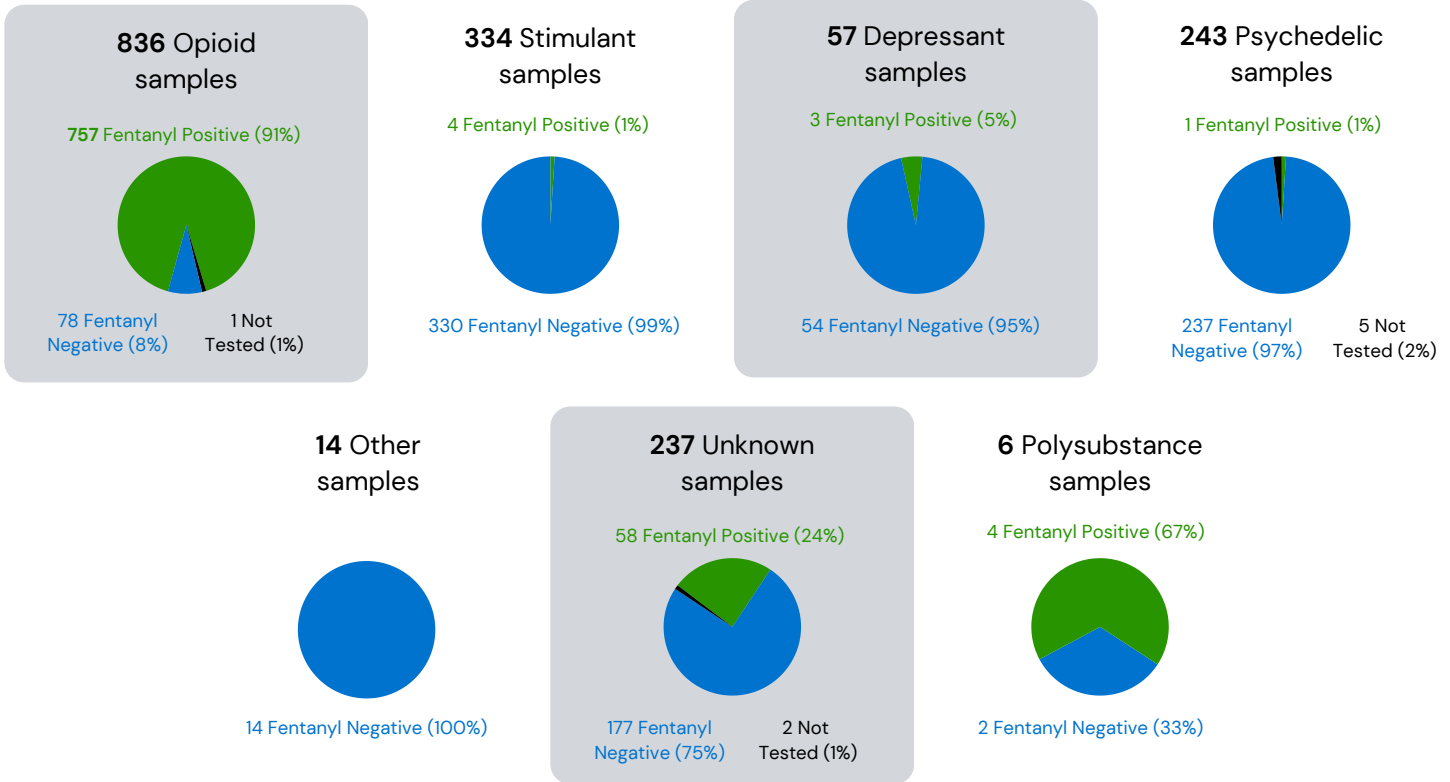


*Other components in unregulated opioids

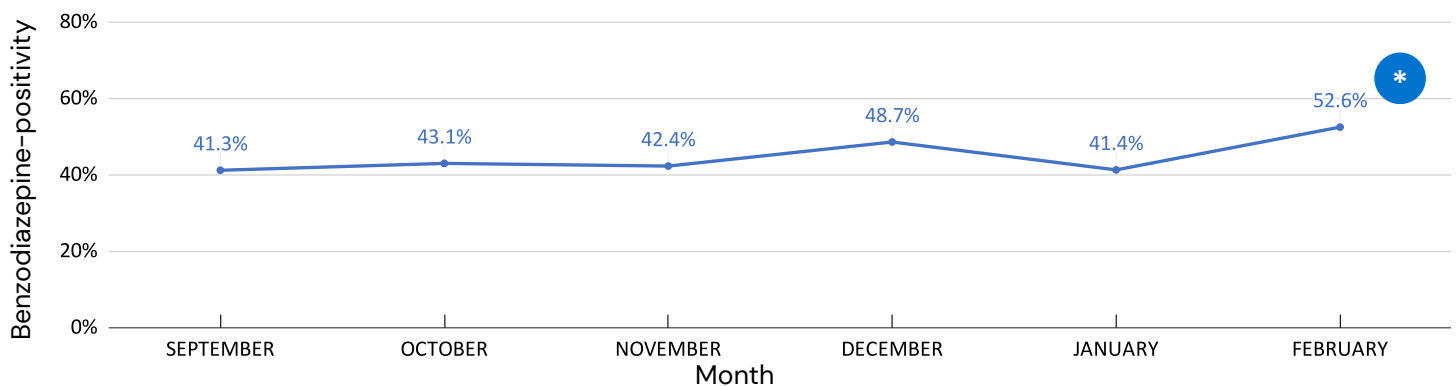


There were additional compounds detected a single time each. To save space, they have been omitted from these charts. For the full list of compounds detected, visit our data dashboard at www.drugcheckingbc.ca/dashboard/

Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**



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

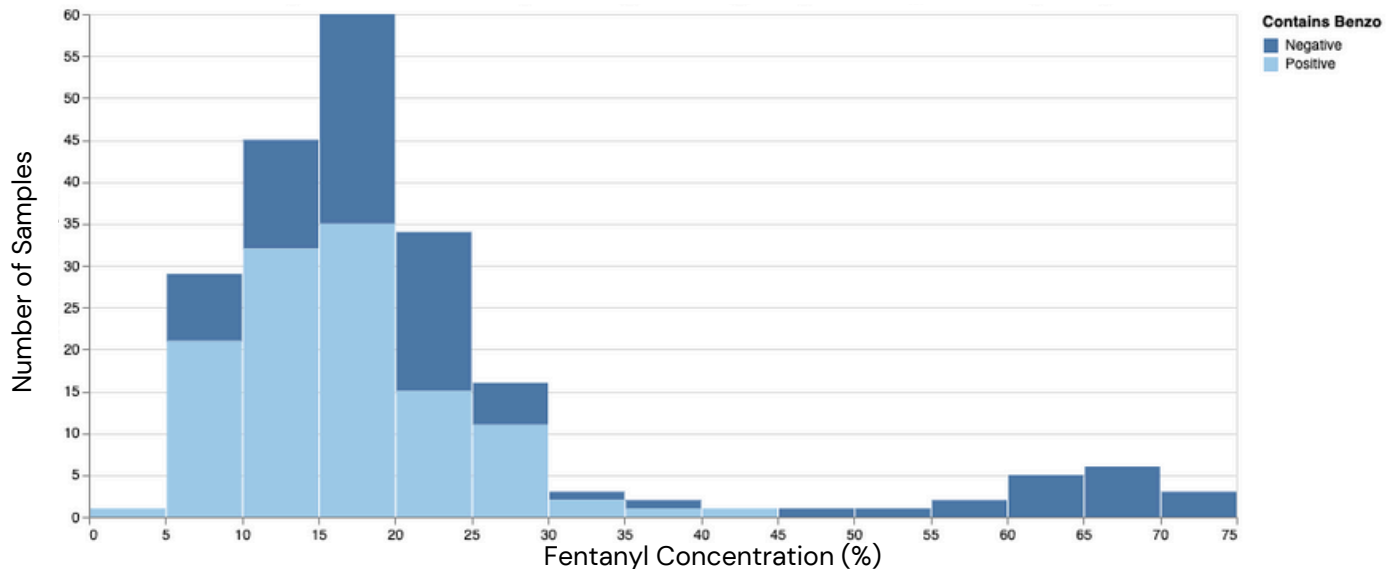


*During the month of February, 52.6% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in our partner sites around BC (440 samples of 836 checked). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are derived from both of these technologies and are presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory.

Fentanyl Concentration

The charts below summarize fentanyl concentrations of unregulated opioid samples brought for drug checking in British Columbia. Technicians at point-of-care may provide an estimated fentanyl quantification, but these results were calculated separately (post hoc) using a validated quantification model for the purpose of this report. To learn more about the model visit [here](#).

Fentanyl Concentration of Opioid Drug Checking Samples in BC, February 2025

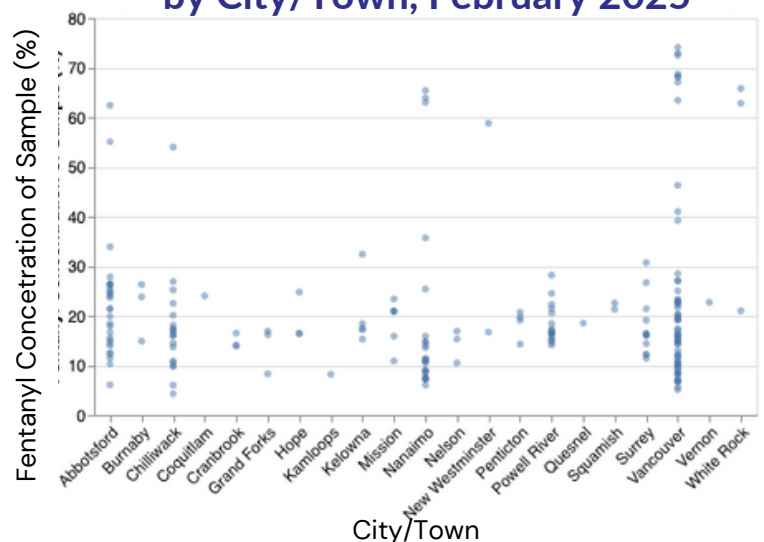


Median fentanyl concentration in all unregulated opioid samples in February: 16.5%. Most unregulated opioid samples contain fentanyl at concentrations between 10% and 20%, but can range from trace amounts to above 75% of the mixture. As of August 2024, we have revised the model to exclude samples that contain any other fentanyl analogues, with or without fentanyl present.

Drug supplies vary by location in the province. Denser points on this chart indicate a greater number of samples containing fentanyl at the concentration displayed. We note that the locations pictured here include only drug checking services partnered with the BCCSU Drug Checking Program, and may not represent the broader drug supply or the supply in other settings.

If you have any questions about the results, please email us at drugchecking@bccsu.ubc.ca.

Fentanyl Concentration of Opioid Samples by City/Town, February 2025



Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid		787	42	7	836
Stimulant		305	27	2	334
Psychedelic		224	16	3	243
Unknown		0	0	237	237
Depressant		46	10	1	57
Other		12	1	1	14
Polysubstance		4	2	0	6
TOTAL		1378	98	251	1727

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		640	22	0	662
Fentanyl		108	3	0	111
Pharmaceutical		26	7	6	39
Heroin		11	10	1	22
Other Opioid		1	0	0	1
Opium		1	0	0	1
TOTAL		787	42	7	836

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
February 11, 2025 Kamloops	Oxycodone (Percocet)	Microcrystalline Cellulose, Uncertain Fentanyl Analog	Positive	Negative	Percocet tablet sold as Percocet (oxycodone) tested positive for fentanyl in Kamloops.
February 13, 2025 Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, Fentanyl, Flubromazepam, Erythritol	Positive	Positive	Green chunks sold as down in Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl and the benzodiazepine flubromazepam.
February 18, 2025 Powell River	Down	Erythritol, Caffeine, Fentanyl, Flubromazepam	Positive	Positive	Orange granules sold as down in Powell River tested positive for fentanyl and flubromazepam. Substance has caused overdose.
February 18, 2025 Vancouver	Down	Erythritol, Caffeine, Fentanyl, Para-Fluorofentanyl, Xylazine, Uncertain Match	Positive	Negative	Pink pebbles sold as down in Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl, para-fluorofentanyl, xylazine, and an uncertain match which shares similarities to multiple fentanyl precursors.
February 20, 2025 Vancouver	Oxycodone	Caffeine, Erythritol, Para-Fluorofentanyl	Positive	Positive	Green tablet with imprint OCD 80 sold as oxycodone in Vancouver tested positive for para-fluorofentanyl and benzos.

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:

