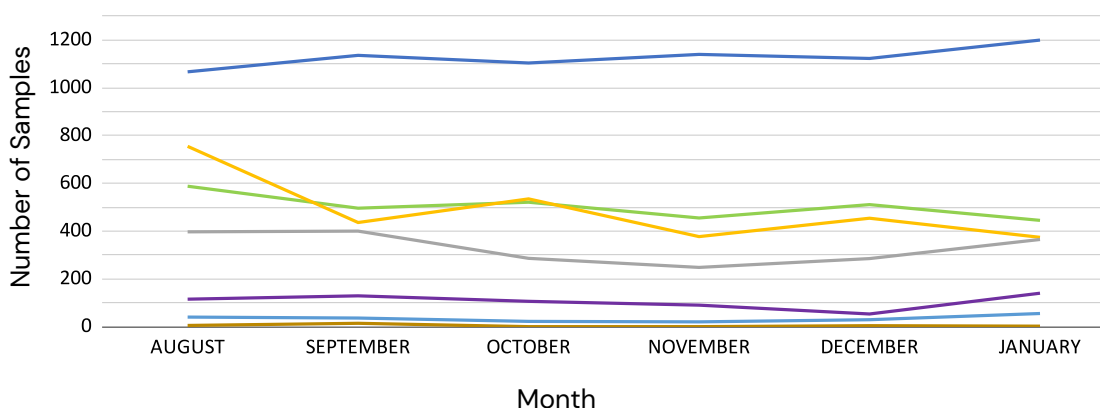




### Key Findings

- In January, 2,581 drug checks were performed by community drug checking sites in BC (48 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased from the previous month to 41.4% (497 of 1200 samples).
- The number of unregulated opioids containing benzodiazepines in concentrations high enough to be detected by FTIR was 15.9% (180 of 1133 samples). Of these, desalkylgizapam was most frequently identified (125 samples), followed by bromazolam (53 samples).
- Fentanyl was detected by FTIR in 33.5% of unregulated opioids (379 of 1133 samples), whereas fluorofentanyl was detected in 22.5% (255 samples). Ortho-methylfentanyl was detected in 8.8% (100 samples).
- Tranquilizers were detected in 4.1% of unregulated opioids. Of these, xylazine was most common (40 samples), followed by medetomidine (7 samples).
- The median fentanyl concentration of unregulated opioids was 16.1%. See page 4 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 Jan.

Opioid	1200
Stimulant	445
Depressant	140
Psychedelic	374
Other	55
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	365

**Total: 2,581**

### Number of samples tested by region:

Vancouver Coastal Health region: 1,605 (62%)

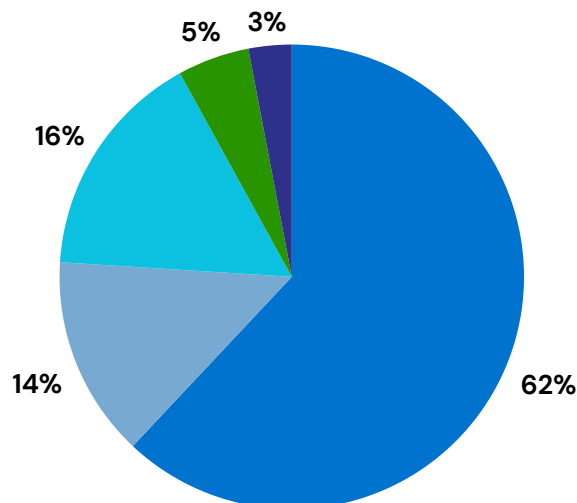
Fraser Health region: 417 (16%)

Interior Health region: 355 (14%)

Vancouver Island Health region: 131 (5%)

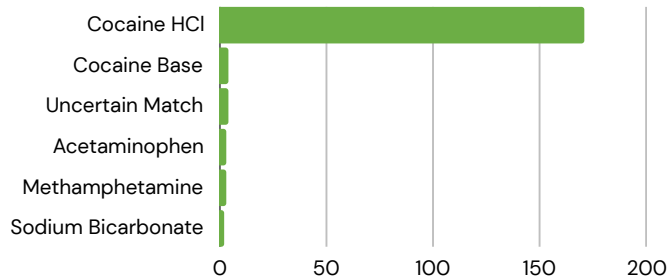
Northern Health region: 73 (3%)

**Total: 2,581**



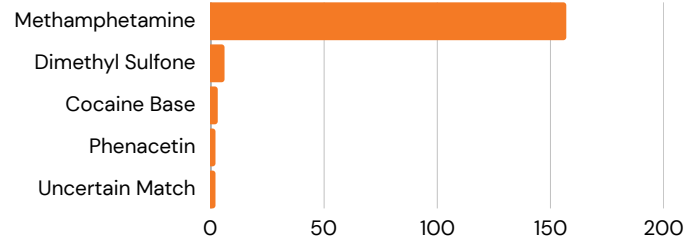
### Components found in drug samples in January

#### Components in cocaine



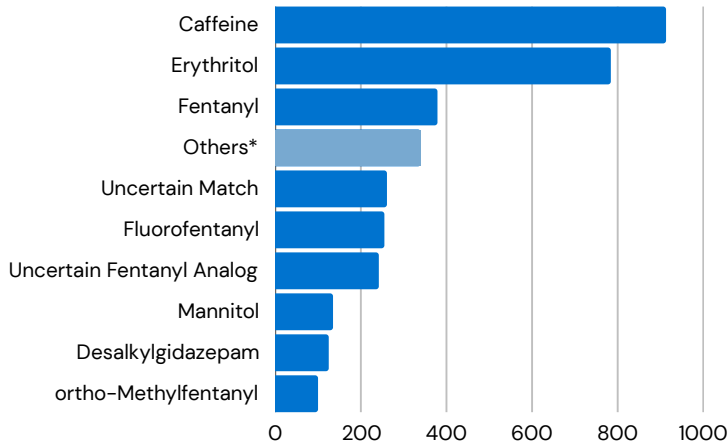
Frequency (N=181)

#### Components in methamphetamine



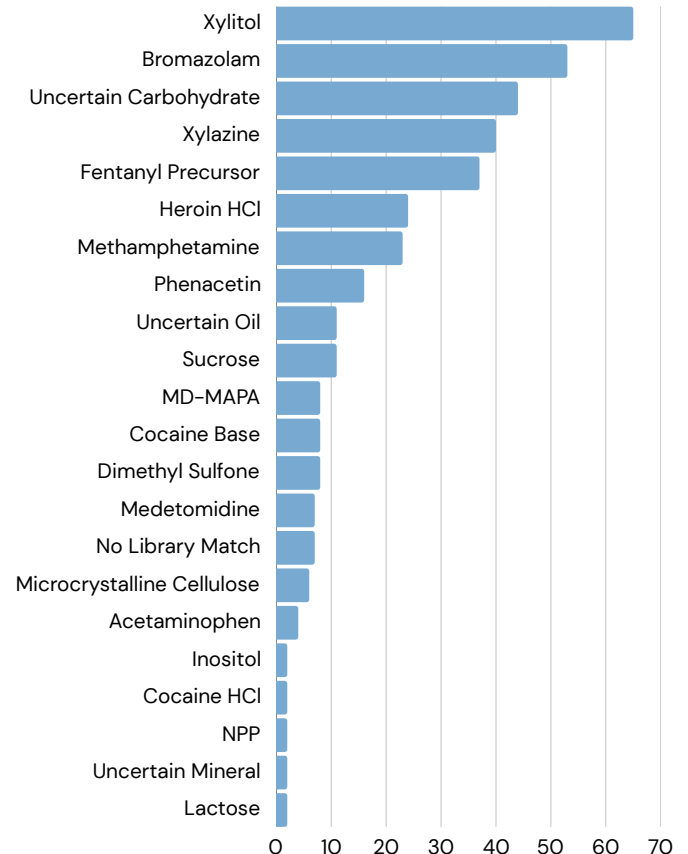
Frequency (N=162)

#### Components in unregulated opioids



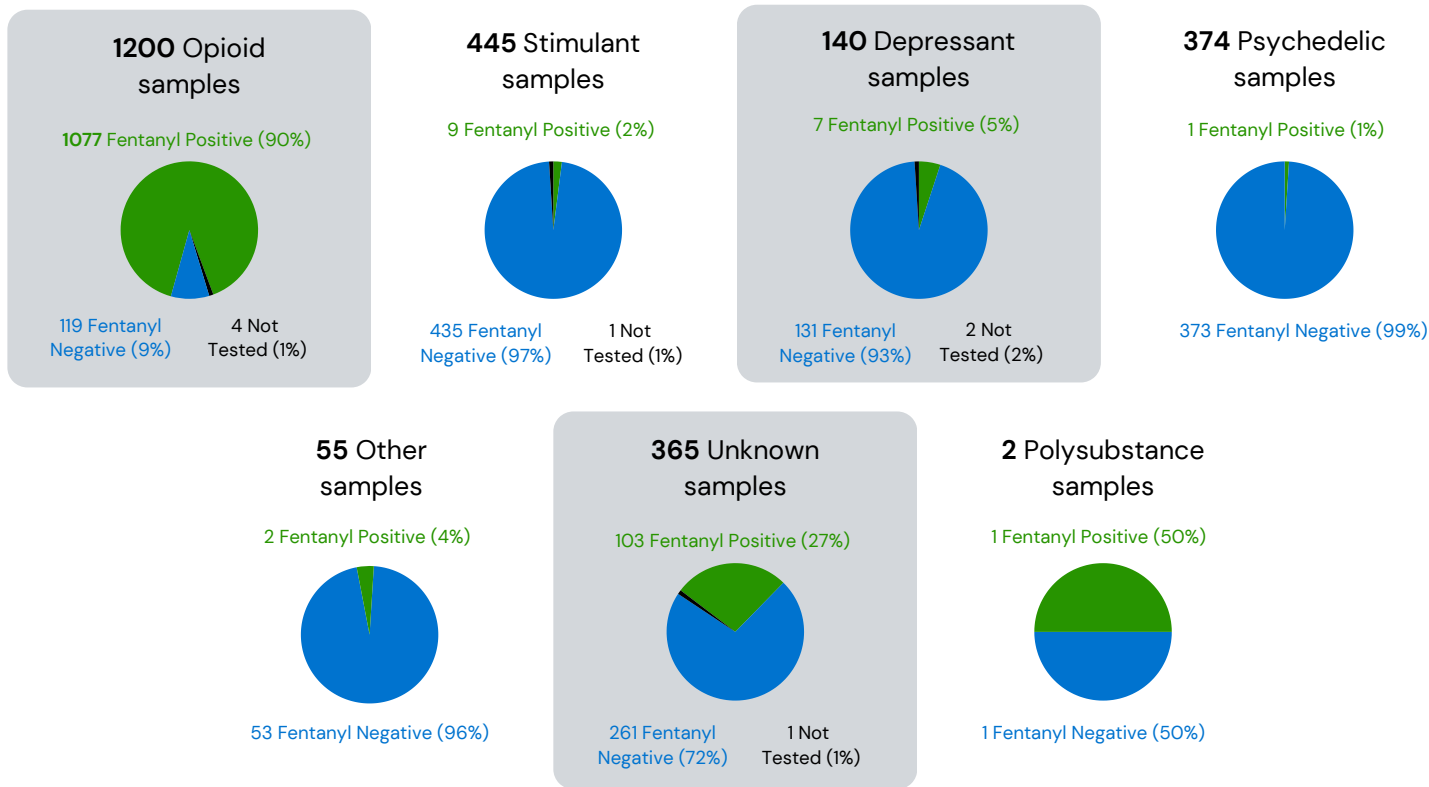
Frequency (N=1,133)

#### \*Other components in unregulated opioids

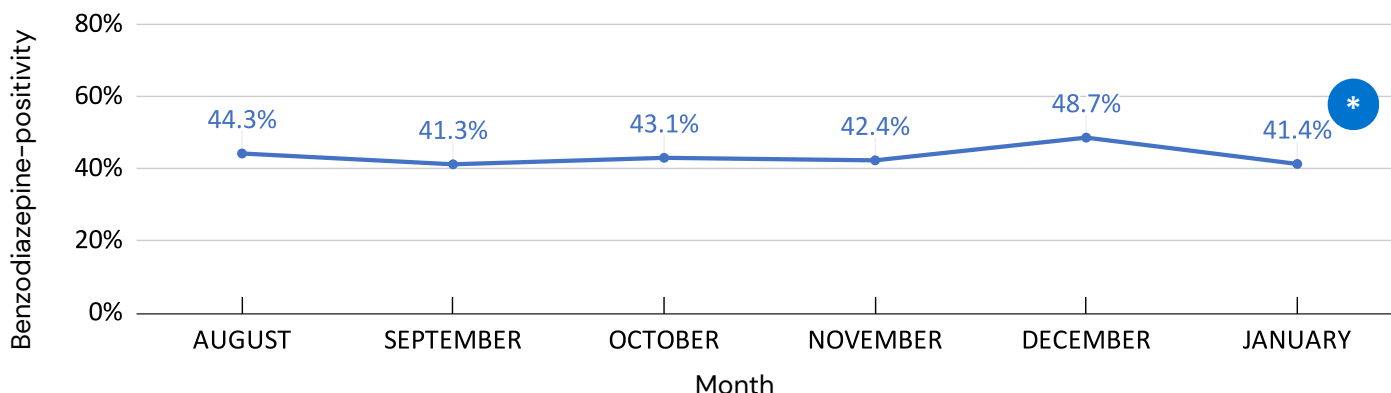


There were additional compounds detected a single time each. To save space, they have been omitted from these charts. For the full list of compounds detected, visit our data dashboard at [www.drugcheckingbc.ca/dashboard/](http://www.drugcheckingbc.ca/dashboard/)

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



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

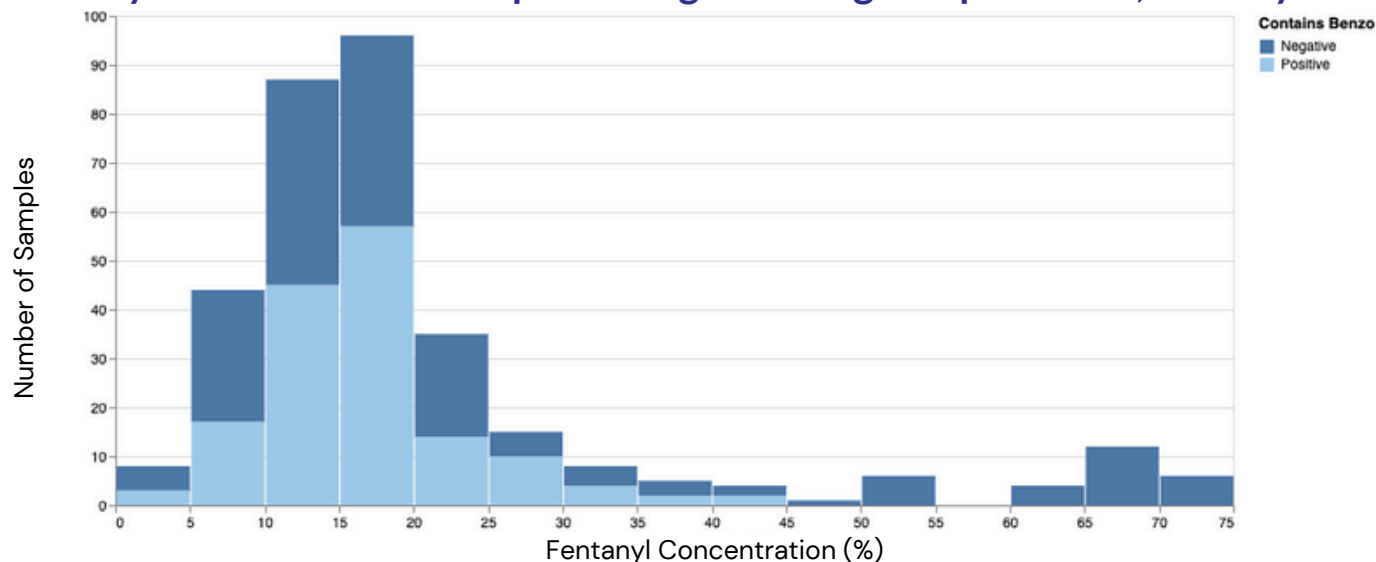


\*During the month of January, 41.4% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in our partner sites around BC (497 samples of 1200 checked). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are derived 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 the model for the purpose of this report.

#### Fentanyl Concentration of Opioid Drug Checking Samples in BC, January 2025

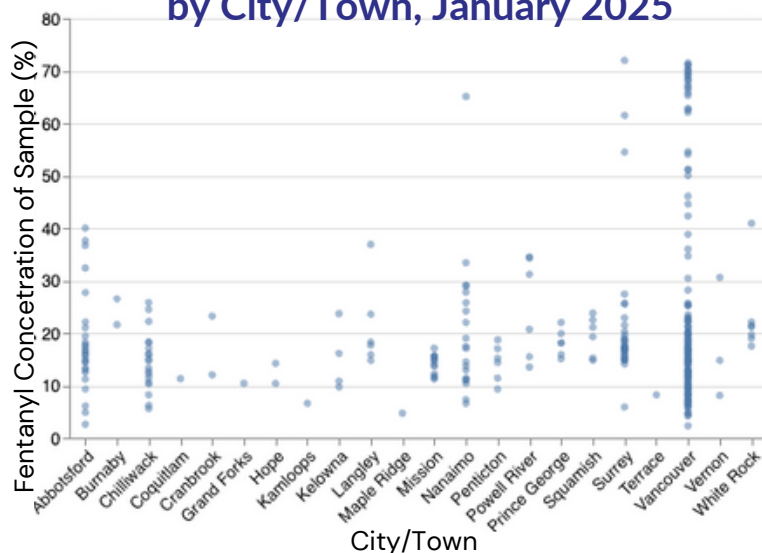


**Median fentanyl concentration in all unregulated opioid samples in January: 16.1%.** Most unregulated opioid samples contain fentanyl at concentrations between 10% and 20%, but can range from trace amounts to above 75% of the mixture. As of August 2024, we have revised the model to exclude samples 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](mailto:drugchecking@bccsu.ubc.ca).

#### Fentanyl Concentration of Opioid Samples by City/Town, January 2025



### Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid		1120	68	12	1200
Stimulant		424	20	1	445
Psychedelic		357	13	4	374
Unknown		0	0	365	365
Depressant		106	31	3	140
Other		33	14	8	55
Polysubstance		2	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2042</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>2581</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		885	28	2	915
Fentanyl		179	11	0	190
Pharmaceutical		37	16	10	63
Heroin		15	12	0	27
Opium		4	0	0	4
Fentanyl & Heroin		0	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1120</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1200</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
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

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:

